

CROSSING THREADS WITH BECKY J BECKY J DESIGNS

Old fashioned cross stitch the easy way,

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What's This Newsletter about?

I have decided to start a newsletter to let everyone know what's going on with the Pattern Maker software and new projects as well as items from me. I feel like this is a good forum to get pertinent information out there. There will also be tips and lessons as well.

I am hoping to incorporate projects or items from some of you that have used the program to inspire others

I am including my teaching schedule as the dates come in, so if I happen to be in your area I would love to meet you.

There will also be a question and answer section so you are free to ask questions and I will do my best to answer

them in the newsletter.

There are many internet groups that are filled with advertisements and very little information.

Remember, we are not born knowing this stuff. We have to crawl before we can walk.

I hope that you will pick up some tips or techniques that will make using the software a pleasure.

I am still astounded with the capabilities of this program.

I am a distributor for Pattern Maker and produce tutorial CD-ROMs to teach you how to use the program

Thanks,
Becky J

Create a Design By
Converting a Scanned
Photograph



(photo of actual stitch-out)



What's the Difference between cross stitch programs?

This is a question that I get frequently. Most of the embroidery digitizing software has incorporated some form of cross stitch into their software. The question I ask my students and customers is "What do you want to do with cross stitch software". If you are interested in assigning a cross stitch motif stitch or simulated cross stitch to an existing design, it really doesn't matter what cross stitch soft-

ware you use. Most all of the cross stitch programs out there will do that. I have tried most all of the cross stitch software and worked with Brad Law and Scott Horton from Hobbyware to produce the machine embroidery version of the Pattern Maker software. My personal belief is that you need to have the best tool to create what you want to do, without re-inventing the wheel. Probably

the biggest difference between digitizing software and Pattern Maker is that Pattern Maker was created for hand cross stitch and then became machine embroidery software so every stitch is put in the design as if you cross stitched it by hand.

New from Hobbyware

- New from Pattern Maker and Donna Kooler Design Studios are the new sampler packs. There will be a total of twelve different sampler sets that will work only with the Pattern Maker software.
- Each CD has a complete sampler as well as a total of 150 different designs.
- These install in the Library files of Pattern Maker and make very easy personalized gifts in minutes
- There are a total of eight different sets out and are available from either me or the (Hobbyware) website.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What is the difference between digitizing and cross stitch?

There is a significant learning curve with digitizing software but every one can do cross stitch.

2. Do I have to do a test sew?

I don't ever do a test sew because the software does the work for me. Note: You do have to follow a text file for colors in you pattern. Pattern Maker creates this when you create the embroidery design.

3. What stabilizer do I need to use?

Cross stitch is inherently stable. I Normally hoop a good piece of tear away, spray with temporary spray adhesive and slap my fabric on top and stitch. If I am stitching a T shirt, I will spray starch the shirt to make the fabric stable and then will hoop two layers of the cut away mesh stabilizer. I hoop one piece horizontally and one piece vertically.

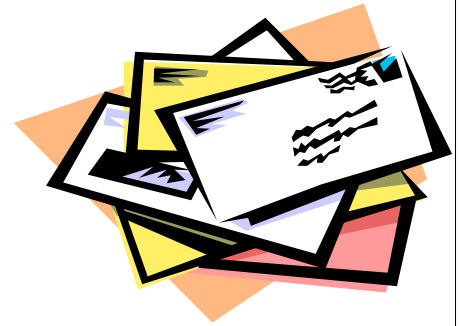
Since it is woven stabilizer there is no give or bias.

4. What kind of thread do I use?

I use all types of embroidery thread. I use rayon, poly, metallic, variegated and even sewing. With cross stitch you are dealing with subtle shading so the correct color is important. I will use 40 or 50 weight thread for the design. If I am doing French knots I will use a 30 weight thread to make it somewhat more dimensional

5. My hoop is only 4 inches square. Am I able to do larger designs?

One of the neatest things in the software is that when you export your design file to a machine format you tell the software what format you need and what size hoop you are using. If the design is larger than that hoop the software will split it into pieces that fit your hoop and puts in alignment stitches



Questions and Answers

*If a woman's place is in the home,
why am I always traveling?*

TEACHING SCHEDULE FOR 2006

- 1 Mobile, AL January 27 and 28 Susan's Heirloom Sewing
- 2 Puyallup Feb 28-March 7
- 3 Bayou Embroidery Hands On Sewing School Baton Rouge, LA April 11-14
- 4 American Embroidery Conference Boca Raton, FL May 4-7
- 5 West Coast Embroidery Hands on School Riverside, CA June 7-10

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TIPS AND TRICKS

1. Did you know that you can make your design split in a different place by using the custom hoop option.

To do this, export your design to machine embroidery to see where the software wants it to split. Let's say that it splits in the middle of text. We can export again using the same height as our hoop but use a smaller area with a custom hoop. This is a trick you will have to play with because sometimes you will end up with extra

hoopings.

2. Did you know that you can put a fabric color behind your pattern to see what it will look like on a specific color.

To do this simply go to the Fabric menu > color. You can use one of the built in ones or create your own color



Tips and Tricks