

Judging Critique Explained

1. Show Readiness

Quilt should be clean
Should be free of animal hairs
All threads should be neatly trimmed
Markings should be removed

2. Visual Impact

Design balance
Use of color/value
Overall appeal

3. Execution of Chosen Construction Technique

Piecing:

Seams and intersections should meet accurately
Points should be sharp
Curves & Circles smooth & round
Seam lines should be straight
Piecing thread should be an appropriate color
Dark fabrics should not shadow through lighter fabrics at seams.

Applique:

Edges of applique motifs should be well-secured
Decorative stitches should be consistently applied
Curves should be smooth, circles should be uniformly circular
Shadowing should be avoided

4. Execution of Quilting Technique

Machine:

Thread tension should be consistent on both front and back
Starts and stops should be well-handled and secure
Stitch length should be even
Back tracking should be accurate
Ditch quilting should remain in the ditch

Hand:

Stitches should be even and straight
Knots should be buried
Traveling stitches should not be visible

Outline quilting should stay off of applique pieces

5. Appropriateness of Quilting

Quilting design should complement quilt top
Spaces should be filled with a consistent density of quilting
Parallel lines and grids should run true
Curves and circular designs should be fluid and true

6. Borders and Sashings

Straight lines should be straight
Borders and sashings should be properly proportioned to blocks
Sashing should accurately line up both vertically and horizontally
Borders should fit properly without waving or rippling

7. Edge Treatment

Binding should be filled to the edge with batting
Avoid rippling in binding application
Binding should be consistent width
Visible machine stitches should be straight & evenly applied from all edges
Hand stitching should form a true 90-degree angle
Corners should be consistently

8. Back of Quilt

Backing should be free of distortion or tucks
Seaming should be symmetrical and straight