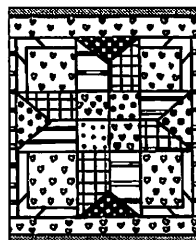


QUILTS



CRITERIA FOR JUDGING QUILTS

GENERAL APPEARANCE

- Does the quilt meet entry requirements?
- Is it entered in the correct category?
- Date of construction?
- Are there any major technical or design blunders?
- Is it appropriate for the intended use?
- Is the work neat and the item clean?

DESIGN

- Are the pattern elements in proportion to each other and to the overall size of the piece?
- Is the design motif in good relationship to the background?
- Do the design elements relate to each other?
- Is placement of color well chosen and do the colors work well together? There are no right or wrong colors!
- Do the patterns of fabrics enhance the project?
- Is texture used to highlight visual interest?
- Is there an equal distribution of visual weight?
- Does it attract attention?
- Does the quilting design compliment the quilt top design?
- Does the quilting design cover sufficient area to hold the “quilt sandwich” sufficiently and to be visually appealing?
- Does the quilting thread color enhance the design?
- Do all borders enhance the main body of the quilt?

WORKMANSHIP

- Is the quilt top flat and even?
- Are the corners square or rounded as intended?
- Do points point and lines meet?
- Is sashing straight and even?
- Are blocks uniform in size if intended?
- Are curved seams smooth and rounded?
- Are seam allowances uniform?
- Do seams lie flat and is pressing consistent?
- Are seam allowances graded to reduce “shadowing through”?
- Are the fabrics and trims used compatible with each other and with the quilts’ intended use?
- Are striped, dots and other linear fabrics cut in relation to the pattern of the fabric? (the larger the piece, the more important this is)
- Is the stitching strong, tight and invisible?
- Is any decorative stitching even, smooth and tight and does it enhance the quilt?
- On applique, are the inside and outside points sharp and free of “whiskers”?
- Is the quilting stitch (hand or machine) smooth, straight and even?
- Are straight quilting lines straight?
- If the quilting involves cross-hatching, are the lines evenly spaced and at right angles?
- Have quilting line marks been removed?
- Are there any visible beginnings or endings to the quilting lines?
- Are there any visible knots in the quilting thread?
- Is the quilting tension consistent?

- Is the quilt back fabric compatible with that used on top?
- Is the back flat and even?
- Is the method used to finish the edges suitable to the top design?
- Are the edges firmly stitched and filled with batting?
- Are the edges straight and binding flat?
- Are miters at corners neatly and securely done?

Score Sheet for Quilts	
Exhibitor Number	
Appearance - 20 points	
Clean, neat, well blocked	
Neatly finished	
Design - 30 points	
Choice of fabrics, colors and their value in relationship to their use in the design	
Choice and placement of designs	
Workmanship - 50 points	
Quilting stitches well formed	
Spacing of stitches uniform	
Threads well secured	
Degree of skill required	

QUILT JUDGING - OVERVIEW

1. Are you judging 4-H or Open Class?
 - a. What are the rules for 4-H? How many ribbons can you give? How many Champion and Grand Champion ribbons will you be able to give each child? Is the Fair that you are judging doing interview judging or are you doing judging as you would do in open class? Find out these things before you start as it saves time later on in the day. Lastly, does the department that you are judging in require written comments on the back of the entry tag?
 - b. What are the rules for open class? How many ribbons will you be able to give out? If there are no entries in another category and you feel that you have 2 blue ribbons in one category, will you be able to take the ribbon from the category, will you be able to take the ribbon from the category that has no entries in it?
 - c. Always ask questions.
2. Will you be able to change the entry class if you feel that this beautiful applique quilt is in the A-1 Patchwork Quilt Hand Pieced, Hand Quilted Class?
3. Before you start judging a specific class, check to see with the person that you are working with how many entries are entered in that class that you are judging before you start.
4. Look at each quilt as if it is the only quilt in that class. Forget about whether or not you like the color. The important question is do the colors work. Remember this is not your quilt, it is another quilt maker's.
5. If you know a specific quilt step back and let the other judge judge it. Always be fair not only to yourself but to the quilt that you are judging.
6. In the open class are you required to write comments on the back of the entry ticket?
 - a. Always start off with a positive comment.
 - b. Always give constructive criticism. Let the person know how they can improve on their entry the following year.
7. Check the binding. Remember that it is the last piece of the quilt that the quiltmaker has to deal with and the place where the best of show or grand champion will make a crucial error. The binding is just as important as the body of the quilt. A sloppy binding ruins the workmanship of the quilt.
8. Leave your own personal feelings about whether a quilt should be hand quilted or machine quilted. They are both difficult and should be looked at that way.
9. Relax! Have fun and enjoy the quilts that you are being asked to judge.



Standards for Judging Quilts and Quilted Items

As you are judging Quilts and Quilted Items use the following criteria to help you be an objective judge and to avoid letting your personal preferences influence your judging.

Presentation

- Is the quilt pleasing to look at and touch?
- Does it have a special quality that makes it attractive?
- Is the quilt free of loose threads or knots?
- Is it clean?
- Is it free of markings?
- Does it have a label on the back for identification of the maker and the date?

Design and Creativity

- Have the design principles of rhythm and balance been used ?
- Is there good use of lights and darks?
- Does the fabric grain, if noticeable, affect the design in a pleasing way?
- Does the design show unity – is there a balance of variety and uniformity?
- Do the borders, binding, and other finishing parts, enhance the overall appearance?

- Do the colors work well together?
- Is there color accent to give the design movement and interest?
- Are the colors appropriate for the use of the piece?
- Does the backing complement or harmonize with the other colors in the quilt?

- Is the fabric weave and fiber type appropriate for the use?
- Will the materials used withstand the type of cleaning needed to remain useful?
- Do the materials go well together, not only color wise but according to type?

- Does the quilting or tie pattern support the batting enough to keep it from bunching or distorting when the quilt is used or cleaned?
- Does the quilting or tying enhance the design?
- Is the quilting or tying planned so it fits properly in the spaces?
- Does the quilting enrich and add quality to the quilt?



Workmanship

- Do all the points and corners meet precisely in the patchwork?
 - If appliqued, are all the curves smoothly done?
 - Is the applique stitching either a complement to the design or unnoticeable?
 - Are the seams flat and pressed neatly?
 - Are seams free of bumps and bulk?
 - Does the construction seem strong enough to last the life of the quilt?
 - Is the patchwork free of holes or spaces where seams are incomplete?
-
- Are the quilting stitches evenly spaced over the whole quilt, both back and front?
 - Are the straight lines straight and the curved lines smooth?
 - If it is tied, is the tie pattern uniform over the entire quilt?
 - If it is tied, are the knots secure?
 - If there are embellishments, such as buttons or lace, are they attached securely, and do they add to the attractiveness?
-
- Is the binding free of puckers and ripples?
 - Are the stitches securing the binding neatly done and not very visible?
 - Is the binding even in width and uniformly full of filler?
 - Are the corners of the binding neatly done and square?
 - Does the quilt lie or hang flat and square, without ripples or lumps?

This list of quality standards has been adapted from a score sheet from Washington State University Extension.

The original version was written by Bonnie Lehman for Quilter's Newsletter in 1977.

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