

Super Saturday 2012--Free Motion Quilting Workshop with Suzanne Sunday

Have you mastered the basics of free motion quilting on your sewing machine but find yourself ending up stippling your quilts almost all the time? Then this workshop is for you! We will be creating a “work book” of 8½ by 11” practice sheets of different free motion quilting patterns that will form your own free motion quilting reference binder. There will be discussions of types of patterns for different quilting spaces and use of different thread types and opportunities to try anything you would like. You will create as many sheets as you want during the class and experimentation is encouraged. This is what Caryl Fallert does each time she wants to develop new patterns and then she uses the workbook when she is trying to think of what pattern to put in places on her quilts. You’ll find yourself using the workbook almost every time you free motion quilt and you will be adding to your sheets for years to come.

Prerequisite: You must know the basics of free motion quilting (that does NOT mean you have to good at it!) and be familiar with free motion quilting on your sewing machine.

Supplies:

1. At least 24 8½ by 11” quilt sandwiches, although I would suggest more—remember, you’ll be doing these all day and some may not be patterns you want to keep. Further, you can always take the leftovers home and expand on your workbook in the future (which I’m sure you will). Any solid color fabric will do for the front and muslin works great and you can use up old fabrics for the backs. You can use any batting in the middle that you would like but I strongly suggest using batts that you generally use or that you’d like to try in the future.
2. Clear page protectors from Staples, Office Max, etc.
3. A 3-ring binder, at least 2 inches wide.
4. Threads—bring rayon, cotton, polyester, silk, metallics, etc. in a number of different weights in colors that will contrast to your quilt sandwich fronts. If you don’t bring contrasting thread, you won’t be able to see the quilting designs. Although you can try bringing Sliver (that tinsel-like thread) if you have some, I’ve found that it is difficult to work with and tends to snap, so you’ll have to judge how tolerant you are. You can try using different weight threads in your bobbin as well.
5. Machine needles in sizes that go with the threads you bring (e.g. if you are bringing heavier threads that will go through the top, bring a topstitch 90).
6. Sewing machine and basic sewing supplies, including a fine Sharpie pen.

I will bring my work book, a number of books with free motion patterns and a range of unusual threads for people to try.