



JENNY HASKINS

Beautiful linen serviettes – napkins for our US readers – have been superseded with the advent of paper serviettes because of convenience and time restraints, namely laundering and ironing, we would all rather spend our time sewing and being creative. However, like me, I am sure you have an abundance of beautiful linen serviettes, and it is these forgotten treasures that inspired this romantic twin-needle shadow-work (by machine) linen pillow, edged with Battenberg lace. It is possible to replicate hand shadow work by machine, using a 6mm twin needle. Previously this was done freehand with the fabric and stabiliser in a hoop, now it is possible to achieve an even better effect using digitised embroidery designs, that incorporate a section of the design that requires the use of a twin needle – Jenny's Twin Needle Shadow Work by Machine is the perfect vehicle for achieving this. It should be noted that a 6mm twin needle gives the optimum effect, as it most closely resembles hand work, however smaller needles can also be used to produce a similar effect.



A PILLOW TO DREAM ON





Finished size of pillow: 51cm (20in)

MATERIALS

- Embroidery sewing machine and minimum size hoop 225mm x 140mm
- Design software and transfer device
- Design CDs: *Twin Needle Shadow Work by Machine* and *Beyond Colour Purple* by Jenny Haskins
- 46cm (18in) square linen napkin – mine has drawn thread work around the edge and hand embroidery and drawn thread work in one corner
- 2, 36cm x 38cm (14in x 15in) pieces of white linen (or any fabric suitable to back the pillow) – this will depend on the size of your serviette
- 3m x 9cm (3³/₄yd x 3¹/₂in) white Battenberg lace (allowing for mitered corners) – adjust measurement to suit the size of the pillow
- Machine feet: embroidery foot, open-toe foot, large clear-view freehand foot
- Machine needles: 6mm Schmetz twin needle and size 80 Schmetz Microtex needle
- Bobbin to suit your machine
- Fine pre-wound bobbin
- Threads: White cotton 30-40 weight for construction and monochrome embroidery, rayon 40 embroidery threads: two reels of matching thread for twin needles; one reel (for bobbin) that is two shades darker than the matching two reels; soft colour (say pink/mauve) for flowers; soft green for leaves and soft yellow for the centre of the flowers
- Vellum tracing paper to print out Rrhalfcircle design from *Beyond Color Purple* design CD
- Dissolve Magic woven soluble stabiliser available from www.mkdistributing.com
- Tear-away stabiliser to back decorative stitching
- 35cm (14in) cushion insert
- Basting spray
- Glass-headed pins
- Heavy-duty spray starch
- Water-soluble fabric-marking pen and quilting ruler
- Kai sewing shears
- General sewing requirements



PREPARATION

NOTE: The pillow is designed on the diagonal so the twin-needle shadow-work embroidery is centred on the diagonal in the serviette.

- 1 Use several coats of heavy-duty spray starch (ironing between each coat) and press the serviette.
- 2 Use the fabric-marking pen and quilting ruler to mark and divide the cushion with vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines that intersect through the centre of the serviette.
- 3 Measure in 11cm (4¹/₂in) from each of the three plain corners of the serviette (inside the drawn thread work and assuming you have hand embroidery in one corner, other wise on all four corners) and mark this position on the three/four diagonal lines. Then use the fabric-marking pen and ruler to draw a line that intersects each diagonal line and is at right angles to it. These intersecting lines mark the centre position for Rrhalfcircle corner embroidery designs (reduced by 20%).

4 Use the design software, design CDs *Twin Needle Shadow Work by Machine*, *Beyond Colour Purple* and the transfer device to transfer Rrhalfcircle (reduced in size by 20%) from (BCP) and twin15a from (TNSWM) to the machine.

5 Wind a machine bobbin with embroidery thread that is two shades darker than the threads chosen to sew the twin-needle work.

EMBROIDERY

Twin-needle shadow-work design twin15a:

JENNY'S TIP: As there are many little jump stitches in this design – especially on the flowers, leaves and flower centres – clip the jump threads as you go, close to the embroidery, for a neat clean finish. You may also choose to sew at half speed for the twin-needle section of the design.

6 Place the Dissolve Magic stabiliser in the 225mm x 140mm hoop, lightly spray the stabiliser in the hoop with the basting spray

(preferably in a box to contain the spray) and then place the hoop in the sewing machine.

7 Centre the serviette over the Dissolve Magic stabiliser (in the hoop), placing it on the diagonal so the embroidered corner is at the top of the hoop. Then, use the intersecting diagonal lines on the serviette to ensure it is straight in the hoop, matching these lines to the corresponding marks on the hoop.

8 Select design twin15a, and then using the normal embroidery foot, white thread in the size 80 Microtex needle, and pre-wound bobbin, stitch the basting/stay stitch to hold the fabric to the stabiliser.

9 See the pattern sheet for a graphic of the embroidery design twin15a and directions on how to stitch a twin-needle design, along with thread stops and colour changes.

10 When the embroidery is complete, remove the design and stabiliser from the hoop, and then carefully cut away the excess stabiliser around the edge of the embroidery design.

11 Change the thread to white cotton to embroider Rhalfcircle in each of the three marked corners of the serviette in white monochrome or you may choose to do this as a straight monochrome or colour-by-colour, skipping the colours that are used for appliqué. After each embroidery is complete remove the fabric/stabiliser from the hoop as in step No 10.

12 Wash the stabiliser from the embroidery until the entire stabiliser is removed and there is no sticky residue. Lay it the embroidery flat to dry and then press all embroidery from the wrong side, over a towel.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

13 Turn under a double 5cm (2in) seam on one narrow edge of both pillow back pieces, then stitch down using construction thread and a straight stitch, close to the edge of the hem.

14 Treat the hem-stitched edge of the cushion as a 'frill', so working from the right side of the serviette, fold the edge of the serviette (from the inside edge of the drawn thread work) to the centre of the cushion with the fold starting 3mm (1/8in) from the inside edge of the drawn thread work. Carefully fold and pin the corners so they will not be caught in the backing fabric seam and will not pucker as you sew the corners.

15 Place the pillow back pieces over the pillow top, right sides together and overlapping them to fit the pillow size, and then pin the layers together.

16 Using the open-toe foot and construction thread in the needle and bobbin, carefully stitch around the outside edge of the pillow, keeping close to the folded edge of the pillow top and parallel to the drawn-thread edge.



17 Cut the excess backing fabric from around the edge of the pillow then turn it right side out. Use a pointed object to push out each corner, making sure they sit flat and square, and then use a hot steam iron to press the pillow from both sides.

18 Working from the right side of the pillow and with the wrong side of lace to right side of pillow top, attach the Battenberg lace to the outside edge of the pillow. Ensure the straight edge of the lace is aligned with the outside edge of the drawn-thread work, and mitre the corners of the lace to align with the corners of the serviette.

DECORATIVE STITCHING

19 Use white thread in the size 80 needle, pre-wound bobbin, open-toe foot and tear-away stabiliser in 2.5cm (1in) strips at the back of the embroidery.

20 Embroider an oval satin stitch length 12, width 6 and density 0.25 around the inside edge of the drawn-thread



work so it covers the backing fabric seam and just swings over the fabric edge of the drawn-thread work around pillow.

21 Fill the pillow with a 35cm (14in) cushion insert to complete your romantic heirloom pillow.

This romantic pillow is instructional, decorative and functional and would grace any bed or white cane chair. It is quick and easy and makes a great gift!



Shadow work is also perfect on linen guest towels.
Blank linen is available from www.marthapullen.com