



*Margaret Moorehead's*  
**Virtual Sewing Guild**

*Just because it's beautiful, doesn't mean it's difficult!*

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**Virtual Sewing Guild Members**

*Virtual Sewing Guild Members Only Webinar*

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# Questions

- ▶ Has anyone incorporated thread painting with their Quilting? What classes have they found to be good for beginners?
- ▶ What is the best stabilizer for towels and do you wash the fabric before putting it on the towels
- ▶ When embroidering a design and at the very last thread change, my top thread bird nested underneath in the bobbin thread. Why?

# Questions

- ▶ If your fabric is pretty much the same content, how often should you change your needle? Is there a brand you prefer?
- ▶ When binding a project after I have stitched the binding to the project and I am folding the binding to the back, sometimes the binding fabric will not completely cover the initial stitching. Any suggestions?

# Questions

- ▶ What is the best way to learn to free hand quilt patterns?
- ▶ Can we PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE have another sit and sew? Hope you haven't finished your T-shirt quilt I really want to walk through it with you. I just got my T-shirts all cut and fused with interfacing

**Has anyone incorporated thread painting with their Quilting?**

**What classes have they found to be good for beginners?**

- ▶ Thread painting is most easily done when you have a pattern to follow. There are multiple ways to do this.
- ▶ Use Cheater Fabric
- ▶ Print your design on water soluble stabilizer, and use this as your pattern.

**Has anyone incorporated thread painting with their Quilting?  
What classes have they found to be good for beginners?**

To learn basic outlining and free motion techniques, use  
“Cheater” Fabric





Print your design on paper.  
For my printer a heavier weight of  
paper works best....less paper jams



Cut a piece of water soluble sticky  
stabilizer larger then the printed  
design



Tape the water soluble sticky stabilizer on top of the design, protective paper side down, and stabilizer up. This way you do not waste a lot of stabilizer covering up the entire piece of paper



Place the paper with the stabilizer back in the printer and print the design again. This time the design is printed on the stabilize.





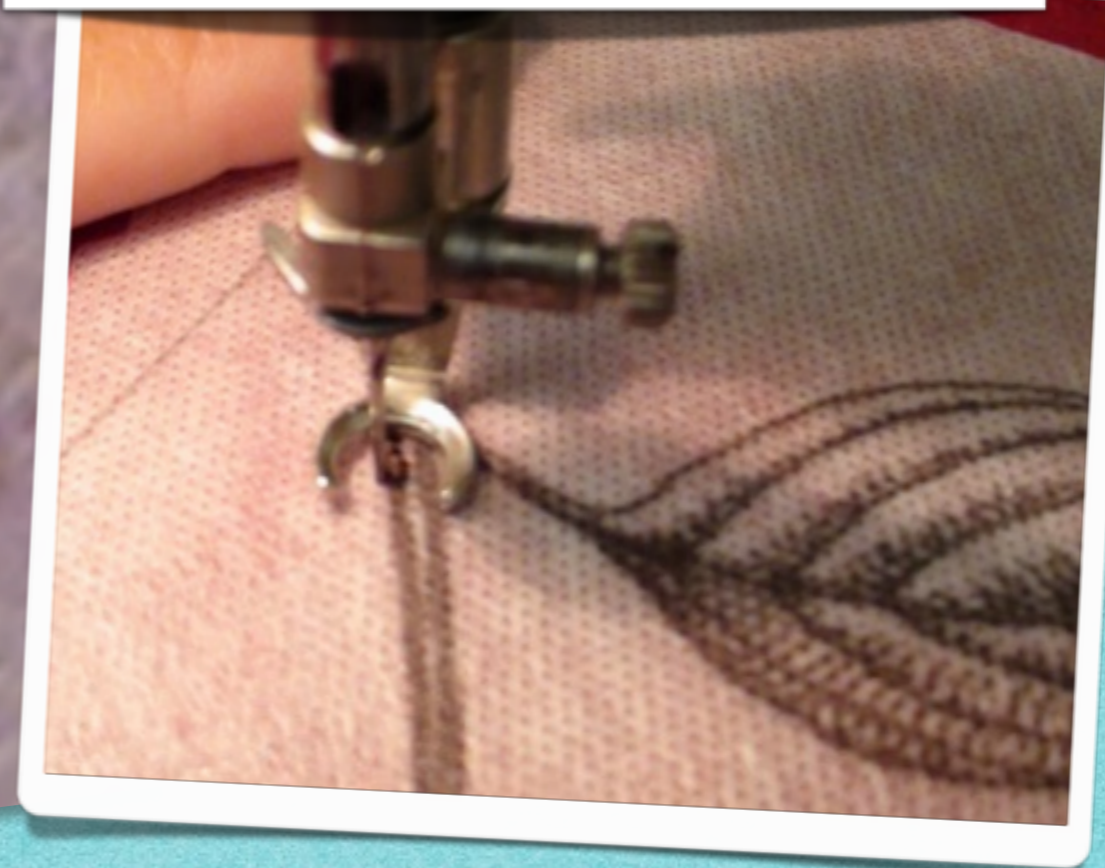
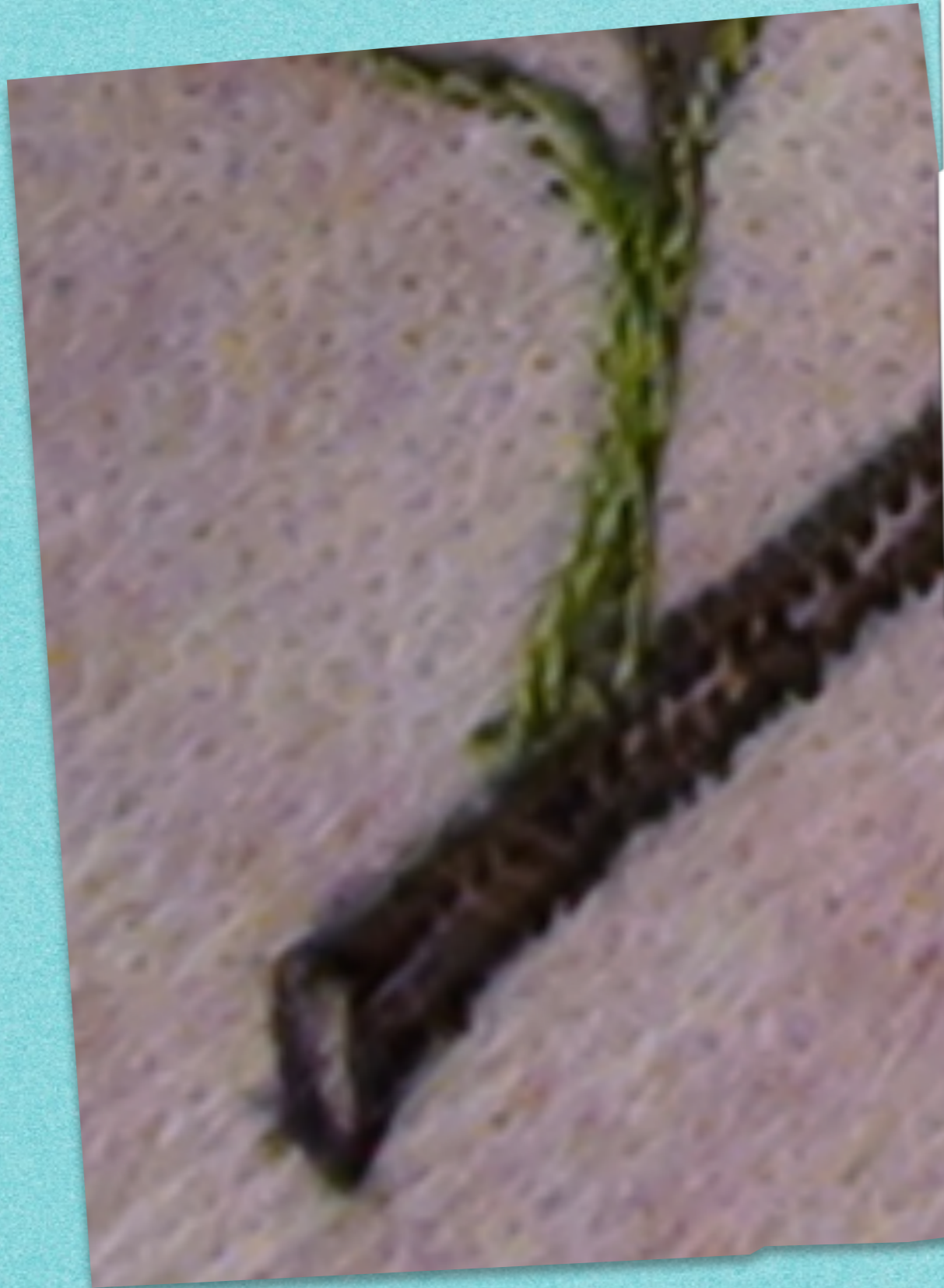
Starch



Stick your printed design to the front of your fabric



Place a piece of water soluble sticky on the back of your fabric





### Zig Zag Stitch.

Be sure to have the design positioned the way you want it under the needle to get the look you want.



### Straight Stitch.

I started at the center, went out to the side, came back to the center, over the line I just stitched and then moved to the next line.



Finish Stitching your design  
Cut away excess stabilizer, then  
rinse the rest of the stabilizer out  
according to the manufacturers  
instructions.



This center was done to resemble a padded satin stitch used in Hand Embroidery



This center was done using small circles for the fill to make the center look more like a real flower



**Has anyone incorporated thread painting with their Quilting?  
What classes have they found to be good for beginners**

## Thread Painting Tips

- ▶ Choose threads a few shades darker than what you think you need because they stitch out lighter than they appear on the spool
- ▶ Use a variety of thread weights.
- ▶ If your projects gets too dark when you are working on it, simple lighten it up by use a lighter thread over the top . And if it is too light simply add a darker color to darken it a bit.
- ▶ This can be done as embroidery appliqué by using stabilizer and tulle
- ▶ Any suggestions good classes for beginners?



## What is the best stabilizer for towels and do you wash the fabric before putting it on the towels?

I determine which stabilizer to use, based on the Design being stitched. A very filled in design can easily be done using a tear away stabilizer. A more open design is usually best with water soluble stabilizer.



## What is the best stabilizer for towels and do you wash the fabric before putting it on the towels?

A heat away topper works great on towels. This is only removed when the iron touches it. It will not be affected by the dryer or water.

If possible find an old towel and test to be sure it gives you the results you want



## **What is the best stabilizer for towels and do you wash the fabric before putting it on the towels?**

- ▶ Sticky stabilizer allows you to hold the towel in place without hooping, but can sometimes damage the “loops” on the towel if it is a tear away . Water soluble sticky washes away, so it does not damage the loops since you will not be pulling it away.
- ▶ If your towel is going to be washed it is a good idea to wash the fabrics you are going to put on them
- ▶ You might also need to “prepare” your fabrics by putting a fusible interfacing on the back of them.

## When embroidering a design and at the very last thread change, my top thread bird nested underneath in the bobbin thread. Why?

- ▶ Birds nest are usually caused when the thread does not have the proper tension on it. If you have just rethreaded your machine it could be that the thread was not in the tension properly.
- ▶ If there is a bit of lint or a broken thread in the tension guides this could cause the tension to not be as tight as it should be.
- ▶ Ways to fix a birds nest can be found in the webinar “OOOPPPSSSS What do I do now?”



**If your fabric is pretty much the same content, how often should you change your needle? Is there a brand you prefer?**

- ▶ The general “rule” for changing your needle is every 8 hours of stitching, if you are using a regular needle.
- ▶ Titanium needles last 5-8 times longer than regular needles (That is 40-64 hours of stitching)
- ▶ My preferred brand is Schmetz.
- ▶ October Webinar features Rhonda Pierce of Schmetz needles .



When binding a project after I have stitched the binding to the project and I am folding the binding to the back, sometimes the binding fabric will not completely cover the initial stitching. Any suggestions?

**Remember: your corners have extra fabric, creating extra bulk**

- ▶ Do a test corner to make sure the width of your binding, combined with the seam allowance will create the perfect mitered corner.
- ▶ Be sure that you are stitching exactly where you need to be at your corners....pay extra attention to them.
- ▶ Manipulate the binding fabric so it is tight against the project seam allowance to get a bit more fabric to cover the stitches.
- ▶ Check the corner as soon as you sew it so you can make any adjustments that are needed to get the results you want.

# What is the best way to learn to free hand quilt patterns?

- ▶ Following printed or drawn lines, is a good way to get started learning free had stitching.
- ▶ Cheater fabric works, tracing your designs onto your project or a piece of water soluble stabilizer also works.
- ▶ Always “warm up” or test before you work on your project. Make sure your practice piece is as close to the real project supplies as possible. If you are quilting through cotton fabric, then poly batting, the cotton backing fabric, test with this combination not with a single layer of cotton fabric.
- ▶ Start with small projects then move on to larger projects.
- ▶ Your results will improve the more time you spend doing free hand techniques.

Can we PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE have another sit and sew? Hope you haven't finished your T-shirt quilt I really want to walk through it with you. I just got my T-shirts all cut and fused with interfacing

I would love to do another sit and sew....the quilt is NOT finished, and I would love to continue working on it with all of you!





Sew...

Show and Tell

## Karen B



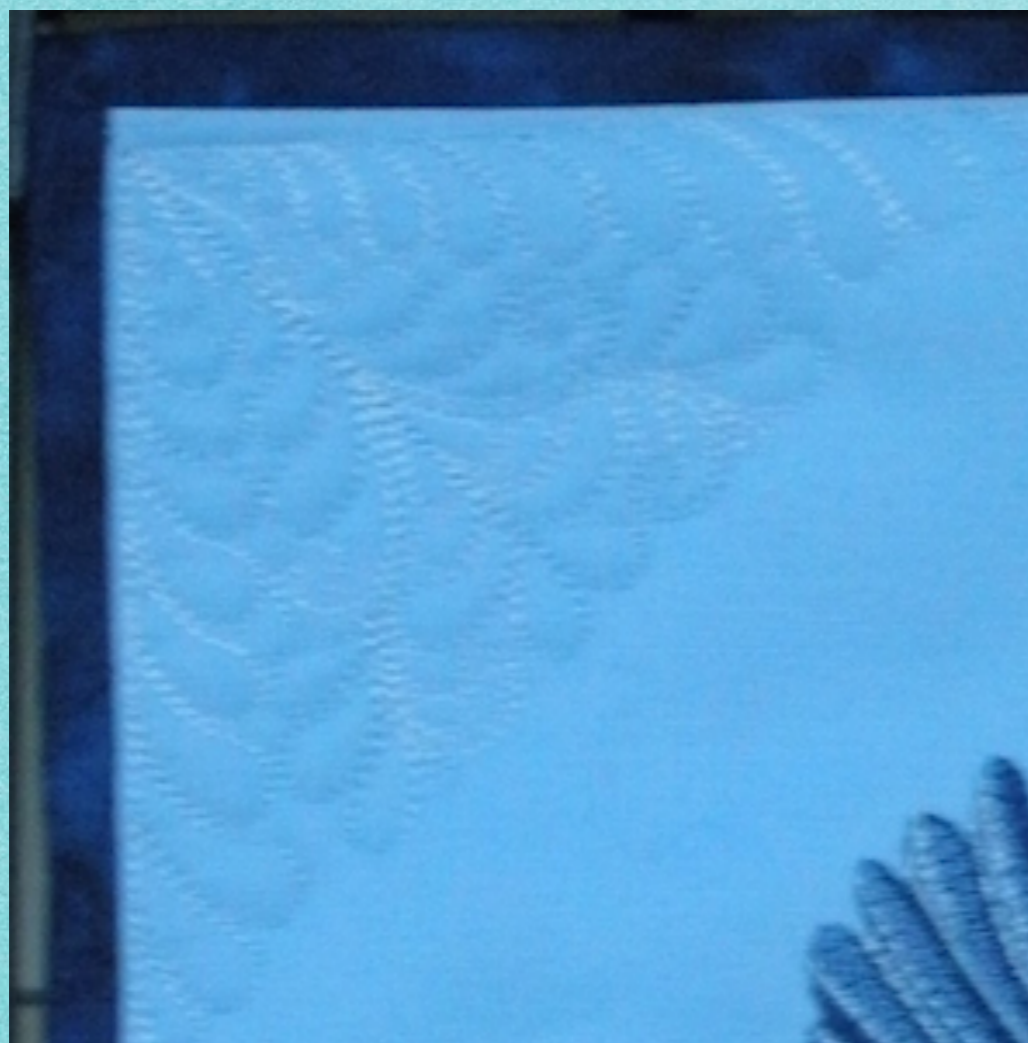
My first embroidery projects. One of my high school friends passed away two years ago. These were made for her granddaughters, using her scrub tops from work. The outside covers are removable (I hid the zipper on the back) for laundering. I used Viking Embroidery software for digitizing the design.

# Evelyn K



I've been playing with panels. I cut them into sections and sew them together using the attic window quilt block design. The cougar was my first and it is quilted (using the Edge to Edge technique) and is finished. The Santa panel is not yet quilted

Evelyn K



Evelyn K



I completed this embroidered quilt in May. Designs are from Hatched In Africa and instructions are by Shirley Rosenbrock. Blocks were created in Pfaff software and stitched out in the large 360 by 350 hoop. Center block stitched in multiple hoopings.

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*"Nature in Color"*

*Grace Stein's Quilt for her Graduation  
from Keene High School, Keene, NH  
Designed, Pieced, and Zentangled with Love  
by her Grandmother, Betsy Louise Ames Cobbs,  
Wilbraham, Massachusetts*

*Pieced blocks: combined triangle units  
Zentangled blocks: from Pam Damour's  
Embroidered Tangled Blocks Collection  
and The Tangled Home  
Quilted by Laura Knapp  
June 10, 2016*

*320*

# Betsy C



The quilt is an extra long twin size, made with batik fabrics, has Warm and Natural batting and I bound it by machine.

# Betsy C



Dragonfly is embroidered and tangled. The Sea Creature is all tangled....no embroidery.



# Betsy C



Pillow Cases

## Betsy C

I made this wall hanging as a house warming gift for our daughter's new home. It is the Rose Hip Heart Block by Edyta Sitar from her book "Hop To It!". I machine appliquéd and machine quilted it.





Anna's Awesome Appliqué Block of the Month bonus projects. The block on the left has a quilted background and the flower is mostly done in outline stitches with embroidered veins. The block on the right is the same design without the quilted background and without the veins. The outline stitches were stitched with white thread. I lightly spritzed the fabric with water and then took watercolor brush pens and painted. Keep in mind I'm not a painter and this is the first time attempting something like this.



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