

Some Criteria Judges Consider

General Appearance

Design elements should work together well- color use, construction and quilting
Entry hangs straight, appears clean, has no odor
Quilting density is balanced and sufficient
Complexity of design, degree of difficulty

Piecing

Stitching thread color should match or blend
Consistency in placement of fabric grain
Long seams should be straight, curves smooth
Repeated shapes in blocks should be uniform in size, shape and placement
Points should be sharp, not blunted
Seam intersections should align accurately, lie flat
No extra fullness, puckering or distortion appears in seam lines
Borders and sashing should be a consistent width; use fabric pattern to its best advantage and align accurately; borders should complement top design

Appliqué

Tight, secure stitching using a matching/blending thread color
Consistency in use of fabric grain for appliqué and backgrounds
Accurate placement of appliqué; markings removed
Sharp points and smooth curves; no raw edges or fraying unless intended
No shadow-through or distortion
Embellishments secure, appropriate; no distortion

Quilting

Even and consistent stitch length (hand or machine) front and back; no puckers or gathers on front or backside
Balanced tension; no bobbin pop-ups, bird nests
Straight lines should be straight, curves smooth
Grid quilting, over stitching should be accurately placed
Starts and stops should not show; thread tails clipped; no visible knots or tufting
Markings should be removed
Thoughtful quilting design to complement top; balanced throughout

Finishing

Square corners should be 90 degrees, stitched closed; curved or scalloped edges should be smooth, without cupping; mitered accurately
Bindings should be an even width, lie flat; batting should fill to the edge
Stitching to close binding should be small, tight and made with matching thread
Mitered or abutted corners; bias or straight grain; single or double fold should be well-executed

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