

# Quilting Searching for Butterflies

## Quilting the Quilt

1. Make the sandwich making sure that the quilt top is very secure to the batting.
2. Use the Quilting Detail – Right Flowers and Stems and Center and Left for Printed Fabric handout to quilt the flowers and stems. Thread color suggestions are given with each handout.
3. Take the Butterfly Quilting Detail (drawings of butterflies) and copy them onto a piece of paper piecing paper, vellum or copy paper. Cut them out leaving about ½” around each one.
4. Smooth out the quilt top and reposition the top if necessary to make sure the background fabric is totally secure and flat to the quilt. If there is any “play” in the top at all, unsightly ripples of fabric will appear outside the quilted butterfly. So make sure the top is secure.
5. Position the butterflies in various angles of flight with the largest butterfly nearest the foreground and the smallest at the upper edge. Pin in place.
6. Quilt the bodies with 100 weight black YLI silk thread and the wings with YLI 05V variegated blue thread.
7. NOTE: When I quilted my top, I had a lot of excess fabric around each butterfly and it was totally unsightly. I used Superior’s Monopoly clear invisible thread to make a tiny stipple stitch in all the open spaces (not on the flowers or leaves) and worked in the excess fabric with my fingers. That was the only way I could get rid of the excess fabric.
8. Block and square up the quilt.
9. NOTE: I always quilt the quilt top before adding the borders. This way I have a lot of latitude to quilt the top as heavily as I would like but still leave the quilting on the borders light and airy. Look for the PDF handout on Adding Borders After Quilting the Quilt Top or see pages 74-76 in my first book, *Simple Thread Painting* for more instructions.