

BATTING TYPES

ADVANTAGES***** *LIABILITIES

There are basically four different types of methods for manufacturing quilt batting. Hobbs Bonded Fibers makes all different types for some uses in industry, but does not make all types for the home quilter for what will become obvious reasons.

GARNETTED/CARDED

Garnetted or carded battings can utilize any type of fiber. With this process the fiber is carded or garnetted, crosslapped, cut and packaged, nothing else is done to hold it together. Evaluation: This type of batting has to be quilted every 1/2 inch or it will bunch and shift. Even if quilted every 1/2 inch if the fiber is wool or polyester it will beard badly. If cotton and quilted very closely, results will be satisfactory, but batt could not be prewashed.

NEEDLEPUNCHED

This type of product is garnetted or carded and then the fiber passes through a "needle loom" that compresses and interlocks the fibers so that the product will handle like a blanket. Though the weight and amount of needlepunching drastically alters this type of batting, usually this type of batting could be quilted 4" apart and most often could be prewashed if desired. Evaluation: This type process is excellent for cotton batting, but poor for polyester or wool. Since cotton batting is rarely guilty of bearding, needlepunched cotton is fine and Hobbs makes all our cotton batting by needlepunching. However, needlepunched polyester and wool beard, in most cases profusely. We do not make the latter and recommend quilters stay far away from polyester, wool, and any blend of same.

THERMAL BONDED/HEAT SEALED

Thermal bonded or heat sealed batting is the same animal, just different names. Glazene is a type of thermally bonded batting, but is a trademarked product. In this process a fiber known as "low melt" polyester is mixed with standard polyesters. Low melt is a fiber that melts at a lower temperature than standard polyesters. In the case of Glazene batting, the garnetted or carded product is run through two heated rollers that compress the product and bonds the fibers together on the top and bottom. Thermal bonded or heat sealed is similar except the garnetted or carded fibers are run through an oven that is heated to temperature that melts the low melt but not the standard polyester. This type of batting is bonded all the way through, not just the top and bottom. Evaluation: Heat sealed polyester is not dry cleanable and does not hold up to washing as well as resin bonded. Hobbs does not make this type of batting for the home sewing market because of these limitations.

RESIN BONDED

Resin bonded batting is garnetted or carded, and then sprayed with a "resin" which bonds any two touching fibers together. It then passes through an oven or dryer to dry and cure the resin so it can be packaged. Evaluation: Because it bonds all fibers together that touch, it is a superior bonding technique than thermal bonding and it is dry cleanable. Though resin bonding does not completely eliminate bearding, it reduces it more than any other technique with polyester or wool battings. We recommend that you only buy polyester or wool battings that are resin bonded. It may cost a tad more, but it is worth the additional cost.