

## The Pros and Cons of Marking Products

*\* denotes my personal favorites*

Marking Devices	Pros	Cons
*Marking Magic	Aerosol can makes it easy to apply.	Needs to be removed with water.
*Pounce-Iron off version	Stays on until your project is finished and then is easily removed with the heat of an iron.	Needs a somewhat high heat to remove.
Pounce - Chalk Style	Easy and fast to use. No heat or water needed to remove.	Rubs off too soon for most projects but plain hairspray can be used to set it.
*Roxanne's Quilter's Choice white & silver pencils.	Excellent texture. Keeps a fine line.	May rub off too soon.
*General's Pastel or White Charcoal pencils	Can get a fine point. Usually easy to remove but test first.	Can be hard to remove especially on fine fabrics.
Mechanical .09, .07 or .05, B-med. Or HB, med. Hard pencil. Can also use #2 wood pencil	Fine line but can be hard on fabrics. Try a softer lead for less damage.	Can be hard to remove. The softer leads tend to smudge, the harder leads pull threads of fabric.
Berol Verithin	Many colors to coordinate w/ fabrics including a #753, #757 peach & #734 white.	Waterproof so do not use if it will show when you are done.
Schwann's Carb Othello	White charcoal, easy to remove with eraser.	May smudge a bit but will wash out.
Karisma Graphite Aquarelle.	Removes well, can be sharpened.	Removes from fabric well.
Clover Chacopel	Available in several colors. Easy to keep a fine line.	Can disappear before project is completed.
General Fabric Chalk	Fairly sharp point possible.	Can disappear before project is completed.
Dixon's Washout Cloth Marker	Similar to General Fat Pencil	Can disappear before project is completed. Needs a special sharpener.
Soapstone	Keeps fine point, easy to sharpen.	Can disappear before you are finished.
Chalk such as Clover's tailors	Fine line.	Can be removed with brushing.
Soap Sliver	Cheap and usually available. Washes off easily.	Moisturizing types can leave oily residue.
Washable Blue Marker	Fine line and comes out with cold water.	May reappear. Can turn brown and permanent if heated. Chemicals can remain in and can damage fabric.
Purple Marker	Good for short term only. Disappears when exposed to air.	May reappear. Can turn brown and permanent if heated. Chemicals can remain in and damage fabric.
Chalk Wheels.	Some will fit into the channels of stencils. The sulfur problem seems to have been corrected.	When they first came out, the yellow in some brands contained sulfur that reacted with the fabric and made the mark permanent.

For your own piece of mind **ALWAYS** test your marking device – **BEFORE** you use it. There are so many different types, coatings, sizings and finishes on fabrics, that it is virtually impossible to predict how each will react to your choice of marking products.

## *Tips for Marking Your Stencil Designs*

### ***When using Marking Magic:***

- Use a temporary adhesive to hold the stencils in place. Use a smooth even stroke to spray the Marking Magic™ onto your quilt or other project. Clean the stencil by running under cold water. Marking Magic™ can be removed by spraying with clear water but it is best to immerse the project in water or wash it in the machine to make sure it is all removed.
- I found this neat little trick when I was making the Springtime Symphony Quilt. If you have a vertical planning or pinning board, pin an old towel to it and place the background to the towel and center the stencil on top. When you spray in this vertical position, you have less overspray.

### ***When using Iron-Off Pounce:***

- This is a great product when you want the pounce to stay longer than the chalk type. This iron-off version stays on until you are finished. To remove it, you iron it off. Just remember to use the temperature for the fabric you are using. Perfect for machine quilting. Remember to swipe across the stencil rather than dabbing up and down.

### ***When using Chalk Pounce:***

- Rub firmly across stencil with pounce powder. If you dab the pounce, some may leak under the stencil and make the lines messy. You can go over the lines with pencil if they start to disappear. If the pounce wants to disappear, you can set it with cheap hair spray such as Aqua-Net. (The good stuff has too many oily conditioners which could cause small oil spots.) You will want to remove the hairspray when done so keep that in mind if you don't plan to wash the project when completed.
- Pounce is also great to mark Half and Quarter square triangles, Chenille Grids or Prairie Points quickly and accurately.

### ***When using Pencils or like marking devices.***

- It is best to mark before basting since it is easier to mark on a firm surface. This is true for tracing patterns as well as for using stencils.
- Pin or tape fabric to table or board for greater stability and less chance of distorting the fabric when stenciling. Place the stencil in desired position and tape to fabric. Smaller stencils may not need to be taped down. Connect the lines after marking. Using a temporary stencil adhesive will also help.
- You can also place your fabric on a piece of fine sandpaper to help it to keep from slipping and distorting.

### ***What to do if you don't want to mark directly on your project.***

- If you don't want to mark your quilting design directly on your project, mark the stencil design on lightweight tissue paper, tracing paper, newsprint or lightweight tear-away stabilizer. Pin to your project and sew on the marked lines. Tear the paper or stabilizer away when done. This method also works well if you have a fabric print on which no marker will show.

*A somewhat stiff brush such as a narrow stencil brush works well to remove chalk marks from your project without abrading the adjoining areas.*

Please note that these opinions are my own gathered from my experiences and may not be the same as yours.  
Be sure to check each and every time you use a marking device to make sure that it is compatible with the fabrics, techniques or products that you are using.