

Becky J Designs

Crossing Threads with Becky J

Old Fashioned cross stitch the easy way

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2009

I know it has been quite awhile since my last newsletter so I thought I would get you up to date with what has been happening to me. I have been almost totally out of commission since March with a shattered disc in my back. I went through my second back surgery in June and was told to cancel everything through the end of the year. I am doing very well physically and I am ready to get back to work.

I have not been idle while recovering. I have been creating new designs. I recently sent ten sets of designs to Nita O'Keefe, a very dear friend for the "Me and Thee" design line which will be available through her website. The URL is www.nitasplace.com.

Remember that all members of the newsletter group automatically get a 15% discount on my download designs using your coupon code. I am trying to do my part for the economy—use the coupon code 'STIMULUS' to get designs at HALF PRICE for the newest designs in 'Design Set 4'!

My plan for my own site is to continue the newsletter with the addition of greater number of designs for members. I am also going to start a collection series of designs for download which will be alphabets. The first alphabet is a Baby alphabet with four letters to be released about every two weeks. The reason for the choice of the baby alphabet is

the fact that both of my sons are expecting babies on the same day in May. They live thirty miles apart and one is a girl and the other is a boy. I will not be going to Florida, my sons' home, until right before the babies are born because I am sure there is something in the water and I don't want to take any chances. Pregnancy is not in my plans.

My first event of the year will be the Original Sewing and Quilting Expo in Duluth, GA in early March. Ina Archer, a dear friend and helper, will be there with me. I hope if you live close to that area you can come by and say "Hi".

What's new with Hobbyware and Pattern

Maker-- Their latest maintenance release is version 4.06. It adds quite a bit of new features. Be sure to check periodically to make sure you are running the latest version of the software.

To check your version simply open Pattern Maker and go into the Help menu>Look for updates. Make sure your Pattern Maker CD is in your CD drive. (It has a file on it that the program will need to update and if the CD is in the drive it knows exactly where to find it) Pattern Maker will now go to the Hobbyware website and check your version of software with any new maintenance releases. If you need updating, it will download automatically and install. That's all there is to it.

Good news from Scott Horton, the programmer: Pattern Maker does work with the new Vista operating system.

Below is a small preview of some of the newest design sets that will be available for download.



Baby Snowmen
Jacobean Fruit Borders



Jacobean Candles
Christmas Sunbonnets



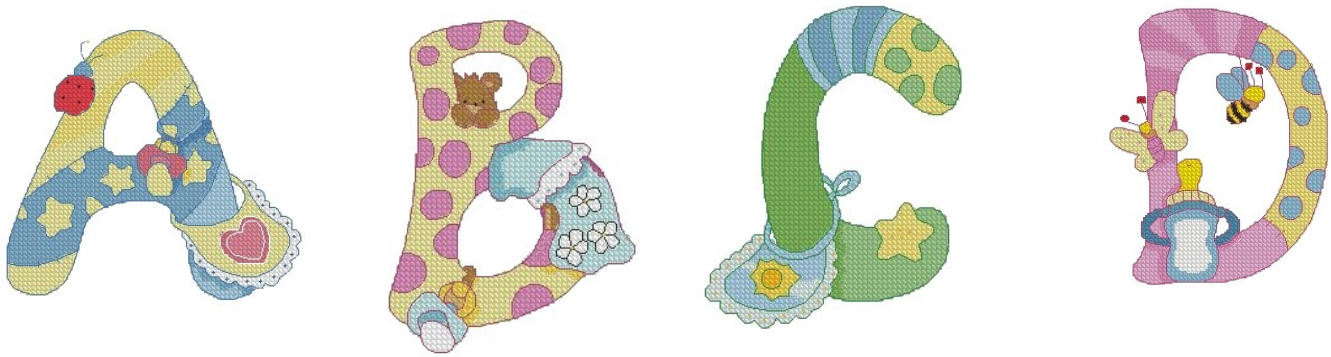
Cutie Bees

**Frizzy
Santas**



Magic Beach Umbrellas

The first of the Baby Alphabet Pictures follow:



Tips and Tricks

Some of the design sets above include outlines stitched with metallic thread. One way to keep metallic thread from breaking while stitching is to make sure it comes off the spool horizontally. I usually slow the speed down to 300 stitches per minute which usually helps cool off the thread some. Another trick I use is to take a disposable Ziploc plastic food container and poke a hole in the bottom so that it will sit on the vertical spool holder on your machine. Lay the metallic thread in the container and thread the machine by-passing the thread guide at the very bottom before it goes into the needle. This allows the thread to flow evenly with no stress so you get less breakage.

Teaching Schedule and Events

- 1._ Original Sewing and Quilt Expo, Duluth, GA March 5th-7th
- 2._ American Embroidery Conference, Marietta, GA 3/28-4/1

More events will be added as scheduled