



Over the past couple years there has been a proliferation of home quilting machines arriving on the Australian market. The HomeQuilter is designed and manufactured by Needles Eye Industries Pty Ltd, Australia's largest supplier of sewing equipment and distributors of Nolting long-arm quilting machines. The company has put its commercial expertise into developing this home quilting machine.

The system is very quick and easy to assemble and when you are not quilting it is easily dismantled. You simply pull out six ball-lock pins, pull out the fabric bars and loosen the table clamps. The components are then stored away under the bed or in a closet.

If you don't have an old table or a fold-up office table which would be ideal, I would suggest purchasing one. The HomeQuilter is clamped to the table while in use and is designed to fit and function on an inexpensive folding table available from an office supply store. Alternatively an adjustable table is a great idea as it allows you to quilt at whatever height you prefer and entirely eliminates back strain from the quilting process.

Perhaps one of the greatest advantages is that it eliminates the backbreaking task of basting your quilt on the floor. The square bars that hold the fabric are very sturdy and won't slip the way round ones do. The square profile also makes it easy to load the fabric onto them.

In this issue we look at

NEI HomeQuilter
Trialled by Lynelle Slade

The system comes with adjustable 79in bars that can be used separately or joined together, allowing you to quilt projects from 12in to 157in wide.

The system is very quick and easy to assemble and when you are not quilting it is easily dismantled.



I found the system easy to learn to use but would suggest practising with some plain fabric until you gain the confidence to start on your quilt tops as there are a couple of things to get used to. Firstly you will be quilting from one end of the quilt to the other rather than starting in the middle and working outwards. You also need to get a feel for the motion of the carriage while standing behind the machine. It will take some practice to make smooth circles instead of squared-off shapes.

Once you are fully confident about operating the HomeQuilter you can use the laser light attachment to quilt continuous free-running designs using the patterns that come with the system. The red light is used to trace over the selected quilting pattern, and as you move the light the machine moves and replicates the design on the quilt.

The speed controller is another great feature. This replaces the foot control and allows you to control the speed of the machine easily at the twist of a dial, keeping both hands free to guide the machine.

If you do a lot of free-motion quilting then you will quickly adapt to using a HomeQuilter to turn those UFOs into completed projects.

For more information on the HomeQuilter contact Needles Eye Industries on phone: (08) 9248 2900, email: info@needleseyeindustries.com or www.needleseyeindustries.com