

TOP STITCH

Volume 12, Issue 3

Autumn 2009

STEP INTO 6

The software team at **Bernina International** has been working at surpassing themselves again, bringing us **Bernina Embroidery Software 6**. With way too many features for me to remember, I'll have to just stick to some of my personal favorites.

First of all they've fully integrated (and the program includes) **Corel Draw Essentials**. This means that you can use almost all graphic formats and instantly convert them into embroidery with just one step. The power of this program also allows you to take other brand embroidery designs that don't have the .art scalable usage, and turn them into NEW .art files that do have that morph-ability. Using the on-screen tips and help feature helped me learn how to use the **Corel Draw Essentials** which I've never worked with before.

Another feature I love is being able to move letters off the baseline and twist, skew, size and manipulate them in any way while still keeping them in font format (which means I can keep on changing 'til my hearts desire). This is far easier than the headline of this article where I had to create a separate text box for each.

A creative feature I am really having fun with is the 'carving' tool. This allows you to 'emboss' a standard stitch fill or essentially create your own fill. The effects are incredible! (I'd say I'm addicted to this one.)

Some other things we've all been asking for are finally here as well. Such as the ability to see your designs as thumbnails while opening them in the program - as well as in **Windows Explorer** when the program is not running. They've also given us an 'auto-outline' tool so you don't have to manually digitize one. There are now 56 new (ie - prettier) default colors immediately available and a color-wheel feature that lets you preview the design in various color ways before assigning threads. The built-in **Quilter** program has been enhanced with the ability to design your own blocks, so you are no longer limited to the pre-installed library.

As a tablet PC user I also appreciate the new freehand draw tool which allows me to draw a smooth line without any clicks; those who add an external pen tablet can also enjoy drawing direct. So many fun new things to try and more to learn! Updates are now in-stock for v.4 & v.5 users and we also have the **Editor Plus** program for those who don't want to design their own (...yet).



Inside this issue:

New Owner Classes	3
Quilt/BSR Class	2
Foot-Steps	2
Announcements	4

Top News

- **Top Stitch** has two new racks of serger thread. We now have 21 colors each of **Mettler Metrocor** (our preferred utility thread) and **Mettler Metroflock** (for decorative edges).
- Karen Hanken's 2009 Paducah-winning quilt, "Everyday Barns & Family Farms" is featured in the **AQS 2010 Wall Calendar**. **Top Stitch** has these in stock and Karen is happy to sign them. **Ashland Magazine** also did a feature article on her quilts in their recent 150 years of Oregon Commemorative issue

Redwork & Blackwork with BSR

In this lecture format, Karen will demonstrate her technique for using the BSR to create redwork and blackwork quilts. We'll cover everything from preparing the fabric to tracing the pattern as well as the special tricks for stitching fine details and lettering.

Fee: \$7.50

Thurs., Oct. 22, 1:00 - 2:30

Thurs., Nov. 19, 10:30 - 12:00

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:

Wed., October 28, 1:00 - 4:00

Sat., November 14, 2:00 - 5:00

Class Policies:

Space is 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.

♦
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.

FOOT-STEPS

#55 - A WALKING FOOT ALTERNATIVE

[AKA "THE LEATHER ROLLER FOOT"]

Those who attended our Libby Lehman event went gaga over this doo-da. This unique and exclusive foot was originally designed to manipulate leather and furs and is based on the machines that glove-makers use. However Libby has found an extraordinary use in both quilting curvaceous patterns and also for machine appliqué. After watching just a few seconds of working with the foot everyone wanted to have it!

The foot clamps on like any regular Bernina foot and has a black wheel on the left side. The rolling wheel provides enough traction to feed the top fabric even when there is a batting layer inside. While in straight stitch move the needle position to your desired distance from the wheel then simply follow your design. By driving the wheel over a stitching line or an appliqué edge you can get a perfect echo-quilting effect. It is amazing how narrow the radius of the curves can be. This is an excellent choice for those who want a free-motion look but want the control of machine-fed stitching, and could be very useful for an Hawaiian style quilt.

Libby also demonstrated using this foot for blanket stitch appliqué. You'll choose the stitch and adjust the length and width to your personal taste. Mirror-image the stitch and work around the appliqué in an anti-clockwise direction. Though this may seem awkward at first it makes it possible to use the wheel as a precise guide for the straight part of the stitch. Once again this technique was especially useful for curved edges.

The Bernina education team recommends using this foot for attaching extra-large decorative trims and for making jumbo piping since you can get better traction than with a traditional zipper foot. All-in-all foot #55 is quite a useful addition to your sewing kit and certainly goes far beyond its given name.

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

- Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, October 10, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 11 and Thursday, November 12, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, December 5, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Aurora Embroidery (additional classes for embroidery with Aurora machines)

- Saturday, October 31, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 9, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Artista Guide Classes AND NEW 8 Series Classes (for 830 / 820 machines)

Sewing Machine Features:

- Tuesday, October 13 and Wednesday, October 14, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, November 7, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Embroidery Usage:

- Wednesday, October 21, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Saturday, November 14, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Serger Guide Classes (for all new Bernina serger models)

- Saturday, October 24, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)

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 on that machine (up to a 64% savings)

BBB discounts are good for one full year after purchase and are renewed automatically for another 12 months when you pay for a cleaning

TOP STITCH



BERNINA⁺

1596 Biddle Rd.
Medford, OR 97504

Monday - Saturday 10: - 6:

CLOSED:
November 26
December 25 - 27
January 1 - 3

[541] 608-7722

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It's an Experience.

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20% OFF

All "Bernina"
Machine
Needles

With coupon
Oct. 17 - Nov. 7, 2009

Guest Teacher: Mary Lou Nall

Mary Lou Nall has traveled the country from her home in Pensacola, FL for nearly 40 years. A popular teacher at Bernina University, she specializes in teaching the use of their accessories for time-saving and quality results. She also teaches heirloom techniques at the Martha Pullen School of Sewing in Huntsville, AL. An experienced educator, she offers her vast knowledge in a fun and accessible manner.

Heirloom Effects: This lecture/demonstration covers the essentials for getting an exquisite hand-look with the ease of a sewing machine. Learn about many lace applications and several entredeux techniques.

Thursday, October 8th, 10:00 - 12:00 at the Hampton Inn
Fee of \$35. includes a complete instruction book and DVD

Favorites Old & New: This lecture/demonstration includes many favorite accessories - some of our oldest and some of our newest - to achieve both practical and decorative results for garments & home-dec.

Thursday, October 8th, 2:00 - 4:00 at the Hampton Inn
Fee of \$30. includes a complete instruction booklet

Payment is required at time of sign-up. Because of the costs incurred with providing this type of event we can not offer refunds unless we are able to fill your space prior to the day of class.