

Becky J Designs

Crossing Threads with Becky J

Old Fashioned cross stitch the easy way

October 2009

Again the months have seemed to fly by with events around every corner. Nita, Holly and I had a wonderful time in the Panhandle of Florida participating in the **Gal Pals** Trunk Shows. In the **Gal Pals** Design Collections are included designs collections from Nita O'Keefe of Nita's Place and Nita's Threadnest.com, Holly Pike of Artistic Threadworks.com and there are 11 sets from me, Becky J McNeill. We were fortunate enough to be able to stay with friends during the trip and we met some really nice people. Thanks to Susan Baskin of Susan's Sew-N-Vac of Pensacola and Sheri Easom of The Sewing Center Around the Block in Fort Walton. We also made a stop in Pleasant Grove, AL for a trunk show for friends there. We were fortunate enough to be able to stay with Sarah Warren. Thanks for the Warren Hotel, Sarah. For more information on the Gal Pal Designs and new subscription site go to **www.nitasthreadnest.com**.

After returning home and having one short week to regroup, we left to go to Novi, Michigan for the American Sewing Expo starting September 25th. The show was well attended and our booth even made it on the local television station. We were also fortunate enough to meet a lot of new and old friends.

What's Going On?

I hope you are enjoying the Alphabet Series. I have gotten a lot of feedback while traveling about the popularity of these designs. I have to tell you that this makes continuing the Alphabets a easy decision. The next two letters of the alphabet, K and L, will be posted this weekend.

We also have started a new video series on You Tube called "Exploring Pattern Maker with Becky J". There are two videos up now. The first is called Pattern Maker Demo. It shows what the Pattern Maker software will do and a video of what the software can do. There is also a video which is a "how to" for how to stitch and create cross stitch clocks with step by step instructions. The links will be included below:

<http://www.youtube.com/BeckyJDesigns007>

What's New with Becky J Newest Design Packs

Our Newest sets include: **Talking Dogs**. These designs include dog designs that I have created from photos submitted to me from friends on the internet. There are six designs with sayings as well as the six dog designs without words.

Dogs Have
Friends because



they wag their tails,
not their tongues

Our second new set which accompanies the You Tube video is called: **Cute Clocks**

Husband's sock



What's Happening, Where & When
Gal Pals Design Collection
&
Multimedia Trunk Show Presentation

Contact information for Gal Pals:

Nita@nitasthreadnest.com

We will be doing Gal Pal Trunkshows presentations in my neck of the woods in January and February. Dates to follow. They will be presented at selected Tidewater Sew & Vac location near my home in Chesapeake, VA.

Tips and Tricks using Pattern Maker

1. When scanning in cross stitch graphs it can be a challenge to find the best method for letting the software line up your graph with the grid in the program. A couple of rules of thumb: Make sure you have your graph lined up with at least two sides of the scanner. Scan in color, not black and white at a resolution of at least 100 to 150dpi. You may scan directly into the Pattern Maker software by using the Importing Wizard and choosing to bring the image in as an underlay. Be sure to crop all extra area around the grid area of the pattern so that only grid area is exposed. If you choose to use the grid tools zoom in closely, making sure that when you place your grid tool points you are very precise. Center the cross hairs of the grid tool on the intersection of bold lines on the graph of your scanned pattern. You will place a grid tool mark at the top left edge of the ten space area, the top right edge and the bottom edge of the ten block area. This tells the software how big the blocks or spaces are in your particular pattern so it will know how large to make your pattern. You can by pass the grid tools and simply count the number of squares in your graph and, in the size menu where it say "specify size in stitches" you will simply place those numbers in the boxes. This tells the software exactly what size to make your pattern. Remember that if you every have a problem getting

your graph lined up in the software you can always send me the jpg of the scan. I am always standing by to help in any way with using this program. If you send me a scan I will line up the pattern for you and send it back to you and tell you what I did to fix it.

Where in the world is Becky J going to be??

1. **Designer Cruise:** I will be teaching on the Designer Cruise January 31st on RCCL Freedom of the Seas. For more information please contact Robin Elder <mailto:relder33773@gmail.com>
2. **Original Sewing and Quilt Expo**, Duluth, GA. March 11th-13th
For more information contact: www.sewingexpo.com
3. **American Embroidery Conference** Marietta, GA
April 21st-25th For more information contact Dianne Pomeroy
www.american-embroidery-conference.com