

Tips on Quilting: Part 3

It is recommended that you read Quilting Part One before using these techniques on your quilt. To access the PDF link for Part One use the link below:

<http://www.ArbeeDesigns.co.nz/cdetails.php?classID=32>

Free-motion quilting

Make a quilt sandwich to practice these different techniques on, by placing a piece of batting between two layers of fabric. Stitch around the outer edge to keep your layers together. The sandwich only needs to be 10-12 inches square. Read all instructions before starting

Use your darning foot. The photo below shows a darning foot for a Bernina sewing machine. Darning feet on other brands of machine may vary somewhat.



Drop your feed dogs. Because the feed dogs are dropped, no stitch length adjustment is necessary. The stitch length is controlled by the speed in which you move the fabric under the foot, and the speed of the machine. (If you can not drop your feed dogs, they may be covered)

When starting bring the bobbin thread to the top of the quilt before stitching. Then lower the needle into the hole where the bobbin thread is and lower the presser foot.



Secure ends by stitching several stitches close together. Run the machine reasonably quickly and move the fabric underneath the needle. Find a comfortable speed to work at, remembering if the machine is running fast and your hands are moving slow you will have very short stitches and if the machine is running slow and your hands are moving fast you'll have very long stitches. You need to find a happy medium.

Practice stitching curves, squares, lines and your name or even try making a heart or star. The more practice you have the more confident you will be. Relax and enjoy your time, do not hold your breathe!

Once you have built up your confidence try some of the following techniques.

Echo Quilting

This is repeating the shape or design as you move out from it. Similar to the ripples created by dropping a pebble into a pool of water.



Echo quilting is great to use around appliqué shapes, especially an object that stands alone. When echoing lines from two objects meet, you will form what is called a puddle. Continue to fill in the puddle with each round of quilting within the puddle being separate.



Stipple Quilting

This quilting fills in an entire area and creates a heavily quilted texture. It is commonly used for background filling.



Your quilting should be smooth curves that do not meet or cross over. When working on background with stippling try not to get cornered. Plan the work so that the stipple is not linear but rather work randomly, working into every area continuously.

Free motion Motifs

You will find that trying to stitch directly on line is the hardest type of free motion. Download this quilt pattern or draw your own onto your sample (note: It is much easier to draw your design before layering is done).

Try to keep on the lines of your motif, but remember this is just a practice so it does not matter if you go off. Even when you do this on the real thing, once the quilt lines has been washed off crooked stitching is less noticeable.

Now all you need to do is practice, practice, practice. That's all it takes. The more you do the better you'll get. Join all your samples together and keep them as reference. Always have a sandwich sample on hand to practice or warm-up before you start any free-motion job, just like you do when you need to warm-up for playing the piano or some sporting event. Most of all, remember to stay relaxed and enjoy your time quilting.

We have many more online classes for offer be sure to check them out

<http://www.ArbeeDesigns.co.nz/cdetails.php?catID=25>

or

<http://www.ArbeeDesigns.co.nz/cdetails.php?catID=26>

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