

# Restoring My Son's Well-Used Quilt

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**This is one of the first quilts I made when I started quilting in 2000.  
It is made from my first pattern.  
It is handquilted..**

**I was extremely happy that the quilt was so well-used that it needed to be restored.**

**Here are some photos of the quilt when it was first made.**

The quilt received a new backing, binding, 2.5" strip on the top perimeter.

I tied the quilt.

Sewed the original label back on plus a new label.

**It is 84" by 96".**





I didn't think about writing an article about this until after I had finished restoring the quilt. Because of this I did not photograph the problems.

**Here is a description of the the considerations and problems.**

The backing was frayed and torn in many spots. Especially around the edges.

The binding was frayed and worn.

The top of the quilt held up pretty well except for the two inches closest to the binding all the way around the quilt.

These two inches were torn and frayed in many spots.

**Since the quilt was hand quilted I did NOT want to remove this quilting.**

It was NOT in the best of shape but was still holding the quilt together.

I am sentimentally attached to all my hand quilting work even though it was a first effort. I am no longer hand quilting.. too hard on my hands and wrists.

Because I was not removing the quilting I could not remove the backing.

Because I was not removing the quilting I decided not to remove the top two inches around the perimeter of the quilt.

**What I DID DO:**

I removed the binding with a seam ripper and threw it away.

I removed the original label.

I searched my stash and FOUND fabric used in the quilt in 2000.

I was so happy!!

There was enough of the red and yellow fabrics to do a new binding and add two inches to the top around the perimeter.

I trimmed a little of the torn and frayed fabric around the perimeter on the quilt top.

I trimmed a little of the torn and frayed fabric from the back of the quilt.

Next I pieced the red fabric into 2.5” strips and sewed it to the top of the quilt around the perimeter. I sewed ON TOP of the existing 2.5” perimeter.

I did not increase the size of the quilt.

I pieced a new backing from blue flannel.

I lay an old sheet on my carpet.

I put the flannel on the sheet – right side down.

I attached it to the carpet so that it was smooth but not too tight using T-Pins.

I sprayed the backing thoroughly but lightly using Sullivan's Basing Spray.

I lay the quilt on top of the flannel and smoothed it out.

Next I lined up a bunch of movies to watch and tied the quilt.

It took about 6 hours to tie an 84” by 96” quilt.

## **How I tied the quilt:**

I used Pearl Cotton. Red – from the embroidery thread section of the fabric store.  
I used a larger eyed tapestry needle.

My quilt has 4” blocks so I decided to tie it every four inches where the seams intersect.

1. I threaded the needle with 48” of thread (doubled so the length was actually 24”).
2. I held out 2” of thread in the first stitch only and then made 2 stitches all the way through all layers of the quilt. Put the needle straight in from the top and the bottom.
3. Then I ran the thread to the next 4” spot and did the same thing over again until the thread ran out. I ran the thread on the TOP of the quilt.
4. When I was done sewing the thread I cut it halfway between each stitch. This was at about the 2” spot. I just guessed.
5. Then I tied two knots at each stitch spot.  
Because of how I cut the thread all the threads on the top of the quilt they were the same length and did not have to be trimmed later.

**Final Step: Sew both a new label and the old label to the quilt.**

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**Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.**

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