

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

APRIL/MAY 2006

**JUST BACK FROM BOCA RATON AEC IN
FLORIDA AND CHICAGO**

I attended an embroidery event, the American Embroidery Conference in Boca Raton, FL. I was fortunate enough to room with old friends and meet new ones.. I taught a whole day on using the Pattern Maker software and had a fabulous time. I was delayed a bit driving home to Virginia due to the fires in Florida. I was able to also visit with my two sons and my grandchildren on the way down.

I returned home and was fortunate enough to have been invited to spend a few days in Chicago with Larry and Holly Pike of Artistic Threadworks learning some new software techniques and making a video. It was a real experience for me. I was officially adopted by Onyx, their boxer.

The end of this month I will fly to Nita's house and then drive to Arlington, TX for the Martha Pullen Market where I will also be teaching and vending..

I will fly from Arlington to Riverside, CA to participate in the Hands on Sewing School event in Riverside.

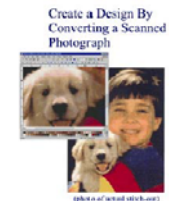
This school is put on by R and K Consulting, who do an excellent job of putting on embroidery conferences. If you live close to the Riverside area you should sign up for this conference. You will definitely get more than you bargained for. Their web address is www.handsonsewingschool.com

Thanks,

Becky J

*The newest product from
Becky J Designs is the*

Pattern Maker Toolbox.
This is a two CD-ROM tutorial
of projects, fixes and newest
techniques in a DVD 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 HAPPENS WHEN I GET A NEW HOOP SIZE?**

There is a custom hoop option in the Pattern Maker software which will allow you to export your pattern in any size. Some of the formats are locked to the hoop size of their original format, such as PES files. To create designs with a new hoop size you can export the file out of Pattern Maker in a custom hoop in the DST format. This is a commercial format that allows you

export in any size. This will get you through creating a design for a new hoop until the hoop size and format are available in Pattern Maker.

I also use this feature when I want a design to split in a specific place.

*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 close to hand stitch will my pattern look?** Every stitch will cross as if you have stitched it by hand.
2. **What are the stitch sizes available in machine cross stitch.** You can stitch a design anywhere from 11 count to 22 count on your embroidery machine
3. **How stable is cross stitch?** The stitches stabilize themselves so there is very little push and pull compensation. You will get all of the detail without the density issues of digitized embroidery. There is a place for every stitch..
4. **Can I scan a purchased cross stitch graph into the software?** Yes. I have not found a pattern that I cannot do on my machine. There are several ways of lining up a graph with the empty grid in Pattern Maker. If you have a graph that spans more than one page, simply scan each piece as a separate file. Once completed you can copy and paste it together as a whole. This will
5. make the software split the design to fit your format and your hoop size. It will also place basting alignment stitches that are figured into the stitch so you will be able to stitch the design with perfect alignment.
- 6.
- 7.



Questions and Answers

Coming Soon:

A Pattern Maker/Becky J Forum on the Artistic threadworks website.

This will be the place to get answers and feedback on using the software.

www.artisticthreadworks.com

TEACHING SCHEDULE

1. Martha Pullen's Arlington, Texas Market June 1 through 3 (www.marthapullen.com)
2. West Coast Embroidery Hands on Sewing School in Riverside, CA June 7
3. American Sewing Expo, Novi, Michigan September 28th-October 1
4. Hands on Sewing School, Phoenix, AZ October 10-14 (www.handsonsewingschools.com)
5. Jenny's Sewing Studio, Salisbury, MD Hands on classes October 21-22

TIPS AND TRICKS

1. Did you know that you have the ability to convert your thread colors to any thread palette in the software? You can convert individual colors or the whole palette!
2. Did you know that you have the ability to have Pattern Maker map your image and select the best colors for the design and then import the same graphic file as a template or underlay and color your pattern right on top of your template?
3. Did you know that if you have a color as a whole stitch color in your design and it also an outline color you can move the color to the end of the palette so that you will not have to change thread when you are stitching the design?

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Tips and Tricks