BATTING 101

Many manufacturers will attempt to dazzle shop owners and quilters with adjectives describing their batting as unique and wonderful. Often that is followed by pricing that is very not all that competitive. The accolades are of course intended to create a reason for the high prices. The truth is that there are not very many different ways to manufacture batting, and there are obviously limited different fibers to create them from.

When Pellon decided to enter the batting area they hired the most experienced person in the industry to develop their line of batting. The charge from Pellon was to create the most complete line of batting in the industry, be second to none in quality, and deliver a product line to quilt shops that enabled them to stock the product at value pricing.

Legacy by Pellon is becoming known as the most complete quality line of batting in the industry, with pricing that is truly a value to the quilter. The following will teach you what we think you should know about batting:

DIFFERENT WAYS OF MAKING BATTING

1. Garneted or Carded: To make batting, every type of batting starts out by feeding whatever the fiber or fibers into a card or a garnet opens and layers batting in thin sheets. These sheets are fed onto a conveyer which feeds a cross lapping apparatus which layers the thin sheets onto a conveyer which is running beneath the crosslaper. The thickness of the batting is determined by the speed of the conveyer running under the crosslapper. Slowing it down makes thicker batting and speeding it up makes lighter or thinner batting. The garneted or carded batting is layered onto the conveyer, cut and wrapped in packages or rolls to be sold. Since nothing is done to hold it together it can be pulled apart very easily and must be quilted very close together. Pellon does not market this type of batting!
2. Needle punched. All of the steps above are accomplished in the needle punched process, but after the batting is cross lapped onto the conveyer below the batting is fed into a needle loom which has thousands of little needles. These needles have a slit in the side that fibers will slide into as the needles are rapidly penetrating the fibers. The process reduces loft and sort of weaves the fiber into a blanket like batting. The process expands the quilt distance and gives the batting much more stability. If desired a product called scrim which is a light weight polypropylene can be fed into the loom with the fiber. This process weaves the scrim into the batting and makes the batting much stronger and widens the quilt distance between stitches.
3. Resin Bonded. Again, all the processes in garneted or carded batting are preformed, but when the batting comes out on the conveyer it passes between spray nozzles that spray a resin, or glue, onto the batting. The batting then passes through an oven that dries the resin. This process gives the batting stability and helps reduce bearding in polyester or wool batting.
4. Thermal Bonded or Heat Sealed: In this process before the fibers are being fed into the garnet or the card, low melt polyester is mixed with whatever fiber is being processed. After the cross lapping and the batting is coming off on the conveyer the batting is fed into an oven or apparatus which melts the low melt fibers which then bind the other fibers together. This process gives the batting stability and reduces bearding. Since resin is quite flammable, the thermal bonded batting is less flammable than the resin bonded.

FIBERS 101

Soy: Soy is probably the softest batting there is, which makes it a joy to hand quilt. Soy protein fiber is a natural fiber and friendly to our skin. Soy contributes comfort, luster, and drapes well. Shrinkage is 2-3% and since Pellon uses a scrim when needle punching this product it can be quilted up to 8-10 inches apart.

Bamboo: Bamboo also is a very soft fiber. Bamboo breathes and is cool and owns a unique anti-bacterial ability. Shrinkage is 2-3% and it too can be stitched up to 8-10 inches apart as it too is needle punched with a scrim by in the Legacy process.

Cotton: Cotton is obviously a natural product that breathes and is comfortable to sleep under. It lends itself to making antique looking quilts, since antique quilts usually had cotton batting in them. Cotton batting will shrink 3-5% depending how you launder them. Heat shrinks cotton so hot water and hot dryer create maximum shrinkage and cold water and laying the quilt out produces much less shrinkage. Cotton batting can use a scrim or be made without scrim. Pellon makes cotton with and without scrim in bleached and unbleached cotton.

CottOn Blend 80/20: Pellon also blends cotton and polyester to make cotton blend that produces a little more strength than 100% cotton and a little more loft. 80/20 tends to shrink a little less than 100% cotton, but will still shrink 3-5%. Pellon makes cotton blends with and without scrim, and makes them in natural cotton, bleached cotton, and black cotton.

Wool: A sumptuous batting that Pellon thermal bonds super wash wool making a superbly soft batting that is fabulous to hand quilt. Wool holds its loft better than any other fiber so it does not pack down like polyester might. It does not hold creases so are often used in show quilts. Because Pellon uses super wash wool, which means our wool batting will shrink very little or not at all. It can be quilted up to 4” apart.

Polyester: Polyester is a manmade fiber which can be purchased in a wide range of deniers (thicknesses) from micro denier (less than 1 denier) up to 15 denier. The lower the denier, the softer the fiber. Polyester can also be purchased that has a silicone finish which makes it very soft. Pellon uses a very high quality polyester fiber in a small denier, silicon zed fiber to make our high quality polyester batting. Our polyester battings are thermal bonded, making them less flammable than the resin bonded battings.

Flame Retardant Rayon: Non combustible, not toxic, will not melt nor drip in a fire and is cigarette resistant. Rayon is a natural fiber and will shrink 4-6% making prewashing advisable. Our rayon batting can be quilted up to 8-10 inches apart, and makes a very soft and drapable children’s quilt.