

# TOP STITCH

Volume 12, Issue 1

Winter 2009

## Three C's to Sewing

I suppose I could mean three cheers for sewing, but that would be another article. This is about the three C's of learning. Instead of reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic we're going to call them comfort, confidence and creativity.

Comfort often seems to be the first stumbling block. All of us feel a certain fear when we're trying something new. This is probably why so many people cling to their old machines even when they're 'acting up' or not capable of doing some of the techniques they've seen on TV and in magazines. The best thing about it is it's comfortable; or I should say you feel comfortable with it. No surprises, nothing different, just the way it's always been...even if it's a dysfunctional relationship.

Our job at Top Stitch is to help you become as equally comfortable with your new machine. This is why we spend tutorial time before you take the machine home and encourage you to take our free classes. Think of us as a chaperone for your first date...and as a lifeguard to keep you safe when you want to delve deeper.

Confidence grows with comfort, but it is also a frame of mind. When you decide you are going to be able to do something you often find that you can - or learn a lot in the process. Unfortunately you can also decide that you can't, and sure enough you won't. We can't change your frame of mind (though we will certainly try) but we can help you gain confidence by assuring you that we will be able to answer all your questions (regarding your sewing) and provide emergency care should you need it. We call it our free, unlimited trouble-shooting assistance.

Then there is creativity. A lot of people say they aren't creative but I think it's all a matter of how you're looking at it. Human beings in general are all creative in some aspect or another; we just display it in different ways.

The creative paths of your mind can be opened simply by keeping an open mind. Have you ever noticed that your best ideas come when you're not straining to come up with them? How about those times when you've woken up with a fresh idea that solves a problem you've been thinking about? I believe that when your brain is 'relaxed' the synapses are free to shuffle everything around and build a new idea from those sparks. My sparks come from looking at all artistic forms - in person when I can - but most often in books and magazines. In the store we try to spark your creative thoughts by having samples to get ideas from and by offering fun and exciting products to work with. Playing with a new toy is a sure way to feed your creativity.

Most importantly have fun and let "Celebrate" be your fourth sewing "C".



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### Top Tips

- If your bobbin seems to be winding unevenly (ie: the thread is migrating to the bottom) then make sure the thread is pulled securely into the tension spring (the tiny silver 'knob' on top of the machine).
- Always thread the sewing machine with the presser foot raised, until the thread has passed the tension unit. Thread can not slide into the tension unit when the presser foot is down.

# FOOT-STEPS

## FREE MOTION COUCHING #43

This unique foot allows you to attach large diameter cords and yarns in a decorative pattern that has curves and swirls. This look has formerly been accomplished with "reverse bobbin" work, where you wind serger-type yarns onto a bobbin and work with the wrong side of the fabric facing you. Of course working with the right side of the project facing up has its obvious advantages, number one being you can see exactly where you're going. Another advantage is the cord is left on its spool and you use regular thread in the bobbin so you are not constantly having to rewind them.

With the #43 foot you apply thicker materials such as macramé cord and dense yarns, making the design impact much more impressive. I've used it to create a stipple décor on a pre-made shirt (pssst - I got the idea from an old Barbara Stanwyck movie) and Debbie had a great time decorating all her jeans legs (did you see how much they cost pre-done?) We've also embellished wall hangings and handbags with this technique.

The foot is clear for maximum visibility and comes with a special guide that attaches to your side thread-cutter (you can leave it on as it will not interfere with the blade). Thread the cord through the special guide then through the hole in the left side of the foot and then down through the center hole of the foot. [A fine wire threader is included for accomplishing this task.] Choose a matching polyester thread color, or use a clear thread in the top if you prefer. (I personally avoid clear threads due to several inherent negatives but if you do want to use them avoid putting it in the bobbin to save wear and tear on the delicate parts.) You will leave your machine set up for straight stitch and drop the feed dogs. Because this is 'free-motion' the stitch length makes no difference; the length is a result of your own movement and speed. Use the speed slider to find a moderate speed that works well for you, or engage the half-motor button. Now just move the fabric in any direction. If you want you could draw your design first or consider using a quilt stencil, then just follow the lines. A nice advantage to this technique is that the thread tends to hide in the cord so you don't have to panic about how good you are at getting a consistent stitch length! With practice you'll just keep getting better.

If I'm embellishing before the item is constructed then I make sure to begin and end in the seam allowance. When working with pre-made items I suggest that you begin and end near a seam, leaving long enough tails to thread through the seam with a large tapestry needle. If you want the design to stand alone away from a seam, then decide on a good place to hide the ends of the cord and make this your start and stop position.

Try this technique once and you may find you have a new addiction!

\* It is advised that you turn the machine off if you've been doing other sewing before starting this technique so that the needle initializes in the perfect position.

### Class Policies:

Space is extremely limited; as a courtesy to others, please inform us immediately if you need to cancel.

◆  
We will cancel a class three days in advance if we do not have the minimum number of students enrolled.

◆  
You are expected to put a reservation on your calendar; we do not make reminder calls.

◆  
Previous purchasers are welcome to take their New Owner's Guide classes a second time at no additional charge.

## Quilting with

## Bernina & BSR

Develop your skills and confidence with straight line and free-motion quilting. Work with the walking foot and quilting feet, including the famous BSR (not required). Learn how to decide on threads and needles for different effects.

**Fee: \$15.** (plus basic supplies)  
*Top Stitch Purchasers of BSR machines are entitled to a special price of \$7.50 Choose one:*

Sat., Feb. 7, 10:00 - 1:00

Thurs., Feb. 26, 2:00 - 5:00

Sat., March 29, 2:00 - 5:00

These classes are complimentary with purchase of a machine from TOP STITCH. Choose one of the options listed below for your model(s) then call or come in to reserve your space (pre-registration required.)

\*Bernina of America values new owner guide classes at \$50. per hour

**Activa & Aurora Guide Classes** (includes purchasers of Virtuosa models)

- Saturday, January 17, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 4 and Thursday, February 5, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, February 21, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 26, 2:00 - 5:00 pm (both days)

**Aurora Embroidery** (additional classes for embroidery with Aurora machines)

- Saturday, January 31, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Saturday, March 28, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Artista Guide Classes** (for purchasers of all Artista models)

**Artista Sewing:**

- Thursday, January 22 and Thursday, January 29, 2:00 - 5:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, February 28, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)

**Artista Embroidery:**

- Thursday, February 5, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
- Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, April 8, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**NEW 8 Series Classes** (for purchasers of 830 and 820 machines)

**First Series:** Wednesdays, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm: January 21, January 28, February 11, February 18 & February 25

**Next Up:** Wednesday, March 4 & Thursday, March 5 2:00 - 5:00 pm (bring your own machine) plus  
Wednesday, March 11 & Thursday, March 12 2:00 - 5:00 pm (use our demo models)

**Serger Guide Classes** (for all new Bernina serger models)

- Wednesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 12, 2:00 - 5:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, April 4, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

When you buy a Bernina at Top Stitch,  
it's not just a box — It's an Experience.

# TOP STITCH



## BERNINA<sup>+</sup>

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Hancy

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Coupon good 1/16/09 - 2/17/09

When you Buy a Bernina at  
Top Stitch  
the following services are  
Always included:

1. Complete Class Instruction for use of your machine.
2. Free, unlimited trouble-shooting assistance
3. Full warranty coverage performed on our premises.

**Plus:**

our **exclusive BBB** Discounts \*

- ▶ 15% off regular priced fabrics, notions, books, accessories, embroidery designs, etc.
- ▶ Discounted maintenance & service

\* **BBB** discounts are good for one full year after purchase **and** are renewed automatically for another 12 months when you pay for a cleaning / tune-up on the machine purchased.

## "Out With the Old"

# SALE

## January 19 - February 3

# 20 - 60%

# All Fabrics\*

**Plus other specials** (\*1/2 Yard cut minimums)