

Quilting Acronyms Reference Guide

A beginner's guide to common quilting abbreviations



Acronym	Full Term	What it Means
B2B	Border to Border	A longarm quilting term describing a design that runs continuously from one border edge to the other, covering the entire quilt surface in one seamless pattern.
BOM	Block of the Month	A program – often run by quilt shops, guilds, or designers – where you receive one new quilt block pattern each month. A fun way to build a quilt gradually over the course of a year!
DSM	Domestic Sewing Machine	Your regular home sewing machine, as opposed to a longarm quilting machine. Most quilters piece and sometimes quilt entirely on their DSM.
EPP	English Paper Piecing	A hand-sewing technique where fabric is wrapped around paper templates and whip-stitched together to create precise geometric shapes. Hexagons are the most popular EPP shape.
EQ	Electric Quilt	A popular quilt design software that lets you plan colorways, design blocks, and preview finished quilts before cutting a single piece of fabric.
FLIMSY	FLIMSY	A completed quilt top that has not yet been quilted. Not technically an acronym – it's quilting slang! A flimsy is a finished quilt top that's still waiting to be layered with batting and backing and quilted. We've all got at least one of these.
FQ	Fat Quarter	A quilter-friendly cut of fabric measuring approximately 18" x 22". It's cut by taking a half-yard of fabric and cutting it in half vertically, giving you a wider, squarer piece than a standard quarter-yard cut.
HST	Half Square Triangle	One of the most versatile units in quilting – a square made from two right triangles sewn together along the diagonal. HSTs are the building block of hundreds of quilt patterns.
LAQ	Long Arm Quilting	The process of quilting using a longarm machine – a large, specialized quilting machine mounted on a frame that holds the quilt layers taut. Many quilters send their tops to a professional longarm quilter (also called a LAQ) to finish.
LOF	Length of Fabric	Fabric measured along the lengthwise grain (parallel to the selvage). This measurement is often used for borders or backing strips where you need a long, continuous piece.
LQS	Local Quilt Shop	Your neighborhood quilt shop – and one of the best resources you have as a quilter! LQS staff are typically experienced quilters themselves and a wonderful source of fabric advice, class recommendations, and community.

Quilting Acronyms Reference Guide

Acronym	Full Term	What it Means
PhD	Project Half Done	Any project that's been started but has stalled somewhere in the middle. Different from a UFO (which hasn't been touched in a while), a PhD might be actively in progress — just moving slowly.
QAL	Quilt Along	A community quilting event — often hosted online — where a group of quilters all work on the same pattern at the same time, sharing progress and encouraging each other. A great way to tackle a new pattern with support!
QAYG	Quilt as You Go	A technique where each block is individually quilted (layered with batting and backing and stitched) before the blocks are joined together. Great for managing large quilts on a domestic machine.
QOV	Quilts of Valor	A non-profit organization dedicated to covering service members and veterans with quilts as a way of expressing gratitude and healing. Making a QOV quilt is a meaningful way to give back through your craft.
RST	Right Sides Together	A sewing instruction telling you to place the printed or “pretty” sides of two fabric pieces facing each other before sewing. This ensures your seam ends up on the inside of the finished piece.
SA	Seam Allowance	The distance between the cut edge of your fabric and your stitch line. In quilting, the standard seam allowance is ¼”. Consistent seam allowances are key to blocks that come out the right size!
UFO	Unfinished Object	Any quilt project you've started but haven't completed — and probably hasn't been touched in a while. Every quilter has a UFO pile. Finishing one feels incredibly satisfying!
WIP	Work in Progress	A project you're actively working on right now. Unlike a UFO, a WIP is live — fabric is cut, blocks are being sewn, and progress is happening.
WOF	Width of Fabric	The measurement of fabric from selvage to selvage, which is typically 40”–44” for quilting cotton after pre-washing. Patterns often use WOF to describe strip cuts that run across the full width of the fabric.
WST	Wrong Sides Together	The opposite of RST — placing the back sides of two fabric pieces facing each other. This is used for specific techniques like making quilt-as-you-go blocks or certain binding methods where you want the seam on the outside.