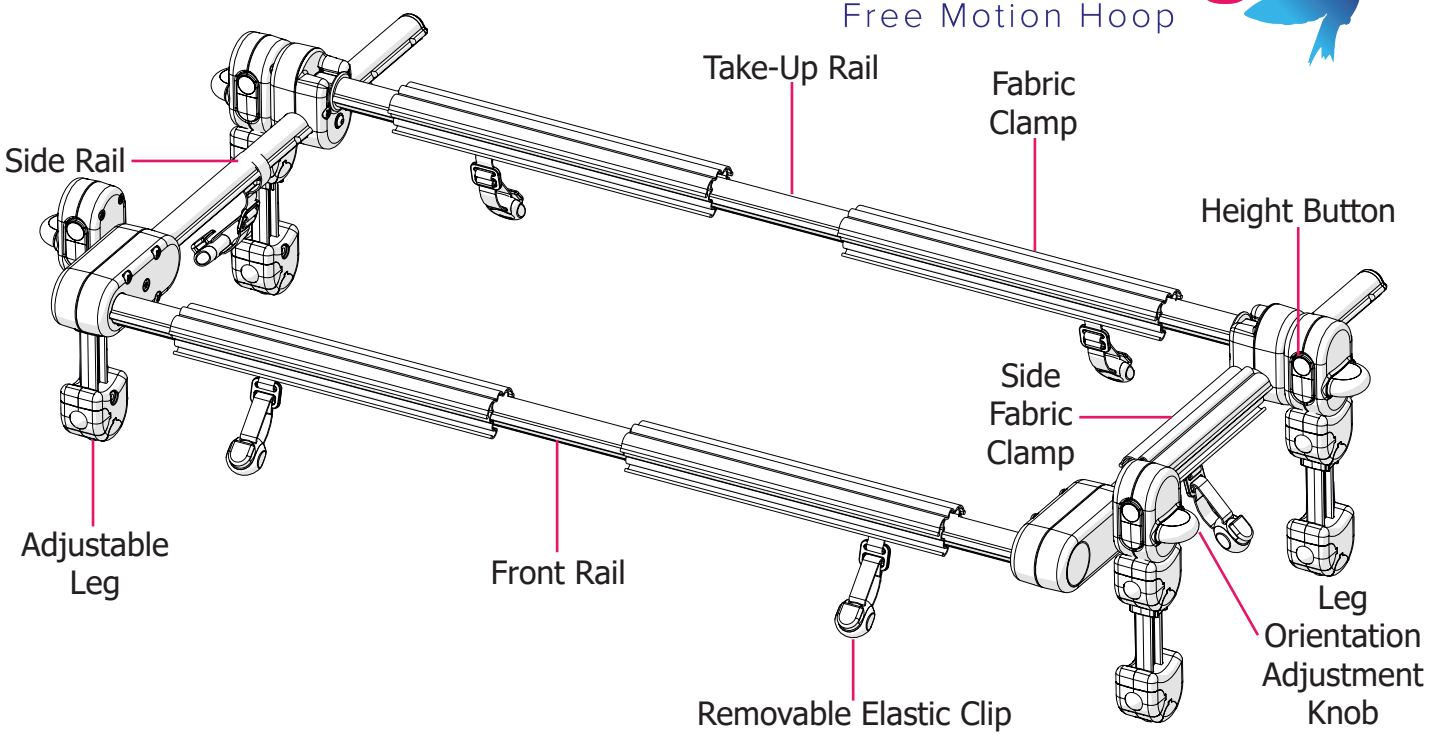
Parts of the Hoop

The Hummingbird
Free Motion Hoop

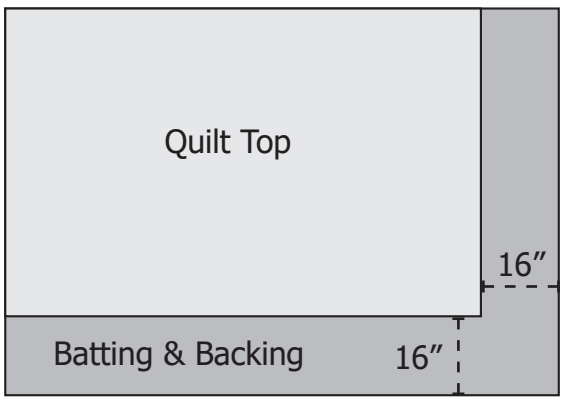


Left Side **Right Side**

Starting a New Project:

- ☐ Make sure your hoop is on a level surface.
- ☐ Make sure the mat is under the machine bed and the hoop.
- ☐ Measure your fabric and make your quilt sandwich (see Quilt Dimensions and Quilt Sandwich).
- ☐ Check your rail height (see Rail Adjustment).
- ☐ Build a test quilt of the same materials as your project, and test your sewing tension.
- ☐ Attach your current project to the hoop (see Attaching Fabric).
- ☐ Find the quiltable area using the clamps. (see the manual for instructions).
- ☐ Tack down your quilt top at the visible edges.

Quilt Dimensions



Recommended sizing:

Backing: 16″ larger than the quilt-top, but no smaller than 28″ total.

Batting: Same size as backing.

Note: If using cloth leaders, see their instructions for alternative sizing.

Record the measurements of your quilt here in wet-erase marker:

Top: _____ x _____

Batting: _____ x _____

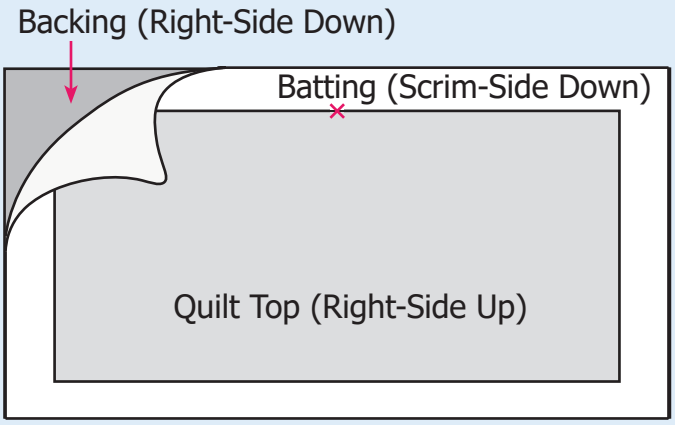
Backing: _____ x _____

Quilt Sandwich

To build your quilt sandwich:

1. Place the backing right-side down.
2. Place the batting on top of the backing, scrim (coarse/pimpled) side down.
3. Center quilt top over the batting, right-side facing up.

Note: "Right-Side" is the side of the fabric you want to show on the outside of the finished quilt.

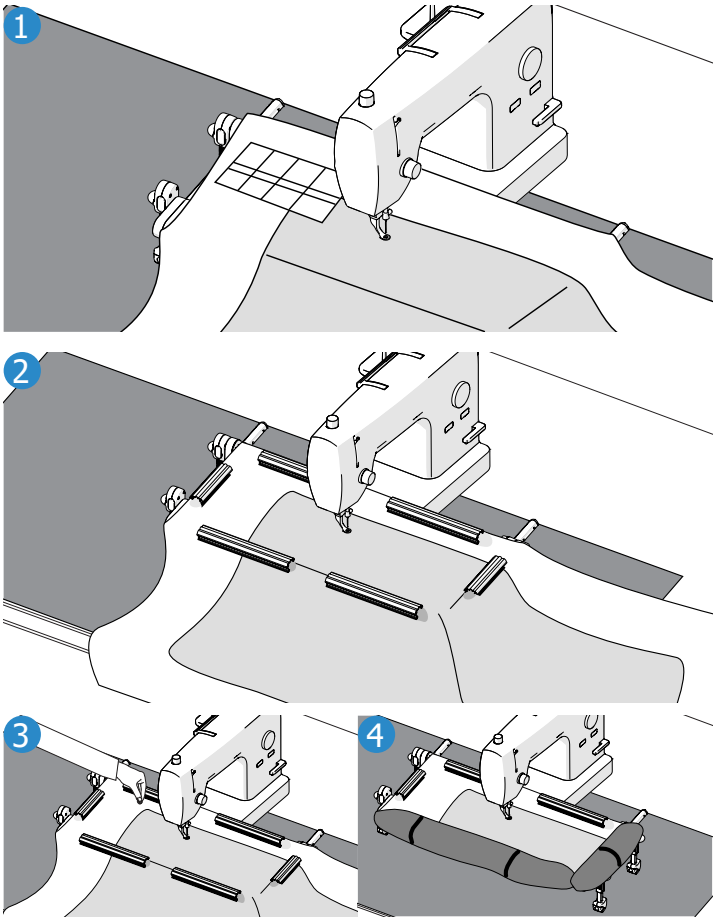


Attaching Fabric

1. Place your quilt onto the hoop and position it so the top-left corner of your quilt top is lined up with the marks on the placement template.
2. While keeping the quilt in the hoop area free of wrinkles, install the fabric clamps on the rails.
3. Test your fabric tension with the penny drop test.
4. Roll up excess fabric and hold it to the clamps with the elastic clips.

Note: See your hoop instruction manual for more details on attaching fabric.

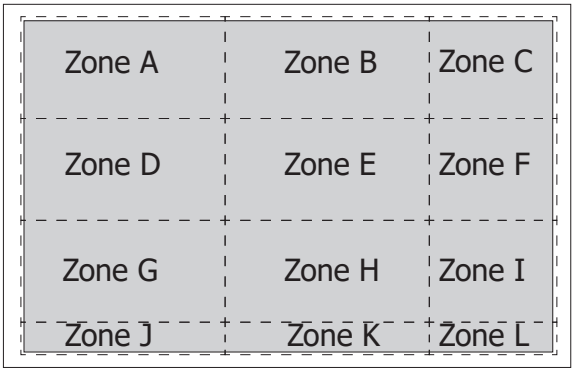
Tip: If you aren't quilting for a few days, remove your fabric clamps to avoid stretching out your fabric.



Moving Zones

When you're finished with the available quilting space, it's time to move to the next zone.

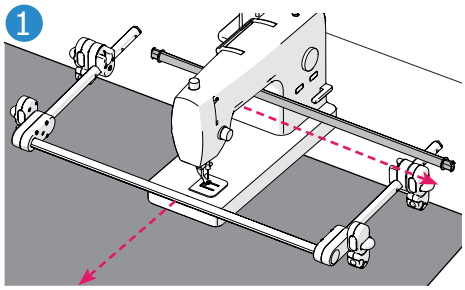
1. Unhook the elastic clips. Remove the fabric clamps.
2. Move the *hoop* so the next quilting zone is within the reach of the sewing machine.
3. Replace the fabric clamps, and reconnect the elastic clips to the clamps to hold the fabric.

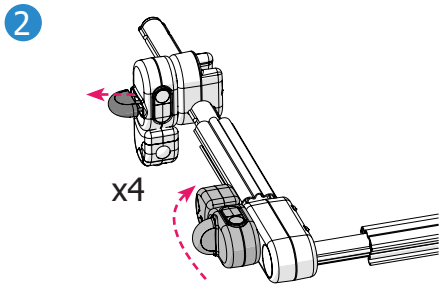


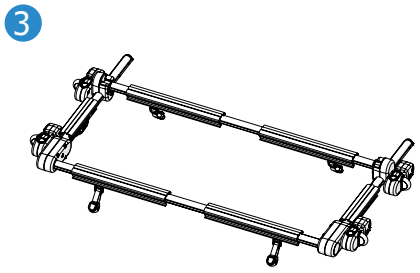
When you move to a new zone in your quilt, tack down the quilt top edges about a quarter inch from the batting and backing.

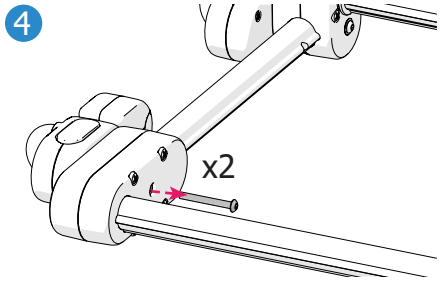
Hoop Storage

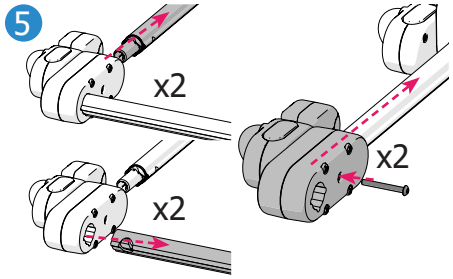
1. Remove the take-up rail and move the hoop away from the machine.
2. Pull out the knobs on the legs. Twist the legs to be parallel with the side rails.
3. Replace the take-up rail, and put the clamps and clips on the hoop. Store the hoop as a rectangle.
4. To make the hoop even smaller, remove the screw holding the front rail to the side rails with the 2.5 mm Allen wrench.
5. Pull out the side rails to release the front rail, and then screw the corners back onto the rails.
6. Store the hoop as four rails in parallel. Wrap the mat around the rails too.

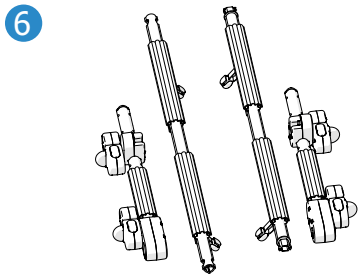












Tips & Tricks

Practice Makes Perfect

Use leftover fabric from your quilt top to make a small practice quilt.

After every bobbin change, put the practice quilt onto the hoop and set your stitch tension before stitching into your work-in-progress.

You can also practice stitching out patterns on your practice quilt.

Make small practice quilts to get a feeling for how the materials of your quilt sandwich interact with your machine and hoop before making a large project with the fabric.

Basting/Tacking Down

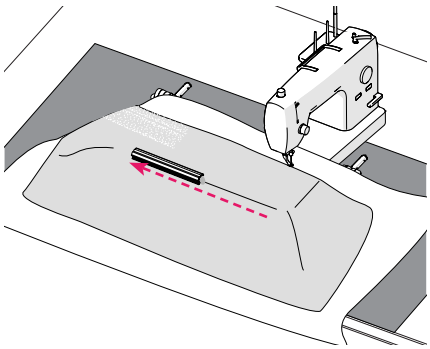
When you are quilting, it's important to baste or tack down the edges of your quilt top. Keeping the quilt top in place with a basting stitch or a tacking down stitch helps to minimize shrinkage of the quilt top.

Before you start quilting each zone, stitch around the outside edges of the quilt top, roughly a ¼ inch in from the edge.

Move Fabric with Clamp On

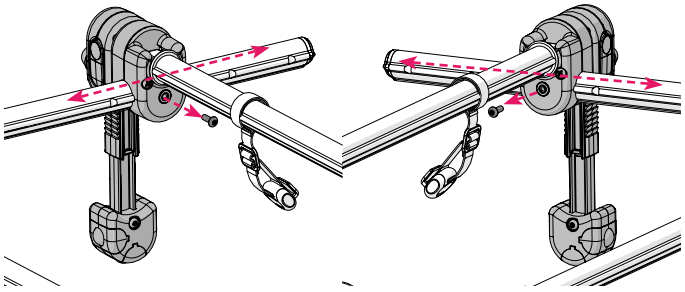
You can leave one clamp on your hoop when you move your fabric to a new zone.

You might find that it is easier to line up your fabric with the hoop if a clamp keeps part of the quilt on the hoop at all times.



Rail Adjustment

The front rail must be at the correct location for the bed length of your machine. The take-up rail must be no more than a finger-width away from the bed of your machine.



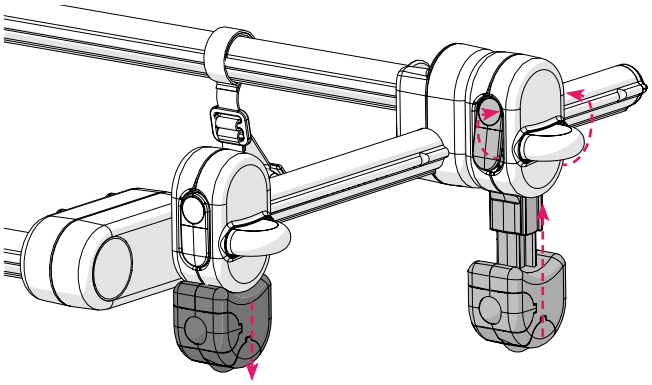
To adjust the front rail:

1. Remove the screws with the 2.5 mm Allen wrench from the holes in the back corner of each side of the hoop, just under the take-up rail.
2. Slide the corner until the correct notch is lined up with the holes in the corners. See the table for details.
3. Replace the screws in the back corners.

Length of Machine Bed	Rail Notch to Use
13 ⅛ in. to 15 in.	A (furthest from middle)
11 ⅛ in. to 13 in.	B
9 ⅛ in. to 11 in.	C
9 in. or less	D (closest to middle)

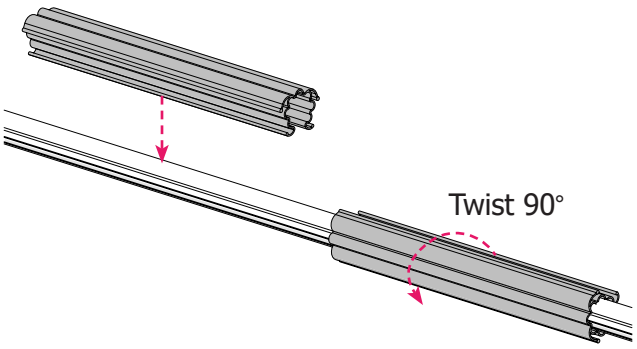
To adjust the take-up rail:

1. To lift the rail, pull on the wheel cases to extend the legs.
2. To lower the rail, push the buttons on the leg into the holder, and then push the wheel case up into the holder.
3. Make sure all the legs are set to the same height.



Putting Clamps On

When you put the clamps on the front rail and the side rails, put them on from the top, and then twist them 90° to the side of the rail.



Putting the clamps on this way helps to tension the fabric the correct amount.

On the take-up rail, put the clamps on from the top, but don't twist them.

Moving the Hoop

It's up to you how to hold the hoop to move it. One of these suggested ways might work well for you:

- Use the front corners as handles.
- Use the front rail as a steering rod.

Tip: Wherever you hold the hoop, hold it gently. Imagine a giant bubble under your palm, and keep your hands in such a position that the bubble won't pop.

Grace COMPANY

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