



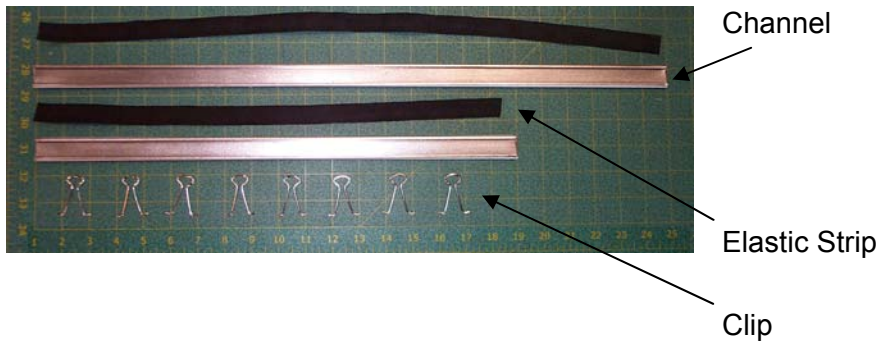
LeaderMate™ Quilt Mounting System Directions

Thank-you for purchasing the LeaderMate™ Quilt Mounting System! Use of this patent-pending system will save you lots of time so that you may spend your time doing what you enjoy most: quilting on your Longarm / Midarm machine!

Please follow the directions below to install the LeaderMate device to your existing Longarm / Midarm machine. Then follow the directions to mount and unmount your quilt¹.

Installation

The LeaderMate System is designed to work with any Longarm / Midarm machine regardless of how you currently mount your quilts. The LeaderMate System consists of the following components:

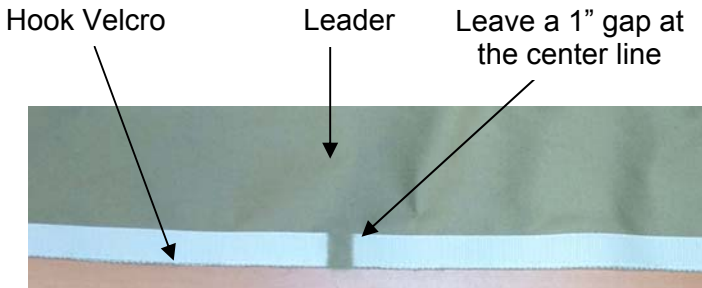


The lightweight steel channels are 7/8-inch wide and come in 18-inch and 24-inch lengths. Attached to the bottom of the channel (not shown in the picture) is 3/4-inch wide Loop (i.e., soft) Velcro®.

An elastic strip 3/4-inch wide is provided with each channel.

Included are 5 clips per 18-inch channel and 6 clips per 24-inch channel (thereby providing one extra clip per channel).

Also required is 3/4-inch wide Hook (i.e., hard) Velcro which you will need to sew this Velcro to your leader (as depicted on the left).



Installing the LeaderMate System only requires that you sew the Hook Velcro onto each of your existing leaders. This need only be done once and can be done using either your Longarm / Midarm machine or a domestic sewing machine. It is recommended that you leave about a 1-inch gap (see picture above) at the center line of your leader. This is to allow you to optionally pin the quilt top or backing temporarily to the leader to keep it from shifting as part of loading the quilt (see Step 3 of Mounting your Quilt).



When sewing the Hook Velcro onto your leaders, it is important to sew it onto the correct side of the leader. To determine the correct side, go to the front of the machine and pull the leader onto the table. The side facing up is the correct side.

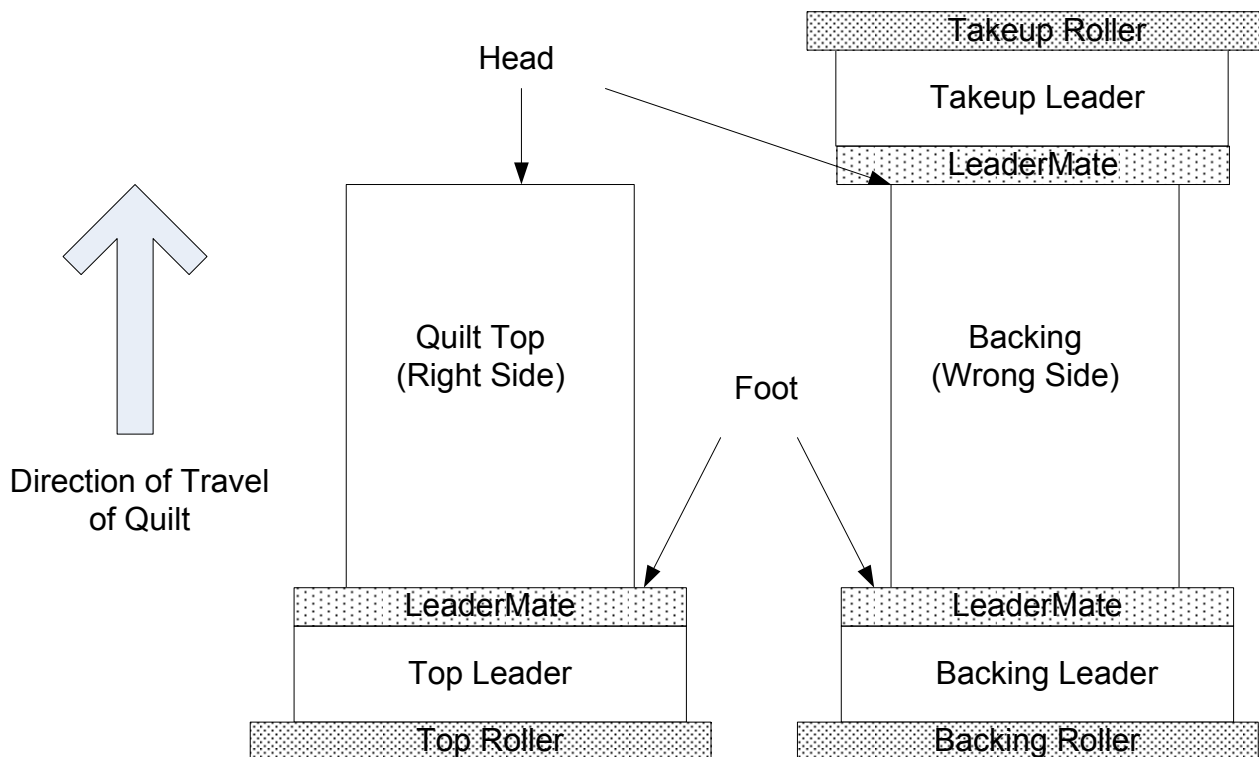
¹ In these directions, the terms “mount” and “load” are synonymous as are “unmount” and “unload”.

Please note that in the pictures that follow, the last several inches of the leader are striped. This was done to make it easier to see the components of the LeaderMate System and how the LeaderMate System is used.

Mounting Your Quilt

Before going through the step-by-step instructions for mounting your quilt, it is important to first understand where LeaderMate attaches to your quilt top and backing and to your Longarm / Midarm machine. In the schematic diagram below, 3 rollers are depicted on the machine: a Top Roller, a Backing Roller and a Takeup Roller. The quilt layers travel from the Top and Backing Rollers to the Takeup Roller.

The foot of the backing is attached via LeaderMate to the Backing Leader. The head of the backing is attached via LeaderMate to the Takeup Leader. The foot of the quilt top is attached via LeaderMate to the Top Leader. If you are fully floating your top, then the foot of the quilt top is not attached to the Top Leader.



Within ¼-inch of the head of the quilt top, the head of the quilt top is sewn to the batting and quilt backing and is NOT mounted to the Takeup Leader.

Please note that the directions depict use of the LeaderMate System with a Gammill Longarm machine. Some variations may be required to use the LeaderMate System with other machines.

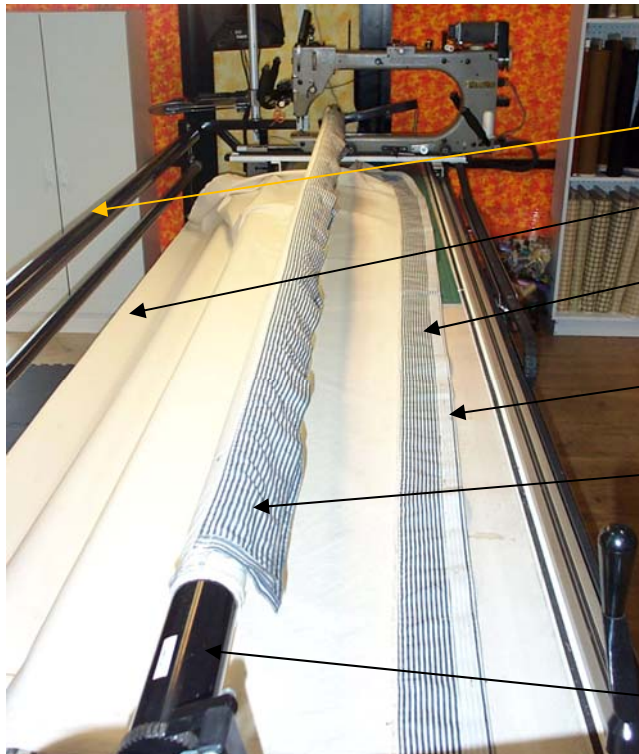


Mounting your quilt with the LeaderMate System can be easier from the back side of your Longarm / Midarm machine. In this way, you do not have to stretch and lean further from the front of the machine. These directions show mounting the quilt from the back side of the machine.

The order in which to mount the quilt to the machine is:

1. Mount the foot of the top to the Top Leader.
2. Mount the foot of the backing to the Backing Leader.
3. Mount the head of the backing to the Takeup Leader.

The picture below shows a Longarm machine prior to loading a quilt. (Please note that the Backing Roller is not in view; it is under the Top Leader.)



Belly Bar

Top Roller

Foot of the quilt top will be mounted on this edge of the Top Leader

Hook Velcro on Top Leader

Head of the quilt backing will be mounted the Takeup Leader. Note that, as depicted, the hook Velcro for this leader is on the opposite (i.e., face down) side of the leader and is therefore not visible.

Take-Up Roller

The following picture depicts mounting the foot of the quilt top with the LeaderMate System. The quilt has been inserted into the channel to the user's right and is about to be inserted into the channel to the user's left. The details for attaching the quilt top and backing via the channels are described starting on Page 8.



Quilt top has been inserted into channel. Elastic insert is laying next to the channel.

LeaderMate channel with elastic insert next to it.

In the picture below, the foot of the quilt top has been mounted using the LeaderMate System to the Top Leader.



Channels with elastic and clips inserted.

The next step is to mount the foot of the backing with the LeaderMate System. Before doing so, the quilt top was rolled onto the Top Roller.



Top Roller with quilt top rolled on it

Foot of backing being mounted with LeaderMate System.

Backing Roller

Before mounting the head of the backing to the Takeup Roller, go to the front side of the machine and pull the front of the backing under the Frame Bar and then place over both the Belly Bar and the Takeup Roller.



Pull on the head of the quilt backing

Foot of backing is mounted to Backing Leader

Belly Bar

Frame Bar

Takeup Roller

In the picture below, the head of the backing is being mounted with the LeaderMate System to the Takeup Leader. As described above, the backing is draped over the Takeup Roller. It is attached to the Backing Leader which is draped over the Belly Bar.

Before mounting the head of the backing, the Takeup Leader was first pulled out from the Takeup Roller and the edge flipped up and folded back on itself to expose the hook Velcro which was on the side of the leader facing down.

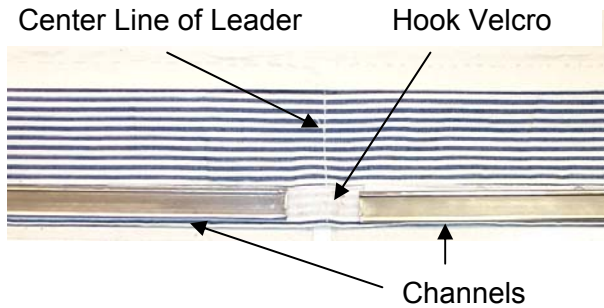


Head of backing being mounted with LeaderMate System

Foot of backing already mounted in previous step with LeaderMate System. The Backing Leader is draped over the Belly Bar.

Take-Up Roller

Following are the step-by-step instructions for mounting your quilt top and backing to the channels.



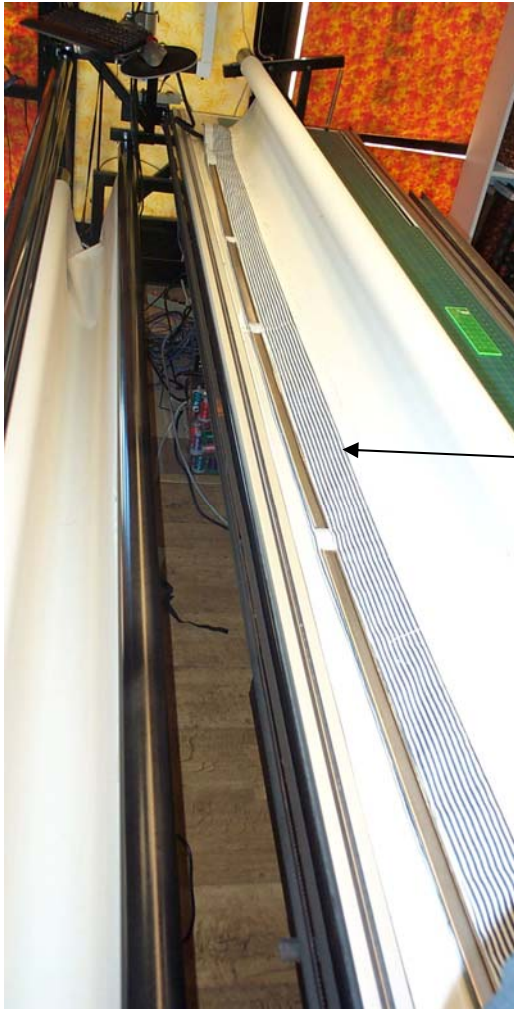
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Start at the center of the quilt and add channels, as required, working your way toward one edge of the quilt so that the last channel extends to at least the edge of the fabric material (i.e., quilt top or backing, as appropriate).² Then, go back to the center and add channels, as required, working your way out toward the opposite edge of the fabric material. Leave a gap of at least an inch between each channel as well as at the center of the quilt. (You may leave a gap of up to about 3 inches between the channels, if desired.)

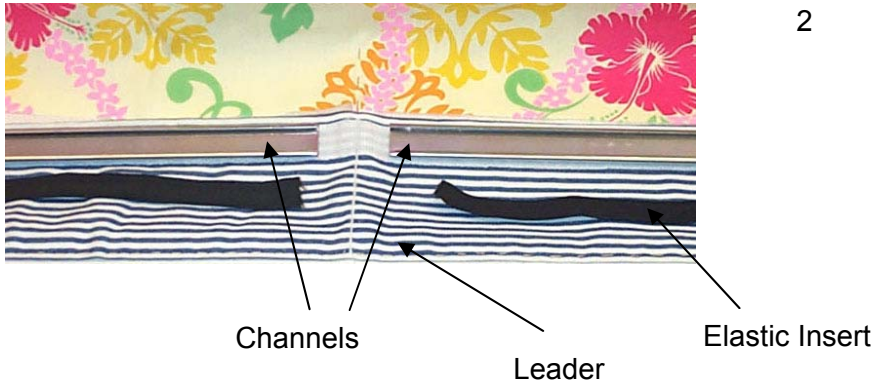
It is recommended that you use only enough channels to handle the quilt you are quilting and not leave extra, unused channels attached. This makes the mounting process a little easier.

When removing a channel from the leader, pull gently from one end and not with a sudden jerk.

Shown at the left are 4 channels laid end-to-end with a gap of about one inch between them.



² If the quilt extends only a few inches beyond the end of a channel, rather than adding another channel, you may instead pin the extended part of the quilt to the leader.



- 2 Lay the fabric material to be attached on the Longarm machine's table. Lay the elastic insert strips for each channel next to the channel. (It is suggested that the strip be kept in the channel when not in use so it is not lost or misplaced.)

Perform steps 3 - 6 on one channel at a time. Start from the center of the quilt and work your way out toward one edge of the fabric material. Then, go back to the center and work your way out toward the opposite edge of the material.



- 3 Place the fabric material (i.e., backing or top) to be attached into the channel so that the fabric material covers the entire bottom of the inside part of the channel. Be sure that there is no tension on the fabric material when it is being inserted. It is highly recommended that, to keep the fabric material from shifting, you first pin the fabric material to the leader at the center line.

Pin fabric material to leader here
Center line of Leader



- 4 Place the elastic strip over the material and insert into the channel.
You may be able to do this with your fingernails (as shown in the first figure on the left).

With use, the elastic's shape becomes "trained" to conform to the shape of the channel and becomes easier to insert.

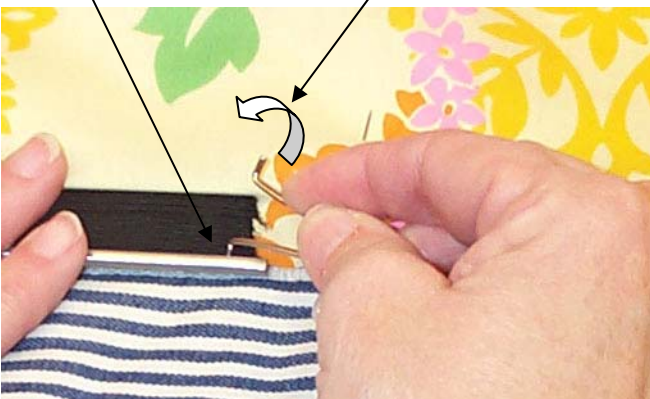
Rather than use your fingernails, you may use a plastic knife or similar tool (as shown in the picture on the left)³. Glide the tool along the inside edge of each side of the channel to do the insertion.

³ You may be able to use the rounded edge of one of the clips.

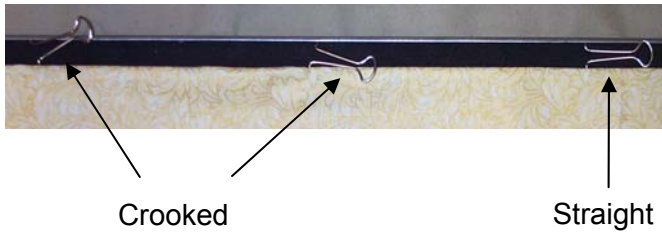
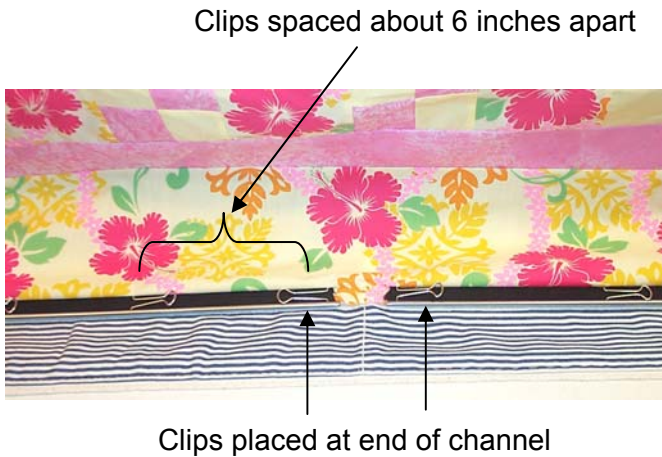


- 5 Insert clips into the channel by squeezing, inserting and then releasing.

Pivot leg of clip Squeeze, pivot and insert



It is suggested that you insert one leg of the clip into the channel first so that the leg touches the side of the channel opposite the material you are attaching. Then squeeze the clip and pivot it so that the other leg can be inserted into the channel.



- When inserted, gently rotate the clip down so that it lays flat against the channel. Do not try to push the clip inside the channel; rather, it need only lay flat on the top of the channel.

The clips should be inserted at each end of each channel and spaced about 6 inches apart. (This means you need 4 clips for an 18-inch channel and 5 clips for a 24-inch channel.) If the material does not extend the full length of the channel, then insert a clip at the edge of the material.

When laid down, the clip should not be very crooked so that it extends over the side of the channel. If very crooked, the clip may come loose and fall out. Rather, it should lay reasonably straight in the lengthwise direction of the channel.

- When your quilt has been attached to all the leaders, you may use the rollers to make the quilt flat, taut and suitable for quilting.



As with any quilt mounting system, you do NOT want your Longarm / Midarm machine to quilt into the mounting mechanism (in this case, the LeaderMate channels). If you attached the foot of the quilt top to the Top Leader, unmount the foot of the quilt prior to quilting the last part of the quilt. Then sew the foot of the quilt top with a 1/4-inch seam prior to quilting the last part of the quilt.



Unmounting Your Quilt

- 1 Remove each clip from the channel by squeezing, then pivoting the clip and lifting it out. You only need to squeeze enough to free the clip from the channel so as to pivot it. This requires much less effort than squeezing the clip enough so that both legs of the clip clear the channel opening.

You should store the clips in a container, such as a jar or can, so as not to lose or misplace them.

- 2 Remove the elastic strips and material (i.e., quilt top or backing, as appropriate) from the channel. When done with using the LeaderMate System, it is recommended that you re-insert the elastic strips into the channels so as not to lose or misplace them.

Helpful Tips

- 1 Over time, you may find that threads get caught in the Velcro. A handy tool to clean your Velcro is GripClean (see www.gripclean.com).