

CALICO CARRIAGE QUILT DESIGNS®

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FAQ when working with silk

Can it be washed?

Yes silk can be washed. It is a natural fiber that is washable. It will lose some of the sheen when washed but that can be beautiful also. If you plan to wash your finished item it is recommended to wash the fabric before starting the project. Serge or overcast the raw edges to prevent raveling and hand wash in a mild soap. Lay flat to dry and press. Some recommend a front load washer and lay flat to dry or dry in a dryer for a vintage look. Try scrunching before drying and then just press lightly. The options for different looks are endless. Just remember that silk is a very durable fabric when it is dry. Once silk is washed it no longer water spots.

How to stop raveling?

Fuse an *ultra light or feather light* fusible interfacing to the fabric before cutting the pieces. This is fusible interfacing and not just fusible glue. It should be ultra light or feather light to prevent changing the hand of the fabric as much as possible. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for fusing. Recommended:

These are only a few of the available fusible interfacings.

Pellon Bi- stretch Lite ~ available from major distributors 20" wide

Touch of Gold II ~ available from major distributors 20" wide

Rowley Fusible Stabilizer ~ available from Rowley Decorating Supplies Company –wholesale only.

What size needle to use?

A slightly smaller needle is recommended. 70/10 or 75-11

Is there a special way to use pins?

Pin pieces together in the seam allowance rather than across it. Use fine or extra fine pins.

What kind of thread to use?

Silk thread can be used for the purist but cotton thread works just fine to reduce the cost of the project.

Cotton thread adds a new dimension to embroidery.

Cutting Mat?

Do not cut on a white mat. The fibers get caught in the mat and don't come out. All other mats are great.

Pressing?

Press as you would for any project using the silk or slightly higher setting on your iron unless the fusible used recommends otherwise. Silk will hold a crease so press carefully. Keep iron sole-plate clean.

Quilting?

Any thread can be used to quilt the finished item. Cotton thread gives a good contrast with the silk. Remember that your quilting is really going to pop on the quilt so think about design, threads etc. as a true design option.

Silk is a beautiful and fun alternative to cotton for a quilt. Mix it with other fibers.

Use it without fear!

Contact Debbie to teach a class in your shop or at your local guild.

