



# The Ultimate Used Long Arm Quilting Machine Inspection Checklist

Machine Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Seller  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Asking Price:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Year Built: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 1: Pre-Inspection Questions (Ask Before You Meet)

- What is the exact serial number?
- Are you the original owner?
- Was this used for a hobby or a commercial quilting business?
- When was the last professional service/tune-up performed?
- Will you provide the original manuals and purchase paperwork?

## Part 2: Mechanical & Structural Checks

- **The Frame:** Inspect for any bends, rust, or stripped fasteners.
- **The Dead-bar:** Verify it is perfectly straight and unbowed.
- **Rails & Wheels:** Run your hand along the tracks. They should be completely smooth, with no pits, excessive wear, or lint buildup.
- **Movement (Power Off):** Push the carriage across the frame. It should glide freely without binding or rough spots.
- **Hopping Foot:** Check for excessive play, looseness, or wear.
- **Bobbin System:** Confirm if it uses L-class or M-class bobbins (M-class holds more thread for high-volume work).
- **Cables & Encoders:** Inspect wiring for fraying or pinch marks. Ensure encoder wheels make solid contact with the tracks.

## Part 3: The Live Stitch Test (Power On)

- **Screen & Controls:** Power on the machine. Verify the screen is responsive and shows no error codes.
- **Motor Sound:** Listen for grinding, high-pitched whining, or uneven humming.



- **SPM Test:** Run the machine up to its maximum Stitches Per Minute (SPM). It should maintain speed cleanly without shaking violently.
- **Stitch Regulation:** Test on actual scrap fabric. Change your hand speed. The stitches should remain consistent in length.
- **Tension Check:** Inspect both the top and bottom of the test fabric for looping or skipped stitches.

#### **Part 4: Software & Robotics (If Applicable)**

- **Tablet Condition:** Check the Pro-Stitcher, QuiltPath, or Statler tablet for cracked screens or dead battery issues.
- **Software Version:** Note the current software version. (Will it require a paid update or new hardware to run properly?)
- **Navigation:** Test digital advisors or the pinpoint laser to ensure precise tracking.

#### **Part 5: Accessories & Logistics**

- **Included Extras Checklist:**
  - Leaders and side clamps
  - Rulers and pantographs
  - Extra bobbins and needles
  - Specialized hopping feet
- **Transportation Plan:** Have you measured your doorways and vehicle?
- **Freight Check:** If shipping, has the seller agreed to custom crating and LTL freight shipping to protect the carriage?

**Final Verdict:**  **Buy**  **Negotiate Price**  **Walk Away**