



Missouri Star Quilt Company's Tips & Tricks for Cuddle Fabric

We love the look and feel of Cuddle. It's such a versatile fabric. The quilts we have made with Cuddle have very quickly become the best loved quilts in our homes. Here's a great list of tips and tricks to help you start using this fabulous fabric! Give it a try! You'll be glad you did!

Cutting

- You will get "cuddle dust" when you cut Cuddle; the longer the fibers, the more "dust." To control this, cut shorter Cuddle fabrics with a rotary cutter, remove from cutting surface, and place in dryer with damp wash cloth on low heat for about 10 minutes.
- For longer fiber Cuddle such as rose Cuddle, shag, frizzy and furs: draw cutting line on back side of fabric, and with scissors, cut through the backing only. Then pull apart and place in dryer.
- Keep a vacuum cleaner nearby and vacuum along cutting lines before moving cut fabric. Be extra careful with cut fabric so you don't suck it up. We like to use a small shop vac here in the studio.
- When cutting, check nap BEFORE you cut each piece to be sure it is going in the right direction.
- Cuddle does not fray. For a great edge finish on double sided Cuddle and bindings, you may use a rotary cutter with a pinking or wave blade.

- When using pattern pieces, do not pin through layers. Pre-cut your pattern pieces and hold in place with pattern weights or rulers (Empty coffee cups and tuna or soup cans work great). Tissue paper patterns can be ironed to the waxy side of freezer paper and cut out; use pattern weights to hold in place. If cutting multiple size patterns, trace desired size onto freezer paper, paper side up, cut out pattern pieces, add pattern weights, and cut out with rotary cutter. The freezer paper is a good guideline because it sits on top of the fabric and provides a more precise cut.

Sewing

- Be aware of straight of grain and stretch. When using strips, cut to size and pin in place to keep fabric from stretching or shrinking.
- Take your time when sewing with Cuddle fabrics. A little patience goes a long way!
- Use pins. With this material you need to use pins. It slides under the needle, so for straight seams and limited heartache, pin it a lot! When pinning fabrics together use sturdy flower head pins. They show up easily in the cuddle nap and if you should accidentally leave a pin in the seam, the metal shaft can be removed with pliers and the top can stay inside the project and not cause any injuries.
- If you plan on doing a lot of sewing with Cuddle fabric, a walking foot is worth the investment. A walking foot is a special foot apparatus that makes it so the cloth has feed dogs feeding it on the top as well as beneath. It makes it so the fabric can't slide under the needle, and helps keep stitches even. It also allows you to sew through thick sections of fabric with little difficulty.

It basically gives your machine super powers! It's a good tool for a sewist to have in her toolkit. The downside to a walking foot is that it can't handle turns, so you either have to sew a few stitches and manually turn the fabric yourself at gradual increments, or forgo the walking foot altogether for a curvy piece.

- Try not to pull fabrics through, let your walking foot and feed dogs do the work.
- Use a size 90/14 ballpoint (stretch) needle for piecing.
- Lengthen the stitch length to 3-3.5 mm. This will give the fibers room to nest together and not distort your seams.
- Use a $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam allowance consistently throughout your project. Your walking foot can act as a guide. Change needle position if needed.
- Use a pressing sheet between fabric and iron. Press lightly and be very careful with embossed and dimpled fabrics.
- For "sandwiching" and appliqué, spray adhesives work for holding batting, backing, and fabrics together. Be sure to ventilate area when spraying. 505 Spray and Fix from Odif is a good product. Use freezer paper, paper side up, to protect projects from overspray. You can also use a glue stick to hold smaller pieces in place.
- The blind hem stitch lengthened to 3mm and 5mm wide is a good one to use for appliqué. The stitch will be hidden in the fibers. Straight stitch, blanket, and zig-zag are also good options. Be sure to test stitches and lengthen as needed.

Binding

- Cut binding strips 2 inches X width of fabric (you could cut the strips using a pinking blade if desired).
- Lay out strips so nap is going the same direction.
- Join strips, right sides together using plus sign method.
- Your binding will be a single layer. Stitch binding to the front of quilt using traditional methods for joining ends and turning corners.
- Flip quilt over, fold the binding to fit tight against the stitching line edge.
- Topstitch raw edge using a zig zag, serpentine, or other decorative stitch.

Care

- Machine wash, gentle cycle, cold water.
- Machine dry, low heat. Some embossed and longer fibers may change appearance slightly after drying. It will surprise you how fast the finished projects dry, so check after 20 minutes. Projects without batting will dry very quickly.



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