

Becky J Designs

c Crossing Threads with Becky J

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Old Fashioned cross stitch the easy way

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JUST BACK FROM MARTHA PULLEN EMBROIDERY MARKET IN ARLINGTON, TX AND HANDS ON SEWING SCHOOL IN RIVERSIDE, CA

What can I say about Martha Pullen? She does a great event and is a wonderful person. I taught seven classes and met some wonderful people. I flew from Dallas to Riverside, CA for a Hands on Sewing School event sponsored by Moore's Sewing. It was a wonderful event and the people from Moore's were terrific. If you have never attended a Hands on Sewing School event you should consider it. They have hands on classes during the day and software classes at night, so it is a very long day but a very good learning experience. The next event will be in October in Phoenix. Their URL is www.handsonsewingschools.com.

I am fortunate enough to be working with Larry and Holly Pike of Artistic Threadworks www.artisticthreadworks.com to create a DVD on some of the features and techniques that I use in Pattern Maker, It should be available soon through their website. They are also creating a forum on their website dedicated to questions about the Pattern Maker software. They are also going to have a photo gallery so that everyone can send in pictures of their cross stitch projects for everyone to see. Nita O'Keefe of Fancy That Designs and Nitas Place, www.fancythatdesigns.com and I will be at Holly and Larry's house in Chicago in July to do another Table Talk DVD. This is a a very casual interchange of ideas between the three of us. Holly is a dear friend, a digitizer using the Generations software and has a very successful subscription website. Nita is also a dear friend who is a consummate digitizer using the PE Design/Palette software and little ole me whose machines only know they can

do cross stitch. We cover a gambit of topics from stabilizer to digitizing. The first Table Talk video was very successful and we hope this one will exceed that one,

What's new with Hobbyware, Pattern Maker: The last four Cross Stitch Sampler packs are in production and should be released any time. There are a total of eight available at present with another four due out any time. In case you are wondering that is a total of 1208 patterns or **Designs**.

My "**Pattern Maker Toolbox**" 2 CD-ROM continues to be a popular tool for people using the Pattern Maker software. This tool addresses all of the new features in the software, incorporated into my classes but not included in the tutorial CDs

Questions and Answers

- 1. Did you know you can create french knots in the Pattern Maker software and make them dimensional either by increasing the strands of the threads, size of the stitch? I usually will use a 30 wt thread for my french knots to make them dimensional.**
- 2. Did you know that you can stitch cross stitch on two layers of tulle with a layer of water soluble on top and bottom and create an applique out of it? You can use a wood-burning tool or stencil burner to seal the edges of the tulle after you tear away as much of the fabric and stabilizer as you can.**
- 3. Did you know that you can merge like colors together in your palette in Pattern Maker to decrease the number of thread changes at your machine? To do this simply left click on any color in your palette until a hand appears then simply click and drag it over and drop it into the color you want to replace it with. You will see the effect immediately on your screen. If you don't like it simply go to the Edit men and click undo. By merging colors together you will decrease your thread changes as well as the jump stitches associated with those colors.**

Teaching Schedule and Events

1. American Sewing Expo, Novi, Michigan September 28th-October 1
2. Hands on Sewing School, Phoenix, AZ October 10-14 (www.handsonsewingschools.com)
3. Jenny's Sewing Studio, Salisbury, MD Hands on classes October 21-22
4. Houston International Quilt Festival, Houston, TX November 1-4