

## GETTING YOUR ENTRY READY FOR THE QUILT SHOW

Terrific! By now you've received your acceptance letter and you know that you'll be turning in your show entry (or entries) at the January Guild meetings. Complete instructions are included in your response packet but may I elaborate for a moment?

**LABELS:** You'll find printed labels on the second page of the letter you received...three labels for each quilt entry. Cut these labels apart on the dotted lines. **The first label** is sewn directly to the quilt back in the lower left corner. It contains the entry number and quilt title. That's all the information we allow the judges to see. A simple whipstitch around the edge will secure the label enough to make it through the quilt show. You are encouraged to put an additional, personal label on the back of your quilt but it will be obscured with painter's tape during the judging process to ensure the anonymity of the quilter from the judges and volunteers. **The second label** is to be sewn to the pillowcase or quilt bag. It indicates the entry number and quilt title as well as a notation if the quilt will be judged. If you'll place the label near the opening of the quilt bag and near the center of that opening, it will make things a LOT easier for the volunteers who will be handling your quilt during transport, judging, hanging and take down. **The third label** should be put in a safe place...perhaps with your membership badge? This is your claim check and it will be required when you pick up your quilt at the end of the show. Quilts will be released only to the person presenting this claim check.

**HANGING SLEEVE:** Of course we need a sleeve in order to hang your quilt at the show. We require a smaller sleeve (only 2" deep) for smaller quilts under 30" in any direction. For larger quilts we require the standard sleeve used in all major quilt shows (4" deep). Instructions for how to make a simple sleeve are included on the back of your acceptance letter. If you'd like to learn how the 'pros' make a sleeve for competitions quilts, you can see Libby Lehman's instructions on the following web page of the International Quilt Association: [www.quilts.com/sleeves.pdf](http://www.quilts.com/sleeves.pdf) (Yes, I did notice that the word sleeves is misspelled but proof reading for IQA is not my job). The sleeve described here is shaped like a 'D' which ensures a straighter hanging quilt. When I make my sleeves for competition, I add one step to Libby's directions. I machine stitch along the top and bottom folds before sewing the sleeve into a tube. That gives me a nice firm edge when

I'm hand sewing the sleeve to the quilt. Always sew the short edges of your sleeve to the back of your quilt so that the hanging rod touches only the sleeve and not the quilt back.

**REMOVING LINT AND ODORS:** Submitting a clean and odor-free entry will ensure greater success with the judges but it's common courtesy really. During judging, hanging and takedown, your quilt will be laid out on a table with other quilts. Trust me, smells and pet hairs really can transfer to someone else's quilt. At this point, I would say to the culprits "you know who you are" but truthfully, **I don't think you DO know who you are!** If there are pets in your household, their hair gets everywhere. I have three dogs in my home so I know too well. If your show quilt has been on display in your house for any length of time, it is dusty. Repeat after me: "The lint roller is my friend". Before submitting a quilt for the show, treat it thoroughly with the lint roller on the front side and the back side...twice! If your vision isn't what it once was, there are probably loose threads on your quilt. Use the lint roller just to be on the safe side.

If you're a smoker, or someone in your house is a smoker, you probably don't realize that your quilt smells like smoke. If your quilt entry has been stored for a period of time, it may smell musty. There are several methods to remove odors from quilts. **If the odors are mild,** the quilt can be hung outdoors (in the shade) so that Mother Nature can clear the smell. Always protect your quilts from direct sunlight. **Stronger odors can be eliminated** by one of the following methods: Place the quilt in a container with a tight fitting lid. Add a bar of Irish Spring soap or some charcoal briquettes wrapped in a loose-weave fabric such as cheesecloth to the container. Put the lid on and let it sit for 1 – 3 days. The charcoal should absorb the odor or the soap should overpower it. If your quilt is sturdy enough to go in the dryer, you can run it on the air only cycle with some dryer sheets. For more stubborn odors, spread the quilt on a floor, using a sheet under it for protection. Generously sprinkle baking soda over the quilt. Roll up the quilt (and the sheet) and let it sit overnight. The baking soda will absorb the smell. Then take the quilt outdoors and shake out the baking soda. A spin through the air cycle on the dryer should take care of any residual powder.

This year, for the first time, the judging and hanging committees will refuse to handle any quilts with noticeable odors, lint or pet hair. Please allow yourself the time to properly treat your entry before you submit it in January.

**THE PILLOWCASE OR QUILT BAG:** Do the instructions sound extremely picky to you? Half a page of the acceptance packet is dedicated to instructions about the darn pillowcase: the quilt bag must be not too big, not too small, no drawstrings, zippers or safety pins...what's the big deal? All this attention to detail would not surprise you if you'd ever spent a day at judging in the past. Zippers and safety pins have snagged quilts (and the volunteers handling them). Velcro presents huge problems. There have been small quilts presented in giant bags and huge quilts which overflowed their small bags. We've handled pillowcases so old that the fabric split with the lightest touch. We've seen quilts come out of the pillowcases covered with dust or lint...even feathers! Before you insert your beautiful, clean quilt into its pillowcase or quilt bag, please make sure that the bag itself has been washed and treated with a lint roller. In addition, we ask that you fold your quilt with wrong sides out (right sides together) and **tuck it into the bag so that the label sewn on the back of the quilt is easily visible at the open end of the pillowcase.** That way we can double check that we have paired the right quilt with the right bag.

**QUILTS WHICH REQUIRE SPECIAL HANDLING:** We ask all the volunteers to handle your quilt with great care and respect but not all quilts are created equal. After much discussion, we decided to provide special handling for the few art quilt entries we receive which cannot be folded and placed in a pillowcase. If your show entry cannot be folded because of embellishments or some special surface treatment, **you must obtain permission in advance to submit your entry rolled rather than folded.** Contact judging co-chairs Nancy Arseneault or Lois Podolny prior to January 11 to secure approval for a special handling quilt. Once pre-approved, you may submit your entry rolled on a foam swim noodle no larger than 48" in length. The noodle should be labeled with your name and the entry number **ON THE END OF THE NOODLE** with permanent marker. Please don't use pins or ties to secure your quilt to the noodle. No cardboard tubes will be accepted. An appropriately sized and labeled bag should be made to enclose the rolled quilt.

Please take the time to prepare your show entries properly this year, and on behalf of the judging, hanging and take down committees, let me thank you in advance for your cooperation. It's going to be a terrific show!

Submitted for December  
Nancy Arseneault

