

How I Glue Baste Quilts

By Bonnie Prokop

I have glue basted more than 300 quilts using Elmer's Washable School Glue. I tried other methods, but like the glue basting best because I never get any puckers on the front or back of my quilts. Using this method, the quilts never come out stiff and there is no chemical smell or overspray to deal with.

1. Roll the quilt top on a pool noodle (right side up). This will make it easier to put the top on the batting later.
2. Fill a carpenter's glue roller bottle with undiluted Elmer's Washable School Glue. Do not dilute the glue because you want it come out of the bottle slowly.
3. Starting at one end, gently squeeze the glue bottle to feed a small amount onto the roller. Then roll onto the batting in an X pattern, making sure there are no glue globs that would make the quilt stiff. Aim for a line of glue about the width of a line drawn with a felt tip marker. If it looks like there's more glue than I want on the batting, I stop squeezing the bottle and just use the roller to "spread" it.
4. I usually apply the glue in a 10" -12" high row across the batting, then begin unrolling the quilt top onto the glued batting a "row" at a time.
5. Remove any wrinkles as you go by smoothing the glued top from the center to the edges with your hands, similar to the way you would smooth wallpaper on a wall.
6. After the glued top has dried a few hours, flip the sandwich and glue the backing to the batting following steps 1 through 5 above.
7. Let the glued backing dry overnight.

I wash the roller thoroughly with warm water immediately after using it to glue. The roller can be easily popped out and I just rub it down with an old toothbrush under warm water to remove the glue and any accumulated fuzz/threads. My glue bottle came with a little red "plug" so I leave the leftover glue in the bottle to use the next time (the cap from the gallon size of the Elmer's School Glue fits the Rockler glue bottle so don't throw it away). The roller is a made from a hard rubber. As long as you clean the glue after every use, the bottle and roller should last for years. There is nothing to wear out.

This is the easiest way I have found to glue baste my quilts. The glue is cheap at \$12-\$15 per gallon and will glue numerous quilts. Quick and easy to do, no chemical smell or overspray, and no puckers in the finished quilt. Hope these tips help.

I bought my carpenter's roller glue bottle from Rockler, but they are also available on Amazon.



<https://www.rockler.com/rockler-8-oz-glue-bottle-with-glue-roller>