

THREADS, NEEDLES & TENSION



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ALL ABOUT THREADS



Types of Threads:

Cotton

Cotton threads are made from twisting the fine staples (fibers) from a cotton bowl to create a thread.

Pros:

- Strong
- Medium sheen
- Natural fibers help grab the fabric to create a tight seam

Cons

- Difficult to tell the quality of just by looking
- Low-to-high lint
- Tends to be more expensive

Angela's thoughts:



My favorite cotton thread is Aurifil 50wt. Perfect for newer quilters who are going to piece and quilt on the same sewing machine (less tension adjustment) or when you want the quilting to be a little more visible.

Core Spun Polyester

(also called poly-wrapped poly core)
Corespun polyester threads have a filament polyester core that is wrapped with spun polyester.

Pros:

- Strong
- Excellent stitching

Cons

- Low-to-moderate lint

Angela's thoughts:

This kind of thread gives you the look of cotton thread without the cost and lint. My favorite Corespun thread is Omni. It's perfect for machine quilting and not as expensive as some other thread types.



Filament Polyester

Filament polyester threads are made from long, thin strands of polyester fibers that are twisted together. These can be thick or thin threads.

Pros:

- Excellent Elongation (the fibers can stretch and recover)
- Smooth presence with no lint

Cons

- Not as strong as cospun (when comparing the same size of thread)
- Thinner threads may require tension adjustments.

Angela's thoughts:

This is my favorite type of thread! Strong enough for machine quilting but thin enough that it blends beautifully. Superior's So Fine Thread is one of my favs! It comes in a different weights, but I love the 50wt.



Glide

40 wt trilobal poly thread that gets it's sheen from the twist



So! Fine

Lint-free, matte-finish, smooth 50 wt. 3 filament polyester thread.

MicroQuilter

100 wt.
2-ply filament polyester thread



Monofilament

Monofilament threads are a single strand of fiber and can be made from polyester, rayon or nylon- for machine quilting, polyester is highly preferred.

Pros:

- Practically makes the quilting disappear.

Cons

- Requires tension adjustment



Angela's thoughts:

I've used Mono Poly (Superior's Brand of Monofilament) on appliqué quilts and quilts that have a lot of different colors. For the best result, loosen tension and quilt slower.

Metallic

Metallic threads are created from multiple layers of materials wrapped and twisted together. Superior's metallic threads have a nylon core, a thin layer of rice paper and a special outer coating.

Pros:

- Gorgeous looks

Cons

- Requires tension adjustment
- Must quilt at a slower speed

Angela's thoughts:

Shiny thread?? Yes, please! This isn't something I tend to use over a whole quilt, instead I use it to enhance certain areas on the quilt.



Glitter or Mylar

Mylar threads are created by bonding thin layers of flat mylar material.

Pros:

- Gorgeous holographic effect

Cons

- Requires tension adjustment
- Must quilt at a slower speed

Angela's thoughts:

I love the look of this thread! But be sure to use a horizontal spool holder or you will be frustrated with all the thread breaks!

