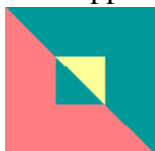


From: Joyce at Delightful Quilting & Sewing [vision4joyce@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 6:30 AM
To: vision4joyce@frontiernet.net
Subject: Snippets Newsletter



Delightful Quilting & Sewing

Snippets

Snippets

February 2010

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[Print Your Own Fabric Design](#)
[Tips, Tricks and Hints](#)
[Free Pattern - Pillow Cases](#)



Mid-Arm Quilter

Having difficulty quilting on your domestic machine?

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Machines Sales &
Service**

Dear Joyce,

February is National Embroidery Month. This is a good time of year to dust off the embroidery machine, look through your embroidery library or go on line and download free designs, and make some projects for Valentine's day. You might even look ahead to the next holiday on the calendar, St. Patrick's Day. Placements, table runners, pillow cases, guest towels, even tissue box covers all make attractive, short projects that would be even more spectacular with a seasonal or holiday embroidery.

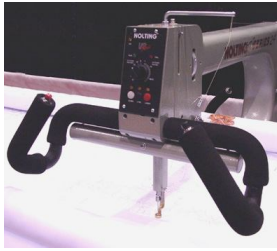


To get you going, I have included a link below for the directions to make your own pillow cases. I love making my own pillow cases. They are quick and easy, especially if you have a serger. I enjoy picking out wonderful coordinating or fun fabrics. I also enjoy the fun of embroidering something special on the cuff of the pillow case. For a wedding gift, I often purchase high quality pillow cases and embellish with embroidery. Even if you do not own an embroidery machine, there is a lot of seasonal fabric on the market which would make wonderful pillow cases.

Happy Quilting & Sewing,

Joyce

PS. Photo is of a wedding pillow with lace shaped heart and an embroidery design from Martha Pullen Co. repeated on each corner.



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Would your sewing guild or club enjoy a sewing or

Design and Print Your Own Fabric

Affordable For Everyone

Technology can be a wonderful thing. We have seen how technology has really impacted the sewing and quilting world with computerized sewing machines, sergers, and embroidery machines. Quilting has been taken to a higher level now with computerized stitch regulators and even computerized design and driven stitching. For several years now, writers have been able to have their books published by on-demand publishing firms. Rather than investing thousands in publishing and printing many copies, one simply orders the book and because of digital media, the single copy is printed and sent right out.

Now, crafters, artists, sewers, and quilters can benefit from this same digital media technology. The *Democrat and Chronicle* recently reported (January 16, 2010) that, "It's now possible to design and print your own fabric." It is as simple as uploading your design onto the website. Small runs are affordable and available, although two to three times the cost of store fabric. The quality is higher and the design is yours. What fun it would be to make a pillow or bag out of fabric that you designed. It might even be a fun project for a school art class to create their own fabric.

For any of you that are interested in trying out this latest that technology has to offer, here are the websites.

www.spoonflower.com

www.fabricondemand.com

www.karmakraft.com

Quilting & Sewing Tips, Tricks and Hints

Organize Your Sewing Room

If you are over run with fabric and "stuff," use this method to bring it back to size. Label three boxes, "keep," "trash," and "give." As you sort through your stuff, decide which box to put it in. The "give" box can be further sorted later to determine where to give the stuff - pass it on to another sewer or quilter, give it to someone who likes to do garage sales, donate it to a school art department, where ever you think it might have some use. Throw out the "trash" box, and organize the rest of the things you intend to keep.

Put A Label On Your Work

If you enjoy giving away your quilting or sewing projects, make sure that you put a label on it that identifies who made it, the year, your town and state, and perhaps even the person the project is for. For homemade clothing, especially for children, I like to take a pigma permanent pen and write the size in the waist band, or shoulder seam allowance.

Nut Pick Is An All Purpose Sewing Tool

From Fons and Porter's Tips DVD. The nut picks that come with a nut cracker set make an ideal all purpose sewing tool. The somewhat sharp point can be used as a stiletto, the ball end can be used safely to turn points, and for quilters that use pins to baste their quilts, there is a groove near the ball end

quilting retreat. Let Delightful Quilting & Sewing help plan your event. [Click here](#) to view more information

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that can be used to lift the pin for fastening.

Center Measuring Tape For Long Arm Quilters

It is really important and often difficult to keep the quilt top rolling squarely and even on the table. There is a special measuring tape with a zero center mark that can be used to measure and adjust, if necessary, the quilt top to keep it rolling straight. I have put Velcro on the ends of my zero center tape to keep it firmly attached to the side bars of my table. Large size paper clips can be slid onto the tape where the edge of the quilt should be. The tape is easy to use and I have straight sides every time.

Steam Iron Cleaning

Has your steam iron lost its steam? Mine had. More than likely from mineral build up in the tank. Add 3 tablespoons of white vinegar to a cup of water and pour it into the iron. Let the iron sit over night on the sole plate on top of a towel. The water will leak out. Next day, add more vinegar and water, use the shot of steam feature or clean cycle until all of the vinegar- water is gone. Fill the iron with about a half cup of regular water and using the shot of steam feature, run it until it is all gone. I am back to full steam now!

Catch Those Thread Snips

Save your scraps of cotton batting and use them to hold onto those threads that you snip from your projects. At the longarm I place a 5 x 7 inch piece of batting near my work. Whenever I cut threads, I place them on the batting. They stay put until later when I can throw them away. At my domestic machine or whenever I do hand sewing, I also put a piece of batting close by to toss the thread snips onto. It really helps with the cleanup.

Breathe For Best Results

Breathing is not only important to keep us alive, but will help us perform better. So often when we are concentrating on a task, like free motion quilting, we tend to hold our breath. Relax and breathe while you are working. You will find that you do not get as tired and your work will look even better.

Pillow Cases

Easy and Fun To Make

Pillow cases make a great project to coordinate with the bedding or to give as a gift. Use fun fabrics for kids bedrooms, holiday theme fabric, or to simply use up some of those fabrics you don't know what to do with.



Click here for the [FREE PATTERN](#) and directions for this easy project.

Thread Tails

The history of the invention of the sewing machine is rather clouded with many patents and inventors. It is known that in 1858 Isaac Singer was trying to sell his new machine for \$125 in a time when the average home income was only \$500. Needless to say, sales were almost non-existent. He was clever, however, and the one that introduced America to installment buying. By marketing his sewing machine and the small monthly payments with "flair," these machines because "irresistible to the consumer" and the rest is history.

(From 501 Sewing Secrets)

Thank you for reading **Snippets**. I hope that you enjoy the articles and tips. I do need your help. Please [Click here](#) to email me tips and hints to share with the readers. 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

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