

The Judging Process

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The Physical Judging Process:

Considerations for choosing to judge quilts hanging or flat?

1. Judging hanging quilts
 - Is more fatiguing for the judge(s) because she (he/they) must walk back and forth to consider and reconsider each quilt.
 - Emphasizes a quilt's *visual impact* over workmanship.
2. Judging quilts flat takes less time, and it
 - Is easier for the judge(s) to examine the quilt's front, back and details.
 - Emphasizes a quilt's *workmanship* over visual impact.
 - Requires more staff because each quilt is handled multiple times.

Two Commonly Used Judging Methods:

1. Point or grade method – each entry considered on its own merit
 - Assign or deduct points
 - Time consuming, often additional time is needed to recalculate points given
 - Early quilts not usually given highest points to allow for “better” quilts in the stack. (Think Olympic skating!)
2. Elimination method – entries within each category are compared to each other
 - This is the fastest method (if quilts are judged flat)
 - Judges must be able to quickly verbalize comments – both positive and negative
 - Duplicate awards can be avoided if hosting group prefers

The PATHWAY – An Order of Evaluation

Starts with total presentation and progressively examines smaller details

1. **Overall Design**
 - The visual impact
 - May include the quilting design
2. **General appearance**
 - Clean (no stains, pet hair, lint or unclipped threads)
 - Hangs and lays flat without distortion
 - No shadowing or “see-thru” of darker fabric/thread
 - Straight lines straight and even in width
3. **Technical Aspects: only workmanship and execution – not design**

What's the primary technique and is it well done?

Example: appliqué – are curves smooth, points sharp, stitches small, tight and secure?

What other techniques are present and are they well done?

Example: buttons securely stitched; hand embroidery expertly executed and appropriate in color and scale?

Is the joining of blocks and/or pieces well done?

Example: if blocks are used, are the rows straight and in-line?

Are borders of appropriate fabric and size and well done?

Example: do varied widths and colors complement inner block field?

Does quilting design (if not mentioned in Design)_enhance theme and visual impact?

Example: quilting can add to the overall design theme or simple be an adjunct.

Quilting technique - is it hand, machine or combo

Example: consistent scale and stitch? Adequate amount used throughout quilt? Any special technique, trapunto, etc. used?

Finishing techniques – binding, corners, and embellishments

Example: is binding even, straight and filled with quilt? Are corners 90 degrees, mitered, and flat without dog-ears? Are Rhinestones fused adequately? Are other embellishments expertly and firmly attached to quilt?