

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 Pennsylvania and Chicago 2006

I spent several days with my brother in Pennsylvania as he had recently had heart surgery and from there went to Chicago with Holly and Larry Pike of ArtisticThreadworks.com , along with Nita O'Keefe, of Nita's Place and Fancy That Designs to brainstorm and get some really good ideas for the coming months.

The DVD on some of the features and techniques that I use in Pattern Maker with a brief interview, is now available on the Artistic Threadworks website. I hope you will take a look. The X-stitch forum is heating up a bit due to the videos available on the Artistic Threadworks home page. Their URL is www.artisticthreadworks.com. For the month of August, they are having a 5th anniversary sale - the first 100 subscribers can buy two DVDs for 99 cents each. They are also going to have a photo gallery where everyone can send in pictures of their cross stitch projects for everyone to see. Nita O'Keefe of Fancy That Designs and Nita's Place, www.fancythatdesigns.com, and I were there at Holly and Larry's house in Chicago in July to do another session of brain-storming with Holly. Carol, who works with Holly and Larry, did an awesome job with the food for the open house. The food was great and it was wonderful establishing new friendships. It was a very laid back open house that was a casual interchange of ideas between the three of us and friends. 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.

What's new with Hobbyware and 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**. We are still waiting. No news yet.

My "**Pattern Maker Toolbox**" 2 CD-ROM set 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 use the Hoop-it-all hoops to stitch larger design easily? Alignment lines work very well and your fabric remains stable in the hoop. Eventually we would like to have these hoops incorporated into Pattern Maker. It is in the works.**
- 2. Did you know you can create masterpieces which are truly one of kind works of art quite easily?**
- 3. Did you know that you can put in wild colors to enclose an area for backstitching and delete it when the stitches are filled?**

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

Let us hear from you all if you are going to be at any of these events. I would love to meet you.