

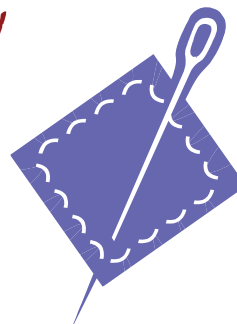
TOP STITCH

Volume 14, Issue 3

Autumn 2011

What's New Now

As I write this we're driving under the overcast skies of Washington State on our way back from the APWQ (Association of Pacific West Quilters) show. I'm always amazed at the diversity of creative expression amongst quilt artists and visiting a show like this helps to re-invigorate the imagination and passion for our craft. While exploring the exhibits I noticed certain trends that seem to be prominent within the community.



First there was a vast amount of micro-quilting - or the art of putting the most amount of stitches in any given square inch. This was generally accomplished with machine work and was used to highlight alternate patterns of quilting and/or to create raised areas as in a Trapunto effect. It was also the skill most often demonstrated at the longarm booths - which reminded me you generally only need 6" of working space to accomplish!

This leads to the second trend: 3-D (no special glasses required). From multiple layers of fully turned mini-quilt sections to massive amounts of embellishments, raised dimensions were all the rage. Peek-a-boo holes, fabric tea-bags, stuffed appliqués, piped edges, buttons, snaps, beads and fibres; anything that could raise details off the surface was richly on display

Finally - as appropriate - were the distinctively shaped borders. On traditionally styled quilts there were curves and scallops like Victorian picture frames. Modern, abstract quilts used similarly abstract (anything but square) edges. Themed, pictorial quilts incorporated those themes into the borders (such as in the wood slats of my "Everyday Barns"). My favorite was a painted border of woodland mushrooms, shaped and turned to the outline surrounding a Fairy scene. Whatever the purpose, borders were definitely not just an afterthought.

As far as the newest fabrics, they've been arriving at **Top Stitch** weekly. Our Spring trip was to the trade show where we previewed the latest prints 'on paper'. Some were made up in sample batches called 'strike-offs' which designers use to verify the dyes and to make up quilt ideas. We've brought in the whole line of **Moda's "Hometown"** (by **Sweetwater**) which captures this year's subdued but fresh palette of grey with soft golds, country reds and farmhouse blues. You'll also find several quilt patterns specifically designed with this collection. To fill your many requests, we've also added a great deal of whimsical baby and children's prints. And as always, Christmas sewing is upon us; we've got several racks full, so 'tis the season to see what's new now.

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Top Tips

- To make perfect scallops use a Teflon Scallop Pusher in the same size as your scallop ruler in order to press quickly and precisely. (Both items available at Top Stitch in 3 sizes.)
- Most quilt shows require a 4 inch hanging sleeve across the top of your quilt, with about 1" exposed on each side. Making a coordinated sleeve while you're finishing the quilt keeps you from having to rush adding one at a later date.

Quilting with Bernina

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. Karen instructing.

Fee: \$15. (plus basic supplies)
(*Top Stitch Purchasers of BSR machines special price \$7.50*)

Wed., October 26, 1:00 - 4:00

Sat., November 12, 10:00 - 1:00

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**

Tues., November 8, 1:00 - 2:30

Tues., Nov. 29, 10:30 - 12:00

BERNINA CLUB

BERNINA CLUB introduces you to projects and techniques selected by **BERNINA** National instructors. We incorporate their recorded presentations with our own in-person instruction lead by Karen, who will demonstrate while answering all your questions. You'll then have a chance to sit in front of our machines and make sure you understand how to accomplish the skills before you go home and put your new knowledge to work. You will also receive a CD that contains hand-outs and additional project instructions.

Each session will be from 1:00 - 3:30 at Top Stitch

Thursday, October 6 Hold on Tight Handbag: One great pattern paired with fine sewing techniques will give you the purse wardrobe you need for all occasions. Change the decorative effect to match the mood.

Thursday, November 3 Vest Dressed: Create a simple vest but customize it for your personal style. Whether recycling fabric from a previously loved garment or starting anew, this easy to fit accessory will meet many of your fashion needs.

Thursday, December 8 Little Luxuries: Around the world or just around the corner, travel in style with a few well selected packing organizers to make you feel at home wherever you go.

Fee: \$10.00 per session

Space is extremely limited!!! You must pay in advance.

Class Policies:

Space is limited; as a courtesy to others, please inform us immediately if you need to cancel (there may be others on a waiting list)

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 additional times at no extra charge.



You can always find a copy of this newsletter at [www.](http://www.TopStitchBernina.com)

TopStitchBernina.com

(Look for the next issue after January 1)



Remember to check the **HELP DESK** for our most common fixes for your sewing mishaps.

These classes are complimentary with purchase of a machine from TOP STITCH.

In order to provide more choices and opportunities for you to attend, this Season we are grouping ALL BERNINA models into the same classes.

Choose one of the options listed below then call or come in to reserve your space (pre-registration is required).

SEWING MACHINE USAGE (for ALL BERNINA Models)

- Saturday, September 24, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 12, 1:00 - 4:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, October 22, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Saturday, November 5, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 9 and Thursday, November 10, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Monday, December 5 and Tuesday, December 6, 1:00 - 4:00 pm (both days)

EMBROIDERY USAGE (for ALL BERNINA Embroidery Machines)

- Thursday, September 29, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- Saturday, October 1, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 25, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Monday, November 14, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

SERGER USAGE (for ALL BERNINA Serger Models)

- Saturday, October 29, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 1, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)

When you Buy a **BERNINA** at **TOP STITCH** the following services are 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 general cleaning or maintenance on the machine purchased.

TOP STITCH



BERNINA⁺

1596 Biddle Rd.
Medford, OR 97504

Monday - Saturday 10: - 6:

CLOSED:

Saturday,
October 15th



Thanksgiving,
November 24



December 24 -
December 26
December 31

541-608-7722

Toll free 888-608-7722

topstitch@qwestoffice.net

25%

OFF

SCANFIL

Organic

100% Cotton Thread

With coupon

Thru 9/30/2011

FREE

Roller

Tote

With purchase
Of BERNINA
635e or 640e

While supplies last

Thru 9/30/2011

NEW NOW:

100% Cotton ORGANIC THREAD

Made in the Netherlands in many contemporary colors perfect for machine and hand quilting.
50 wt., extra long staple on natural wood spools!

Pearl Crown Rayon from YLI

Wonderful for reverse bobbin-work and couched finishes by machine, as well as wrapped edges (such as on napkins) using your serger.

Scallop Rulers with Matching Pushers

Press PERFECTLY - and quickly - every time.