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Delightful Quilting & Sewing

Avon, NY

By Appointment 585-226-2577

Snippets

A FREE email newsletter for quilters and sewers.

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Snippets

April 2010

Dear Joyce,

Spring has certainly gotten off to a wonderful start with warm summer-like days and spring flowers that are suddenly popping up.



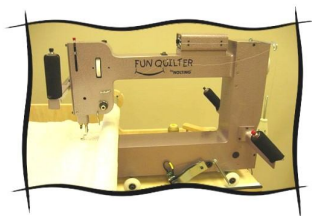
Welcome Spring

With spring I think of soft, pretty pastels - yellows, pinks, light blue, violet, and medium greens. I decided to make a small wall hanging in these colors to welcome spring. What is in your stash that reminds you of spring? Pick an easy block, make several, and piece together for a small wall hanging or into a longer strip for a table runner. Add a border and quilt your project to welcome spring in your home.

Happy sewing and quilting,

Joyce

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Color Theory Part II Using the Color Wheel To Make Fabric Color Selections

Last month we learned the basics of the color wheel. All colors are made starting with the three primary colors (red, blue, yellow) and versions of all colors are made by adding white (tint), black (shade), or gray (tone). Now, using the principles of the color wheel we can select color combinations that make pleasing combinations.



Color Wheel

Complementary colors - any two colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel. Examples are red and green, violet and yellow, and yellow-green and red-violet.

area by Delightful Quilting
& Sewing

New Class Offerings:

Quilting 102 - starting July 12
6:45 - 8:45 PM

4 weeks - This hands on project class is for those that have quilted a little and want to increase their skill and learn more quilting techniques. \$40. (Maximum 6 students)

Sewing Machine Maintenance & Adjustments
June 7 at 6:45

Learn how to take care of your machine, choose the correct needle, solve tension issues, problem solve, and make adjustments to get the best sewing results. \$7.50 (Maximum 10 students)

Call 585-226-2577 or [email](#) early to reserve your place in either class.

Click [For More Class Information](#)

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Split Complementary - three colors. Pick any color. The other two colors are the colors on each side of the complement of the first color. Example: red and the two colors next to the complement, green - blue-green and yellow-green.

Triad - Any three colors that are the same distance from each other on the color wheel. Example - the three primary colors also form a triad. Another example would be orange, green, and violet.

Analogous - colors that lie side by side on the color wheel, such as blue-green, blue, and blue violet.

Color Theory Tips

- After choosing the colors for your project, spice it up by selecting fabrics that are tints, tones or shades of these colors.
- Colors do not need to be used in the same proportions in a project. Pick one color as the feature color. Use the others in smaller amounts as accent colors.
- Still not confident? Look for a focus fabric - one that has several colors in it. The designers have already done the work and chosen colors that look good together. Use that fabric to help you find other fabrics in those same colors.

Challenge yourself with your next project to step out of the "color" box. After picking your pattern and knowing how many colors you need, use the color wheel to pick color combinations that you might not ordinarily use. It will be fun seeing the new color choices come together in your project.

Tips and Hints

For Quilters and Sewers

Quilt Backing - Do not use sheets.

Sheets have a high thread count. The quilting needle has a tendency to break the sheet's threads leaving holes in the backing diminishing the stability of the sheet. Use quilting fabric with a looser weave. The needle easily slides between the threads keeping the backing fabric in tact. (From the American Patchwork & Quilting)

Serger Trimmings

Does your serger have an attached trimming catcher? If it does, you are fortunate. If not, use a baseball cap. Turn the cap upside down and slide the brim of the cap under the left front machine foot. With the machine close to the edge of the table and the inside of the cap wide open, you have a handy wastebasket for the serger trimmings. (Sew News)

Speed Sewing

Quilters often "chain piece" to save time. You can use this same method for regular sewing. Pin several things such as bodice seams, skirt seams, etc. Sew continuously from one

seam to the next leaving about an inch or so of thread between the pieces. It is not necessary to lift the presser foot or cut the threads. Cut the threads apart when you have finished sewing the pieces. (Sew News)

Sewing Machine Feet Storage

If you are like me, you have purchased additional machine feet to do specialty sewing tasks. To keep my feet organized and protected, I keep them in a plastic embroidery floss organizer box. The compartments can easily be labeled or numbered with a reference chart. (Joyce)

The Cost of Comfort

Summer Energy Costs

Just what does it cost to operate the air conditioner and fan that brings a level of comfort to our hot summer days? The Public Service Commission provides these costs based on the New York State average of \$0.16 per kilowatt hour.

- Room air conditioner (12,000 BTU) used 6 hrs/day - \$36.70/mo.
- Central air conditioner used 6 hrs/day - \$110.15/mo.
- Circulating fan used 6 hrs/day - \$2.55/mo.
- Swimming pool pump (1 horsepower) used 8 hrs/day - \$32.65/mo

Energy saving tips include using only when necessary, turning down or off when not at home, using a programmable thermostat, keeping the windows shut, and using a room air conditioner with a circulating fan to move the air around. If you have a pool, make sure that the pump filter is clean and well lubricated and turn the pool pump off when it is not needed or use a programmable timer.

With a little thought and pre-planning you can enjoy these comforts, save energy and money.

Thread Tails

What Is Mercerized Cotton?

I have been reading "From Fiber to Fabric" by Harriet Hargrave and learning a lot about the process of making fabric from cotton fibers, the manufacturing process, weaving, printing, finishing, and even care of quilts. It is a rather technical book with lots of photos and diagrams, but it makes you appreciate all that goes into making the wonderful quilting fabrics that are available to us today.



On some spools of cotton thread and bolts of cotton fabric you will see the word mercerized or mercerization. This is a

chemical treatment that is applied to the cotton fibers to add luster, improve dyeing characteristics and increase the strength of the fibers. The process causes the cotton fibers to swell and become round. In the original kidney shape, the cotton does not reflect the light evenly. After mercerization, the cotton reflects the light evenly and creates a gloss or sheen.

The next time you see the work mercerized or mercerization, you will know that those fibers are stronger, will retain the color dyes better and have increased luster.

Follow-up Links

[Quilting Classes](#)

[Commercial Longarm
Quilting Machines](#)

[Longarm Machines for
hobby quilters](#)

[Energy Saving
Information](#)

About Delightful Quilting & Sewing

We are dedicated to helping you maximize your quilting and sewing experience through education, quilting and sewing classes, and offering for sale Nolting longarm quilting machines that meet the needs and wants of both hobby quilters and commercial longarm quilters.

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