

To Boldly Sew

The making of a nerdy quilt



Twitter: @LizzieCharlton

Featuring!

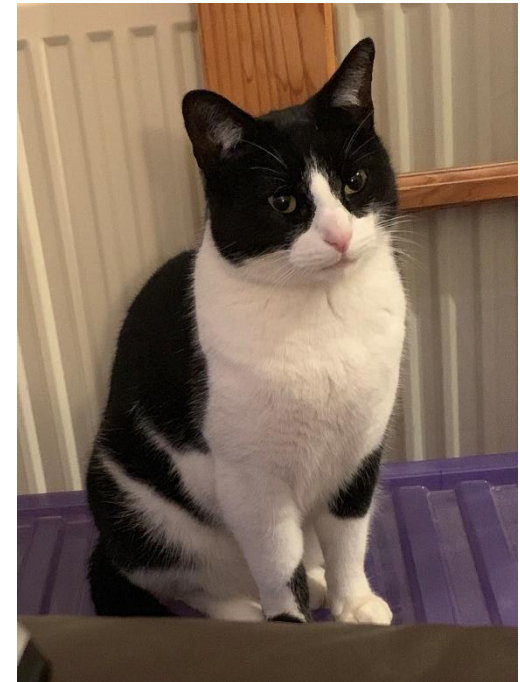
Lizzie Charlton

- Massive nerd, likes Star Trek, Star Wars, Stargate, LotR, and more!
- Mentally ill – sewing kind of my therapy
- Sewing for 7ish years
- On twitter @LizzieCharlton



Spock

- Likes pigeons, mice, sleep, dinner, sleep, Dreamies, sleep, and more!
- Cat
- Catting for 6ish years
- Frequently featured on twitter @LizzieCharlton



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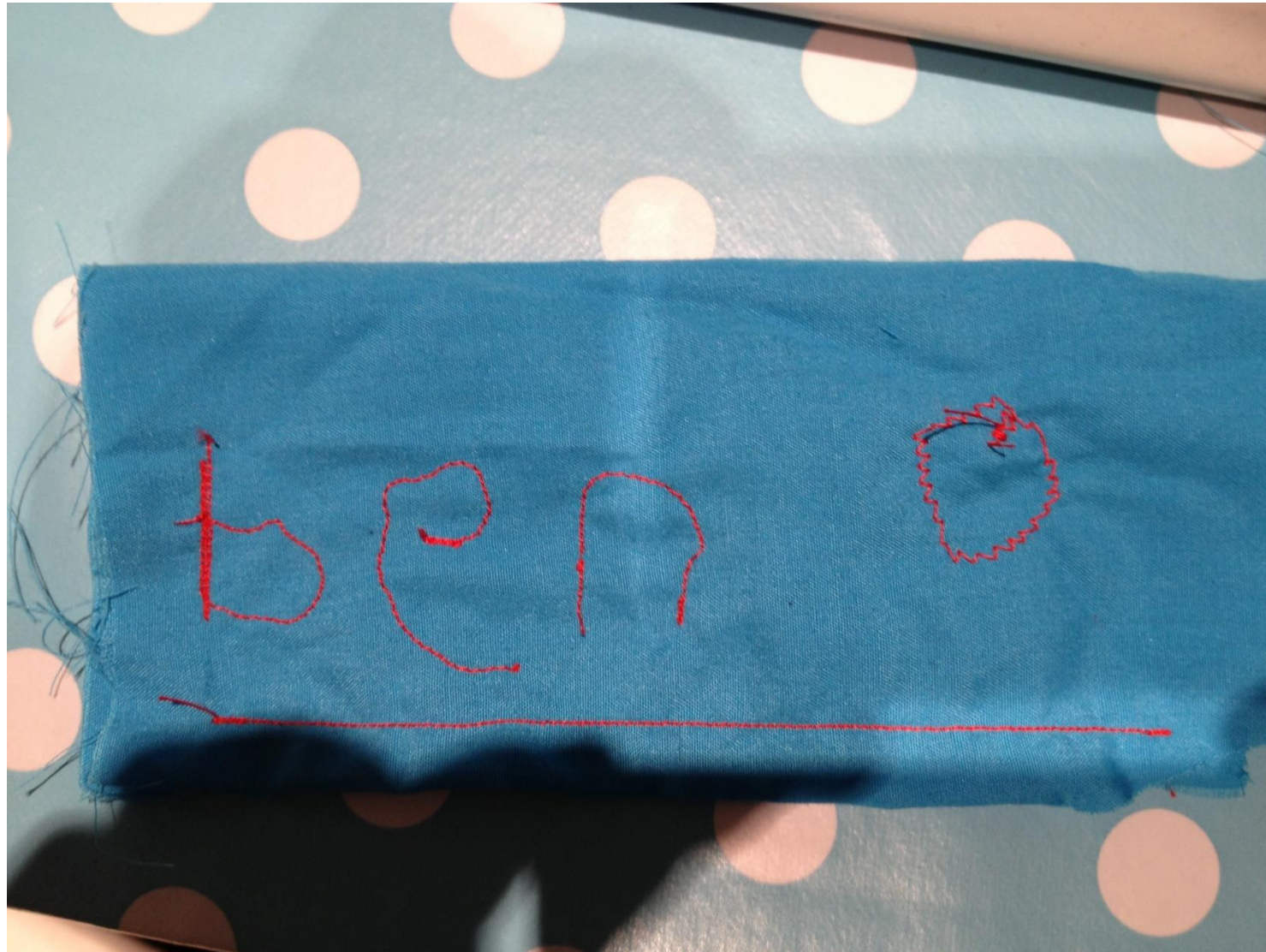
Sewing Machine: The Original Series

- Gifted December 2012
- A 40 year old Elna
- Had 16 stitches
- Weighed a ton
- Witchcraft



New Year's Eve, 2012

My first attempt with my own machine. Thankfully I improved.



Sewing Machine: The Next Generation

- Bought March 2013
- A modern Janome
- Plastic over metal
- Much lighter (still heavy!)
- 50 stitches somehow
- Still witchcraft, but more modern witchcraft
- Here today! Come have a play.





First quilt

- Taught me loads
- Comparatively small: about the smallest of any proper quilt you could make.
- Made me think twice about making anything bigger



Sewing Machine: The Alternate

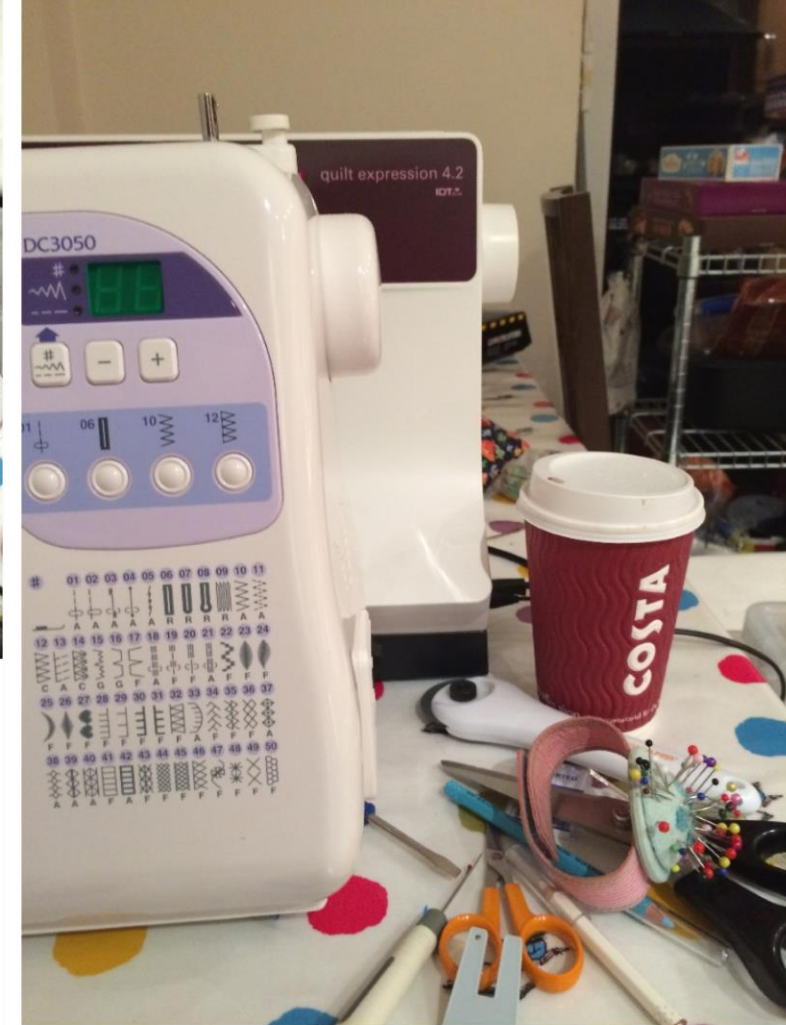
Or: Whoops, I bought another sewing machine

- Bought January 2015
- Pfaff Quilt Expression 4.2
- Mix of plastic and metal
- Seriously heavy
- Massive
- ~250 stitches
- Sounds like a dot matrix printer when it starts up
- Probably full of Discworld imps

Also

- Much bigger space between needle and main machine
- Built in walking foot





**Seriously, the new machine made
the old one look like a Fisher Price toy**

New machine, new quilts

Much easier with suitable equipment



- Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Pretty Small



- Roald Dahl fabric
- Involved a maths error



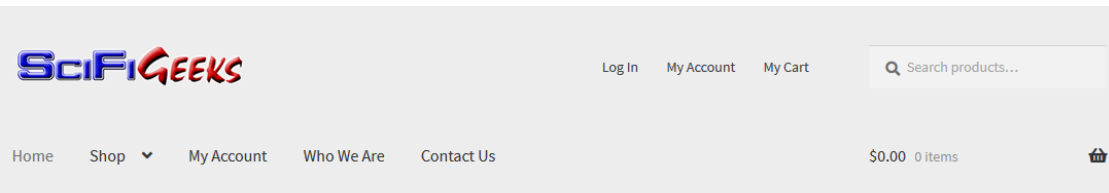
**I also learned you can
never get a cat to pose**

This is Spock. He's adorable, but uncooperative.



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Futurama (3)



G.I. Joe (21)



Galaxy Quest (4)



Game of Thrones (11)



Gaming Patches (97)



Ghostbusters (33)



Goblet of Fire (3)



Godzilla (2)



Green Lantern (10)



Gryffindor Patches (8)



Half Life 2 (4)



Halloween Themed (5)



Halo Universe (26)



Harry Potter (53)



Hawaii Five-0 (1)



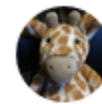
Hawkman / Hawkgirl (2)

Twitter: @LizzieCharlton



Naturally I bought 20

- Had a vague idea what I was going to do with them
- Arrived January 2016
- Covers 11 fandoms/interests



Lizzie
@LizzieCharlton

Yay! The patches for my nerd quilt came today. Means I can get cracking on it when I finish my current project.

5:35 PM - 23 Jan 2016

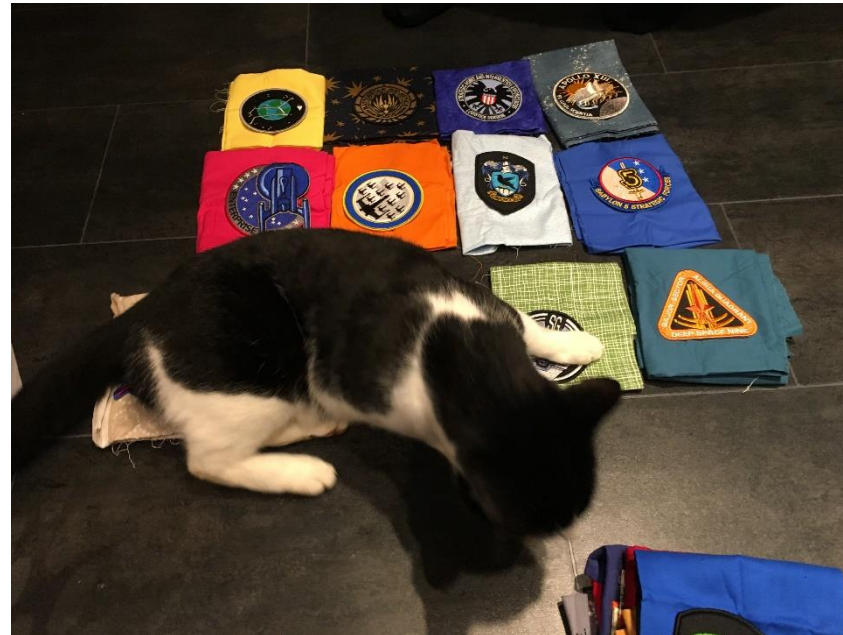


MATHS

- Should have paid more attention at school
- Quilting – and sewing – involves a lot of maths
- Only looks effortless here because this was the neat write up later

Layout

- Pulled out all my fabric
- Played around with locations
- Prewashed
- Cut out pieces
- Attached patches
- Finished that process in March 2016



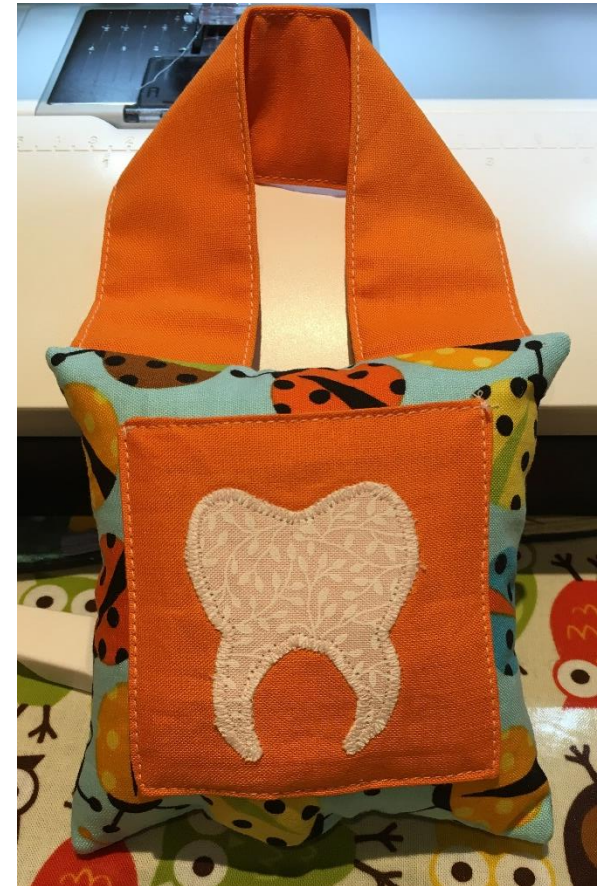
Lizzie
@LizzieCharlton

Perils of pet ownership & crafts. Left quilt pieces out, cat has been out in the mud & pieces good for drying off



7:05 PM - 7 Mar 2016

Focusing on everyone else



7 months later...

- 16th October 2016
- Took all the pre-prepared pieces and joined them together with spacers and edges.
- Cleaned it up
- I realised I had a problem...





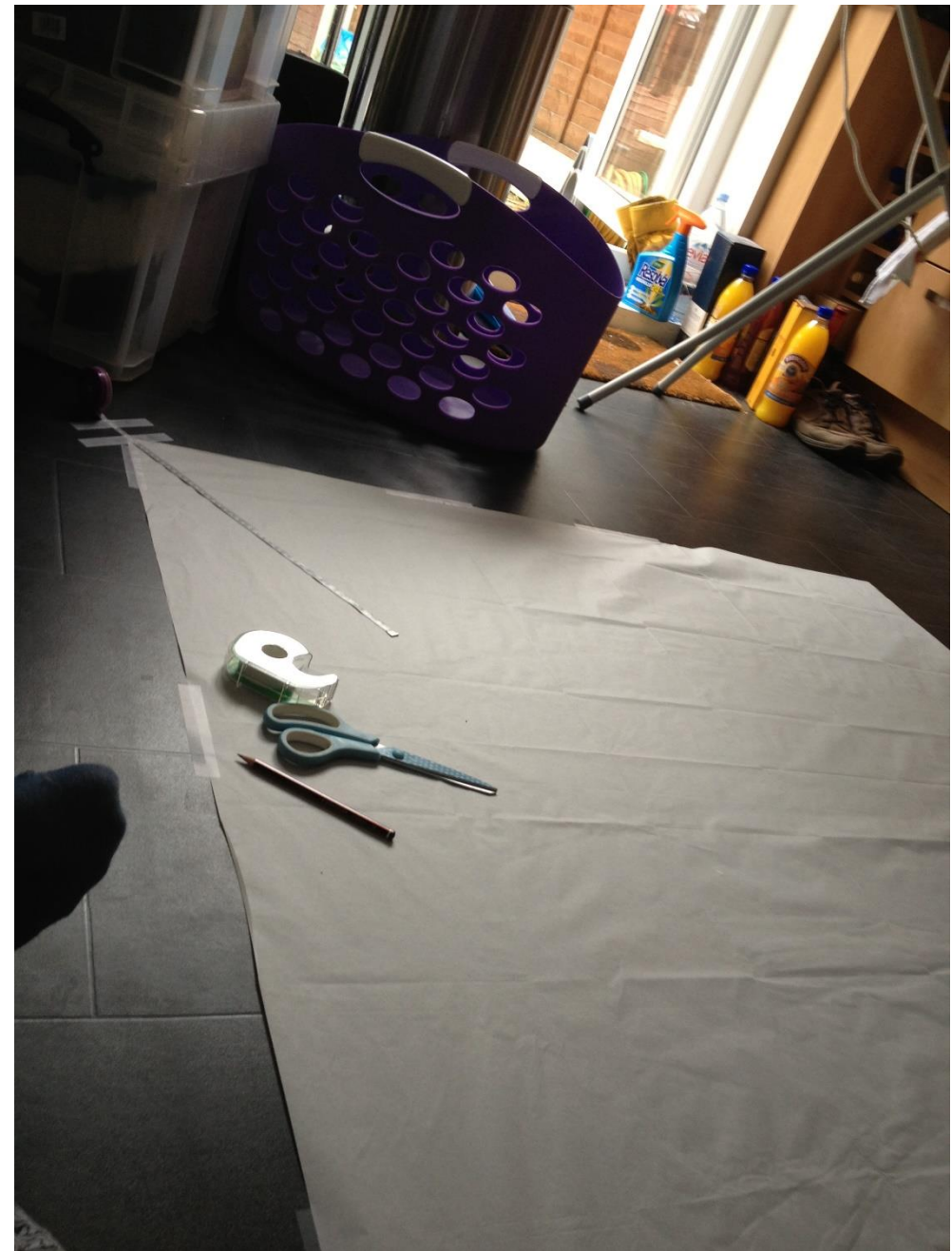
This thing was massive

Machine sewing requires

- Table space
- Sewing machine space
- Sewing machine
- Thread/fabric/scissors – general haberdashery stuff

But most importantly...

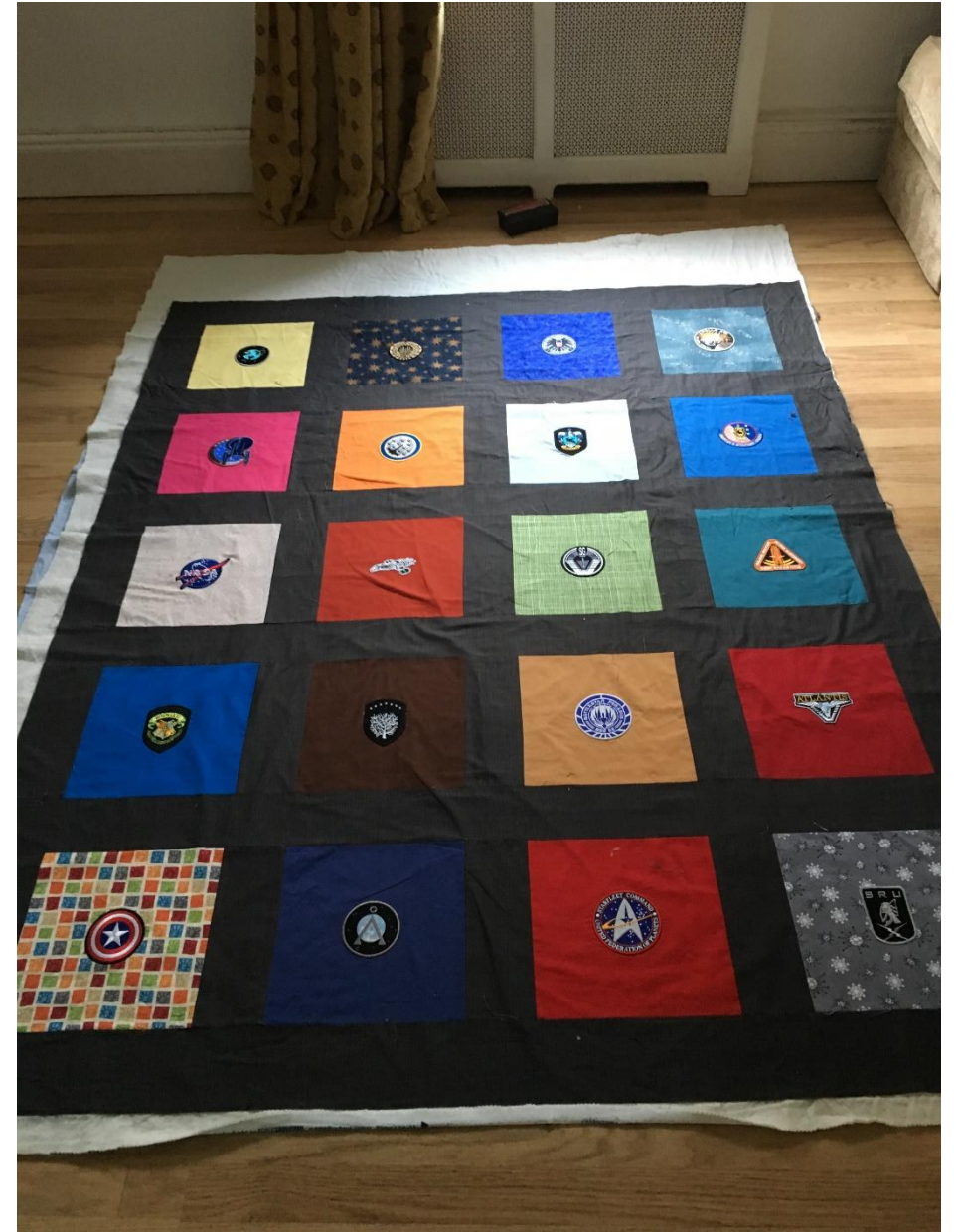
kitchen floor space



We're going to need a bigger floor

Sandwiching

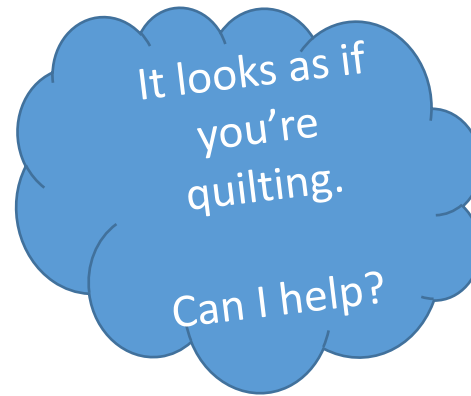
- 25th October 2016
- Ironed
- Copious amounts of temporary spray mount
- Patience
- Knees that mostly work
- Basting/tacking



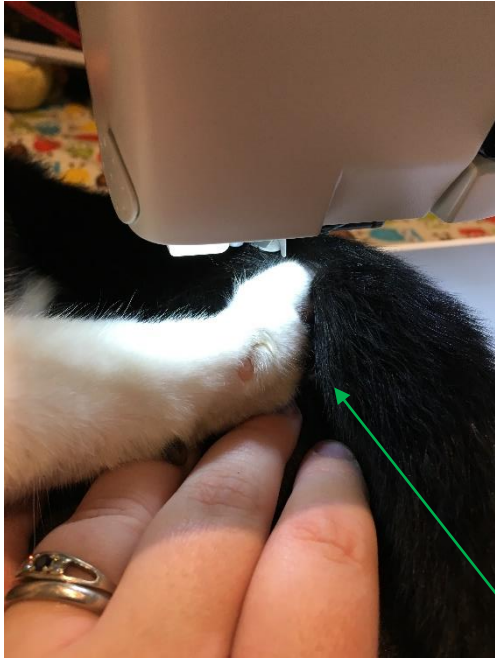
Finally... Quilting!

- 26th October 2016
- All quilts need to be tied together
 - Prevents bunching at one end
- Methods vary – can be very ornate
- I went simple

Just as well because the cat got involved



Narrator: He didn't help



Argh. So. Upside: quilt going to be super comfy. Downside: cat thinks it already is.
#catproblems #sewingwithcats #argh @pfaff



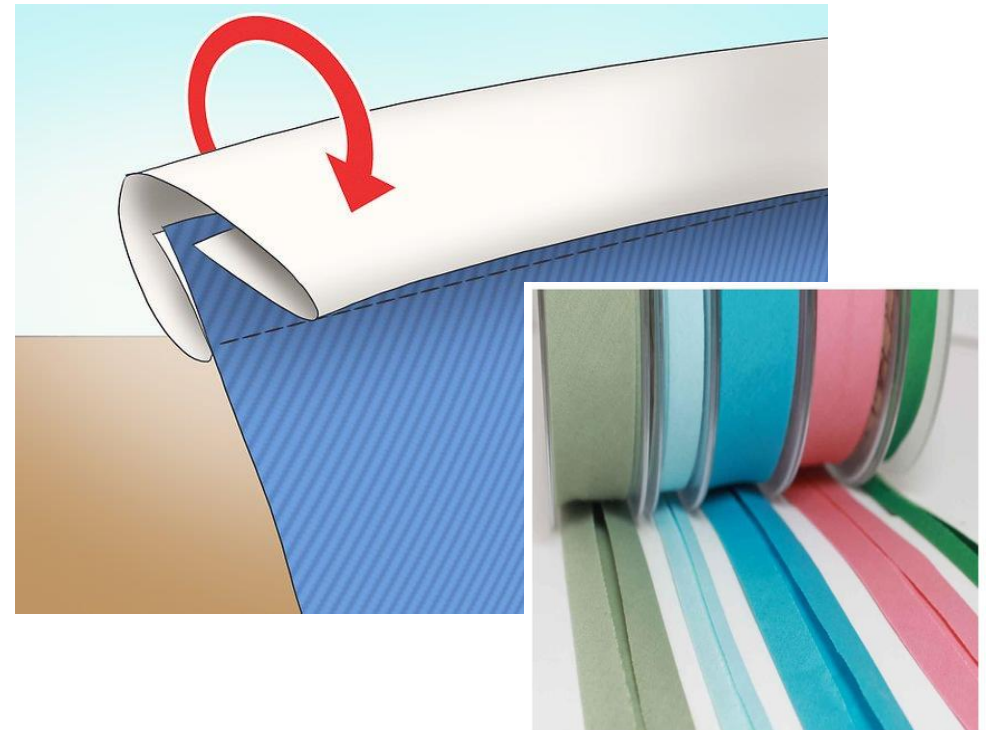
This is very poor sewing safety.
Don't do this.

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Bias Binding



- A way of finishing the edges
- Only done *after* quilting
- Involves double folded fabric cut at a diagonal (for greater stretch & flexibility)



Completed!

- 29th October 2019
- Best & most favourite thing I've ever sewn
- Greatly loved by me and cat

