



PBQTIPS #N.02

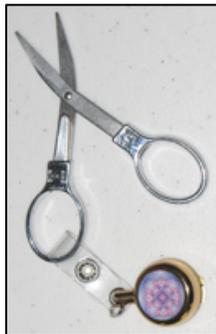
SCISSORS

Pat Barry YOUR LONGARM QUILTING EXPERT

So much attention has been given to scissors with razor-like edges and ultra-sharp points that it is hard to find a good blunt tipped scissors. Rotary cutting tools are great for cutting fabrics, and sharp points are great for trimming trapunto batting, but neither type is useful when running a quilting machine.

Safety is important, and a blunt tip scissors is very safe. Keeping the scissors off of the quilting surface is a good (safe) habit. Some people have a hook or post on their machines where they can hang a scissors. Some use a magnetic device attached to the machine and some use a retractable 'leash' that can be clipped to their clothing. I use them all.

Convenience is a key element when choosing scissors. I prefer a blunt tip folding scissors for travel. Mine is attached to a retractable leash, and always clipped to my clothing. (Some retractable holders even have a button that will stop the cord from retracting if you need it to.) I often forget to remove my scissors when going out into public so I prefer clips that have a quilting design or other decorative element – why not make it look like jewelry?



- Folding Blunt Point Scissors – great for travel. Checker Item #5C (shown)
- Folding Sharp Point Scissors – great for travel. Checker Item #177
- Retractable Holder – Decorative. Checker Item #1415-GC (shown)
- Retractable Holder – Plain black. Checker Item #1415-BP
- Retractable Holder – Stoppable. Checker Item #STOPABLE

Another convenience is a snip scissors that I can use one-handed. Before I start to quilt, I trim stray threads from the back of a quilt. I want a scissors that is lightweight with a pointed tip so I can cut threads and smooth seams. One hand holds the threads or seams and the other clips – without juggling the scissors to fit my fingers.



- Snips – sharp tip, great for trimming. Checker Item # C33010



Similarly, I use a nipper when quilting. After I have secured the thread tails with a few tie-off stitches, I have the threads in one hand and can grab the nippers and clip them with the other. Again, I prefer a blunt tip when cutting threads because I can get close to the tie-off knot without the risk of puncturing a hole in the quilt top.

- Nipper – blunt tip, can be used 1-handed. Checker item # GTNKE

When I make a quilting mistake, I often keep quilting, knowing I can remove the quilt from the table later, and sit down when I remove the bad stitches. This time my scissors of choice has a rounded tip, and has a curved hook on one side of the blade. I can use this hook to isolate a single stitch. If I pull the stitch in one direction, the inside edge of the hook cuts the thread. If I pull the stitch in the other direction, the outside edge pulls the thread up. Very handy for reverse quilting!



- Stitch Cutting scissors – rounded tip with a hook. Checker item #C30015



Finally, I recommend a separate scissors for batting. It has been my experience that batting can dull a scissors very quickly. Getting the scissors sharpened is not quick, easy or convenient, so I use inexpensive scissors which are practically disposable! Ask your Checker Sales Rep for a recommendation.

Shop owners can do their customers a favor by carrying these specialty scissors. Each one of these products is reasonably priced and has a distinct purpose which means great value for the customer.

Always “checking” for a better way to quilt!

Sewlong,

Pat Barry

www.PatBarryQuilts.com