



## Delightful Quilting & Sewing

# Snippets

Snippets

March 2010

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### Learn To Quilt Beginning Quilting

**If you have wanted to make a quilt, or tried and been frustrated, this class is for you.**

This hands on class will cover:

- Quilting basics
- Tools of the craft
- Fabric selection
- Pattern options
- Cutting basics
- Block assembly
- Putting the top together
- Making the quilt sandwich
- Quilting
- Binding the quilt

**Four 2-Hour Sessions  
Include instruction, pattern,  
class time to work on quilt  
and build skill.**

**\$40**

Starting in April  
Call Joyce, 585-226-  
2577 for more  
information.

### Dear Joyce,

March is a month that many of us look forward to. Longer days, warmer temperatures, the snow melting away and the promise of spring. In March we look forward to the beginning of Daylight Savings Time, St. Patrick's Day, and the meteorological start of spring. March 20th is also National Quilting Day.



For some of you quilting is a passion. For others, only a dream. This winter I have had the pleasure of teaching several beginning quilting. What a joy to watch others learn quilting skills and complete their first project. The photo above shows two small projects by one of these beginners. She has had a wonderful time choosing delightful fabrics and finds that she can hardly wait to get home from work to spend time sewing her little quilts.

I hope that you are enjoying your sewing and quilting experience, especially in these days before the weather beckons us outside.

Happy Quilting & Sewing,

*Joyce*

PS. If you, or someone you know is interested in learning to quilt, I will be starting a class for beginners in April. See details in the side bar.



### Color Basics Color Theory - Part 1

Choosing fabric used to be

## Fun Quilter

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### Links

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[Nolting Longarm Quilting Machines](#)

[Patterns](#)

so simple. Red, brown, blue, gray, green, plaid or print. Today, we have had an explosion of colors, shades, tints, tones and prints and designs beyond our wildest imagination. How do you know if the colors you choose will look good together in that quilt?

Forget about the rules you may have heard about colors not matching. Most colors or versions of a color will work together. Using an artists color wheel can help take the mystery out of the selection and make fabric selection easier.

Every one of the over three million colors that our incredible eyes can distinguish come from the twelve pure colors or combinations of the twelve colors found on the artist color wheel. The three basic colors, blue, red, and yellow, are called primary colors. Mixed in different ways they create the other colors in the color wheel.

Secondary colors, orange, green and violet are made by adding equal parts of two of the primary colors. Blue and yellow make green, yellow and red make orange, and blue and red make violet.

The last six colors on the color wheel are called tertiary colors. They are made by mixing equal parts of a primary color and a neighboring secondary color. Yellow and green make yellow-green, yellow and orange make yellow-orange, red-orange from orange and red, red-violet from red and violet, blue-violet from blue and violet, and blue-green from blue and green.

These twelve colors are known as pure colors. Nearly every fabric is an alteration of these pure colors. By adding varying amounts of black, the color becomes darker and is called a shade. To make the color lighter, white is added to make a tint. And by adding gray the color becomes less intense and is known as a tone.

Using various principles of color combination on the color wheel, plus understanding color dominance and value can give anyone the confidence to choose outstanding color combinations. Each of these principles will be covered in future **Snippets** emails.

## Quilting & Sewing Tips, Tricks and Hints

### Save Electricity and the Environment

Many appliances in your home use small amounts of electricity even when they are turned off. This is called phantom electricity use. Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's), cell phone chargers, TV, DVD and VCR players that have clocks or instant on, all use small amounts of power. While it is not practical to unplug some devices to save power, unplugging chargers and other such devices when not in use will save you money. For TV, DVD, VCR and other devices that you use often, plug into a power strip. Turn the strip off when you

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will not be using the devices for an extended period, such as when you are on vacation. Even turning off the computer monitor at the end of the day will save energy and keep about 950 pounds of additional carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere each year. A penny saved is one more to spend on fabric!  
(From New York Energy Smart)

#### **Embroidery Placement**

Just where is the right spot for the embroidery on shirts, jackets, sweatshirts and towels? There is a standard. To print your own embroidery placement chart from American & Efird, Inc. the thread company, [click here](#).

#### **Metallic Thread - Hint for better sewing and less frustration**

Use a needle designed for sewing metallic thread. In the bobbin use a filament polyester, pre-wound bobbin which is stronger. Do not use metallic thread on designs that are not digitized for metallic thread. Loosen the top tension as much as possible and slow down the machine speed.

#### **Accurate 1/4" Quilt Seam**

To help keep your quilt seam at an accurate 1/4" , use a short stack of Post-It-Notes stuck to your machine bed. Place in front of the presser foot and 1/4" from the needle. It works well for all piecing, chain stitching, and strip piecing. The stack needs to be removed for sewing the diagonals in making half square triangles using a square of fabric.

#### **What Pattern Was That?**

The next time you make a garment, use the embroidery feature on your machine and embroider the pattern number in the hem or facing of the garment. When you want to make it again, just check for the clearly embroidered information.

#### **Fabric Shopping Tip**

Use a 3x5 or 4x6 card to keep organized when looking for fabric and notions. Fasten a small picture of your project or quilt to the card along with the fabric and notions requirements. As you find fabric for your project, cut a small piece and attach that to the card. Keep the card in your purse. When you shop in different fabric stores, you will always have your project/quilt information with you when you see that perfect fabric.



## **Machine Needles 101**

### **Select The Correct Needle For Best Results**

With such a large selection of sewing machine needles, are you confused about which needle to choose for a sewing project? There are different types of points, sizes and thicknesses of needles.

*Follow this plan - Select the needle for: (1) the type of fabric - knit, woven, leather, etc., then (2) the needle size for the weight of the fabric and type of **thread you will use.***

**Types of machine needles:**

- **Sharp or Microtex** - have a sharp point and are ideal for silks, microfibers and heirloom sewing.
- **Ball Point** - have a more rounded point and are designed to slide between the yarns of knit fabrics without snagging.
- **Universal Point** - the point is slightly rounded and is an all-purpose needle for sewing both woven and knit fabrics.

After determining the type of needle, **choose the size of the needle** based on the weight of the fabric. Finer fabrics use a smaller needle like a 65/9 or 70/10 while heavier fabrics require a larger, more sturdy needle like a 100/16. Most mid-weight fabrics will use a 80/12 or 90/14 needle. The two numbers for needle size on the package define the shaft diameter, first higher number is the European number, the second lower number is the American size number.

Sample project #1:

Cotton duck fabric - thick woven fabric.

Needle type: universal or sharp

Needle size: 100/16

Sample project #2: Microsuede skirt fabric

Needle type: sharp

Needle size: 90/14

Sample project #3: Single knit t-shirt fabric

Needle type: Ball Point

Needle size: 70/10, 75/11 or 80/12

There are also several types of **specialty needles** on the market for sewing on denim, swimwear fabric that contains spandex, leather, quilting, doing top stitching, creating holes in natural fiber fabrics with heirloom sewing, and doing machine embroidery or sewing with specialty threads like metallic thread. With each of these needles, the scarf, groove and eye are specially designed to work with that type of fabric, or made to accommodate the special type of thread used.

To make sure you have the needle you need for your project, purchase the types of needles you commonly use in a variety of sizes. If you are doing specialty sewing, it always pays to use the needle designed for your sewing situation. Your project will sew easier and look more professional. And, remember to **change the needle with each new project**. Needles do get dull, may get bent and can get nicked that will cause a burr. This can cause thread breakage or may snag the fabric.

Knowing your needles and choosing the right one for your project will make you a "sharp" sewer.

## Thread Tails

### Have you ever wondered who invented zippers?

Zippers were originally patented in 1851 by Elias Howe, the inventor of the sewing machine. It was called an "Automatic, Continuous Clothing Closure." Years later another device called the "Clasp Locker," had its public debut at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. It was like a "complicated hook-and-eye shoe fastener" and never really made it to market. The modern zipper was designed in 1913 by Gideon Sundback and patented in 1917. The name "zipper" came from the B.F. Goodrich Company which decided to use the Gideon's fastener on a new type of rubber boots. It wasn't until the 1930's before the zipper found its way to children's clothing making it easier for children to dress

themselves. Thanks to French designers in 1937, the zipper beat out the button in men's trousers as the "newest tailoring idea for men" excluding "the possibility of unintentional and embarrassing disarray." (Internet Source)

Thank you for reading **Snippets**. I hope that you enjoy the articles and tips.

To email me tips and hints to share with the readers, [click here](#). Your tip might make a world of difference in someone's quilting and sewing journey.

If you have quilting and sewing friends that might enjoy **Snippets**, click the *Forward Email* button below to send **Snippets** to them.

**Joyce Blowers, owner**

**Delightful Quilting & Sewing**  
5378 Lake Rd.  
Avon, New York 14414



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