

TEN QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN BUYING A QUILTING MACHINE

- ✓ **Is the machine a solid cast or a stretch machine?**
Stretched machines are cut and inserts are added. Glues and bonds used to secure the inserts tend to crack and fatigue. Commercial grade machines are solid cast and are not extended or stretched.
- ✓ **Is the motor inside the machine?**
Motors mounted inside the machine are safer and quieter than outside mounts.
- ✓ **Are belts or other dangerous moving parts mounted on the outside of the machine?**
Machines with exposed belts can be a significant safety hazard.
- ✓ **Does the machine run smoothly at both high and low speeds?**
Too much vibration can cause excessive noise and poor stitch quality.
- ✓ **How much does the machine weigh?**
A machine that is too heavy will cause stress on back, neck, and arms. Test any machine for 2 minutes or more to get a sense of what several hours of quilting might feel like. A comfortable weight is usually 40-60 pounds.
- ✓ **Does the machine have a “quilters” hopping foot?**
A quilting hopping foot “hops,” eliminating dragging and unwanted folds in the fabric. This foot should also be round with ¼” equal distance between the needle and the outside of the foot. The hopping foot should be thick enough to accommodate ¼” thick acrylic templates and rulers. Rulers help quilters perform very precise quilting, including stitching in the ditch or echo quilting around pieced seams. Also, a hopping foot is important to be able to “hop” over a quilt’s seams.
- ✓ **Does the machine have an available laser light for pantographs and patterns?**
Lasers provided a convenient way to trace pantographs and patterns. Make sure that the laser works from the **front** and back of machine.
- ✓ **How much quilting space is available?**
The throat space and quilting space are not equal. Be sure to ask about available quilting space. When considering a quilting machine, remember bigger is not always better. The best quilting space is always a comfortable distance for both sight and reach. The recommended distance is between a 12”-14” “stretch” for comfortably controlled quilting.
- ✓ **Is the bobbin large enough?**
M Class bobbins are the largest in the commercial quilting industry. Large bobbins save time while maintaining superior stitch quality.
- ✓ **Does the machine company provide a trusted warranty, customer service, and training?**
A trusted warranty for mechanical, electrical, and the outer casing provides you a guarantee of quality craftsmanship when investing in a quilting machine. Reputable companies will provide and stand behind their written warranty and will provide you convenient customer support services. Hands-on training should also be included by dealers or sales representatives when you purchase.



1-877-MY QUILT

Check List of Questions

HQ Sixteen™

Handi Quilter®

Competitor

Competitor

Dedicated Customer Service / Support	YES		
Dedicated Technical Support	YES		
Dedicated Educators on staff for support	YES		
Online Support and Training	YES		
Interactive Website (education, tips, videos, gallery, products)	YES		
Trained/Certified HQ Reps/Dealers	270 locations		

Manufactured/Assembled	USA		
Machine Weight (with handles)	53 lbs		
Solid Cast Machine	YES		
Stretch or Cut Machine	NO		
Internal Belts and Motors	YES		
Easy Quilting from Front and Rear of Machine with Front/Rear Handles	YES		
Vibration at High and Low Speeds	NO		

Integrated Lights	Standard - LEDs		
Lights simple to change	YES		

Available Quilting Space	13" Depth/8" Height		
Stitches-per-inch Range	4 to 15		
Stitches per minute	up to 1500		
Stitch Regulator	Standard		
Variable Speed Control	Standard		
Auto Needle Positioning (Needle up/down)	Standard		
Laser Light (front and rear mount)	Standard		
Start Up Accessory Kit (bobbins, needles, thread, leaders, etc...)	Standard		
Training and Quilting DVD	Standard		
Quilters Hopping Foot	Standard		
Bobbin Size	Lg. M Class (225/yds)		
Can use pre-wound bobbins	YES		

Basic Machine Maintenance	Self Lubricating Bearings		
---------------------------	---------------------------	--	--

Rigid Quality Checks During Manufacturing	7 major tests (5 hrs)		
Machine passes a in-depth quilting test by a quilter prior to shipping	YES		
Initial Training and Set Up	Local Reps		
Trusted Manufacturer's Warranty	YES		
Casting Defects	10 Years		
Mechanical	2 Years		
Electrical	1 Year		

Frame System	Standard		
Table	Various Options		

Delivery Method	Insured - UPS		
-----------------	---------------	--	--

Price			
-------	--	--	--