Tension is integral to successful longarm quilting!

1. **ONLY USE HIGH-QUALITY THREAD**
   Avoid thread breaks by choosing the proper thread for your project.

2. **CAREFULLY THREAD THE MACHINE**
   being sure to “floss” the thread between the tension discs

3. **USE THE SAME COLOR THREAD**
   not necessarily the same type of thread, on the top spool and in the bobbin.

4. **SET THE BOBBIN TENSION FIRST**
   then adjust top tension. Do a drop test with the bobbin in the bobbin case – [video](http://youtu.be/0oz8Edtoe2E)

5. **TEST YOUR TENSION**
   by quilting on piece of scrap fabric placed on top of extra batting and backing.

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### Adjusting the Tension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If top thread looks like this:</th>
<th>If top thread looks like this:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Thread too tight" /></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Thread too loose" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Top tension is too TIGHT.**
- **Top tension is too LOOSE.**

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**Remember!**

- When adjusting bobbin tension, use minute adjustments, like the ticks of a clock.
- When adjusting top tension, start by using a full turn of the knob. Fine tune as-needed.

**Hint:** If you have a Handi Quilter machine with either Easy-Set Tension or Easy-Touch Tension, make a note of the tension numeric value to make it easy to set top tension when using that thread again in the future.