



Top 10 Things to Bring to the Quilt Show

Many quilters have gone to a quilt show and, over the day, thought of items they wish they had brought with them. We've compiled a list of those items so we can benefit from their mistakes. If you take the following items with you to the show, you will be so grateful you did!

The items on this list are listed in order of importance so if you can only bring five, start at the bottom of this list:

10. Water bottle carrier with a strap

Carrying a bottle of water is a must. BUT, suddenly you see the most precious booth that is chock full of brilliant batiks and dazzling patterns. Now is the time you will so happy you brought that water bottle carrier with the strap so you can gracefully shift it aside to hang on your shoulder. Now your hands are free to explore the wonderful wares.

9. Power bar/granola bar/snickers

Much like the necessary water bottle, you do not want to be caught without a little nourishment. You may suddenly become dizzy with joy at seeing the most elaborate and delicately appliqued Baltimore Album quilt you've ever seen. On an empty stomach, that dizzy with joy feeling can turn into a low blood sugar attack. But you've thought ahead and dropped a granola bar in your bag just for such an emergency. Two bites and you're ready again to move to the next row of amazing masterpieces.

8. List of things you want to buy

You arrive at a quilt show with a few items in mind you would like to pick up. But once you're on the exhibit floor, you may quickly be overwhelmed at the wide array of rulers, and thread, and fabrics, and books. For this situation, come prepared with a list of the tools and books you're looking for. Also bring swatches of fabrics from any projects you have in mind to work on in the future.

7. Bag for all your goodies - preferably not a backpack

Of course, you're going to bring a bag for all those goodies you are hoping to buy. You might even bring two. One word of caution, you may be tempted to bring a backpack. But we caution you, backpacks can suddenly become bulky and awkward, especially if the crowd picks up and you're fighting your way in to get the last Omni-grid neon quilter's ruler that is left in the venue. Be kind to your fellow quilters and bring shoulder bags for your new treasures.

6. Small wallet size purse with strap

We all have the every-day purse, the one that holds every emergency item you or any family member may want in an emergency. But at a quilt show you will have special needs. One is a small wallet on a strap, one that has super quick access to cash and credit cards. You wouldn't want to lose out on the last Parfait Bali Pop on the table, the one you need to finish that UFO in the closet. A small wallet with a strap will save you from this fate.

5. Comfortable walking shoes

Now, we all have shoes that match our outfits perfectly but hurt just a little. A quilt show is not the time to wear that pair of shoes. Bring the most comfortable pair of Sketchers, Merrills, or Nikes that you own. Forget fashion, it's about going the distance. You know you're going to keep shopping, even when your feet feel like you've been walking on your steam iron and you're praying if you can just make it through the day you will never wear uncomfortable shoes again. Avoid the pain and agony and bring your most comfortable walking shoes.

4. Digital Camera

You will certainly see quilts that are so awesome you just have to have a picture. Make sure you bring your camera with you. There is a lot to see and do at the show, and you may not have the time you would like to study the quilts in depth. So whether it's spectacular workmanship or a quilt that inspires you, be sure you have some way to get an image to look at when you are back home.

3. Batteries for Digital Camera

More than one quilter has lifted her camera to take a photo of something special at the show, and found her battery was dead. There is nothing more frustrating! If your camera takes batteries, be sure to throw in lots of extras to take with you to the show. If your camera needs to be charged, be sure to bring your charger and give it a full charge before entering the show.

2. Lots of cash

And I don't mean just money. Bringing actual cash makes life easier for you and the vendors who will be displaying their wonderful wares just for you. Some may take checks, but some may not. Some may take credit cards, but some may not be set up to process cards. By-pass all of these obstacles by bring good old-fashioned cash, and Lots of it!

1. Spare credit card just in case you run out of cash

I know you have the best intentions of spending only the money you have set aside for the show. But it's possible you will see something at the show that you will never have the opportunity to buy again. Vendors bring in the latest and greatest of quilt merchandise. You may find that the Janome booth is having a big sale on sewing machines, and you can pick up that machine you've had your eye on for half price. You will be glad you brought an extra credit card for emergencies. And if they don't take credit cards, you can head to the closest ATM machine to get some of the green stuff.

When you are at the quilt show, you want to be prepared for all situations. Be sure to have all of these items with you. Using this checklist for packing will ensure you have everything you need to shop and browse and view quilts at the quilt show easily and comfortably.

Have A Good Show!



Top 10 Things to Bring to the Quilt Show

10. Water bottle carrier with a strap
9. Power bar/granola bar/Snickers
8. List of things you want to buy
7. Bag for your goodies - preferably not a backpack
6. Small wallet sized purse with a strap
5. Comfortable walking shoes
4. Digital Camera
3. Batteries for digital camera
2. Cash
1. Extra credit card in case you run out of cash