

**CROSSING THREADS WITH
BECKY J
BECKY J DESIGNS**

MARCH 2006

**JUST BACK FROM SHOWS IN MOBILE, AL
AND PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON**

I attended an embroidery event with my good friend Nita O'Keefe in Mobile with Susan Baskin of Susan's Heirloom Sewing. We had a fabulous two day event with Nita teaching classes as well as myself.

I returned home and was fortunate enough to have been invited to be in Linda MaGheehee's both at the Puyallup, Washington show. It was a real experience for me. The attendees were wonderful and very friendly.

This month I am at Nita's house visiting and learning some computer and web site tips with Nita. Holly and Larry Pike from Artistic Threadworks are coming on Tuesday for a few days. I hope to stuff my brain full of neat thing with these talented folks.

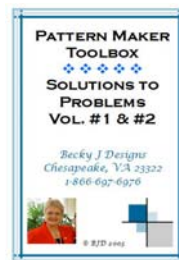
I will be home about a week and then will be gearing up for the Bayou Embroidery Hands on Sewing School in Baton Rouge, LA. This had to be cancelled last year due to the hurricane. This school is put on by R and K

Consulting, who do an excellent job of putting on embroidery conferences. If you live close to Baton Rouge you should sign up for this conference. You will definitely get more than you bargained for. Their web address is www.handsonsewingschool.com

Thanks,
Becky J



Newest product from Becky J Design is the Pattern Maker Toolbox. This is a two CD_ROM tutorial of projects, fixes and newest techniques in a DVD Plastic Case.



What's New from Hobbyware

Below are some of the packages of the Samplers available for use with Pattern Maker.

Four more due out any time



WHAT KIND OF THREAD DO I USE?

In Cross stitch you are dealing with subtle shading so color is very important. Do I go to Michael's and buy all of the skeins of embroidery floss, separate it and wind it on bobbins to stitch my cross stitch designs? No. I simply match my embroidery thread to DMC colors. I use 40 or 50 weight embroidery thread. I can use cotton, poly, metallic, variegated and twist

thread in the same design. The most important thing is COLOR. Your machine doesn't have a clue what the colors are in a cross stitch design so follow your thread list that Pattern Maker creates when you export the design as embroidery.

My way of thinking is to have good tools

Make the tools do what you want them to do

If they don't: Bend them to your will

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How hard is this software to learn?

It is very straight forward and with the tutorial CD-ROMs you will be very familiar after your very first design.

2. Is this true hand cross stitch count?

In this software 14 count is 14 count. You can stitch a design anywhere from 11 count to 22 count on your embroidery machine

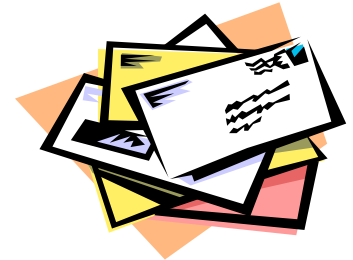
3. What kind of fabric can I stitch on?

You can stitch on any kind of fabric, including aida cloth. If you use aida cloth you need to be certain your needle starts in a hole and the fabric is straight, both horizontally and vertically.

4. What Kind of stabilizer do I use?

Cross stitch is inherently stable so you don't get a lot of push and pull compensation. The stitches stabilize themselves. I simply hoop a good quality tear away stabilizer, spray it with

temporary spray adhesive, slap my fabric on there and stitch. I never hoop fabric. If I am stitching on a T shirt or sweatshirt I will stabilize the fabric by spray starching and ironing to make the fabric as stable as possible. I then hoop 2 layers of nylon mesh woven, cut-away stabilizer, one going vertically and one horizontally. Spray, place my shirt on the stabilizer and put a water soluble on top and stitch



Questions and Answers

Cross stitch and embroidery is much cheaper than a psychiatrist

TEACHING SCHEDULE

1. Bayou Embroidery Hands on Sewing School Baton Rouge, LA April 11-14 (www.handsonsewingschools.com)
2. American Embroidery Conference in Boca Raton, FL May 4 through 7 (NANAPOM@aol.com)
3. Martha Pullen's Arlington, Texas Market June 1 through 3 (www.marthapullen.com)
4. West Coast Embroidery Hands on Sewing School in Riverside, CA June 7

TIPS AND TRICKS

1. Did you know that you can use Pattern Maker to create elaborate designs from your own photos very easily. The advanced graphic engine in the importing wizard so creating your own designs is really easy. With cross stitch your stitches are your pixels so you get all of the detail and none of the density. The Import wizard is totally interactive so you have unlimited "undos"
2. Did you know that you have the ability to see where a color in your pattern is so that you can decrease the jump number of jump stitches in your design. Right click on any color in your palette and click on the Highlight selected color. The software will fade the design and show that color in the design. You can actually decrease the jump stitches within the software. You can also merge like colors together which makes the design stitch better at the machine



Tips and Tricks

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