

Becky J Designs

Crossing Threads with Becky J

Old Fashioned cross stitch the easy way

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Wow, time flies when you working or having fun. Since the last newsletter I have been really busy. I attended and taught classes at the American Embroidery Conference in Marietta, GA in April. I was able to teach a “hands on” photo class, which I had been wanting to do for quite awhile. I was also able to create a new DVD of that class called “Photobilities”. Our other new DVD is called “I Have Pattern Maker...What do I do Now?” which is a quick start DVD to using, installing and updating the Pattern Maker software.

I was expecting two new grandbabies in May, as both my daughters in law were pregnant and due on the same day. McKenzie came a little early, on April 29, 2009 at 6lbs and Eli made his debut on May 29th, 2009 weighing it at 9lbs 2oz. I spent most of April in Florida being a grandmother and helping out but did take a week out to go on a cruise. Dawn (Design by Dawn) and Susan’s (All About Blanks) Crystal Cruise which left from Port Canaveral, which happens to be about 15 minutes from my son’s house. I went as a designated roommate and mascot.



I returned home just in time to leave to drive to Arlington, Texas for Martha Pullen's Sewing Market. Ina Archer, who travels with me and I drove by way of Kentucky to spend a few days with Nita O'Keefe of Nita's Place for a visit and to see their new home. We met a lot of really nice people in Arlington and I was able to teach five classes. I taught one new class focusing on How to use Pattern Maker to create your own business. We now have DVDs on all of the classes I teach available on our website.

DVDs available for sale.

#1: "I have Pattern Maker....What do I do now?"

This is a quick start DVD to getting started using the Pattern Maker software from install to update as well as info on thread, stabilizer and using the Clipart designs. It available on our website for \$15

#2: "Photobilities using Pattern Maker software"

This is the accompany DVD to the "Hands on" computer class with the same name. This covers how to create designs from photos as well as clip art step by step....Available for \$15

#3. "Pattern Maker- The Ultimate Journey-Part 1" \$15

#4 "Pattern Maker-The Ultimate Journey-Part 2" \$15

#5 "Using Pattern Maker to Start a Business" \$15

Remember that all members of the newsletter group automatically get a 15% (or more!) discount on purchases using your discount code. I am trying to do my part for the economy. Also, if you buy two design sets you get the third one free.

(If you choose to do this please purchase any two and send an email to tell us of your purchase and tell us your choice and format of your free third design set. Please note that Floral Guards design pack counts as two design sets.)

Our newest venture is **Gal Pals Embroidery Designs.**

This is a collaborative effort between **Nita O'Keefe** of Nitasplace.com, Nitasthreadnest.com and Fancy That Designs, **Holly Pike** of ArtisticThreadworks.com and myself. Nita and Holly are both very talented digitizers and bring digitized embroidery designs to the table. I will bring the digitized cross stitch designs. These designs are designs digitized for Nita's Threadnest and also include eleven of my newest design sets. We will be traveling to dealers around the country doing trunk shows and selling our design packs. One of our first sites for a dealer trunk show will be in Florida at **The Sewing Center Around the Block**, Ft Walton, Beach, FL September 4, 2009 (www.sewitbetter.com). Please contact Sheri Easom. For more information please click on the Gal Pals Brochure Link on our website. I look forward to meeting some of you at these upcoming events.

My next tradeshow event will be the **American Sewing Expo** in Novi, MI September 25th through the 27th. This will be the first time I will be back in Novi in two years. I will be teaching free classes in the venue hall. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. For more info: www.americansewingexpo.com

Hope you all enjoyed the animal numbers. I am currently working on a new alphabet series for you. We should have the letters available for release soon.

What's new with Hobbyware and Pattern Maker:

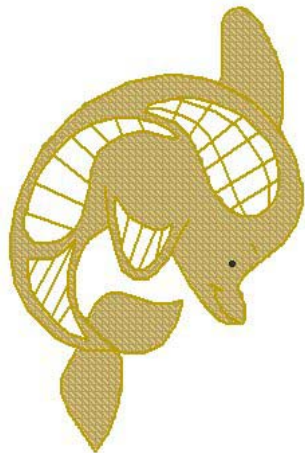
There latest maintenance release available, version 4.06. It adds quite a bit of new features. Be sure to check periodically to make sure you are running the latest version of the software.

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 are available for download.



Design Sets: Christmas Time, Lace Dolphins, Sewing Melissa and Fairy World

For a limited time all Christmas related design sets will be on sale at ½ price by typing the coupon code “HOHOHO” (without quotation marks)

Tips and Tricks

- 1. Remember that the Flood Fill tool fills all stitches to the edge of another group of stitches or an outline. If you are using a colored outline only for shading purposes and then delete that line you might end up with holes in your design. To fix these easily use the Flood fill tool and right click to remove all previous stitches and then left click to refill. This will fill in any gaps in the design.**
- 2. Make sure you delete the underlay or template from you completed design before you save the file. You can use the F2 key to toggle the template off and on making sure you have no holes in your design. When your design is completed, use the Select tool and click on an outside border of the design. Handles will form and simply hit the delete key before you save and name the file. This will make your file size kilobytes instead of megabytes making the files smaller, easier to store.**

Teaching Schedule and Events

- 1. Gal Pals Trunk Show – The Sewing Center Around the Block in Ft Walton Beach, FL September 4, 2009**
- 2. American Sewing Expo, Novi, MI September 25th-27th 2009**
www.sewingexpo.com

More events will be added as scheduled