

## TENSION IS THE FIRST STEP TO SUCCESSFUL LONGARM QUILTING!

### 1 MATCH NEEDLE SIZE TO THREAD WEIGHT

Avoid thread breaks by choosing the proper needle size for the thread weight.

### 2 USE THE SAME COLOR THREAD

However, you can use different weights & types of thread in the top thread and in the bobbin.

### 3 SET THE BOBBIN TENSION FIRST

Do a drop test: Adjust tension screw to loosen or tighten tension so bobbin stands up in your palm.

### 4 CAREFULLY THREAD THE MACHINE

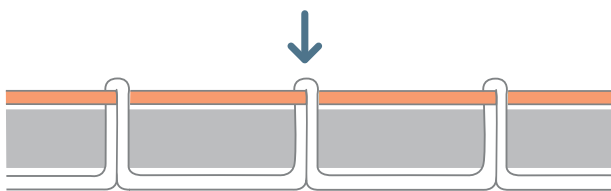
Be sure to catch all the thread guides & "floss" the thread between the tension discs.

### 5 TEST YOUR TENSION

Quilt a circle & zig-zag pattern on a scrap fabric placed on top of batting and backing.

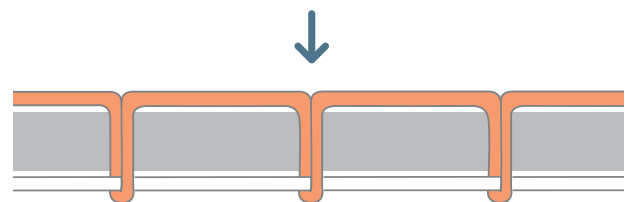
### 6 ADJUST THE TENSION

If top thread looks like this:



Top tension is too **TIGHT**  
Turn the tension knob to the **LEFT**  
(counter-clockwise)

If top thread looks like this:



Top tension is too **LOOSE**  
Turn the tension knob to the **RIGHT**  
(clockwise)

#### BOBBIN ADJUSTMENT

When adjusting bobbin tension, use small adjustments, like the minutes of a clock.

#### TOP ADJUSTMENT

When adjusting top tension, start by using a full turn of the knob. Fine tune as needed.

#### NOTE THE NUMBER

On your Handi Quilter longarm machine with Easy-Set Tension, make a note of the tension number to make it easy to set top tension when using that thread again in the future.