



Creative Living
with
Sheryl Borden
6000 Series



Sewing & Fashion Section I

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Sewing & Fashion

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Due to the size of this section, it has been separated into two sections in order for it to be downloaded more quickly. For instance, “Basics for Machine Piecing Precision” is in Section I on page 3, whereas “Creating Kaleidoscopes Using Large Print Fabric” is in Section II on page 10.

Basics for Machine Piecing Precision

SEWING TEST FOR ACCURATE 1/4" SEAM ALLOWANCES

The success of your quilts depends upon precise 1/4" seam allowances. It is a good idea to test your seam allowances.

TEST: Cut four rectangles that measure 1 1/2" x 4 1/2". Sew them together along the long edges. Press the seam allowances to one side. The finished piece should measure exactly 4 1/2" square. If it does not, adjust your seam allowance and repeat the test.



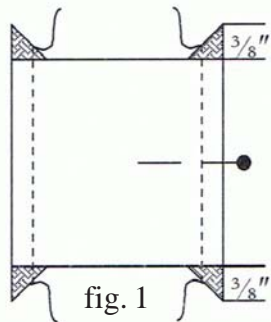
PIECING PRECISION FOR SQUARE WITHIN A SQUARE UNITS AND SIMILAR UNITS

If you have had trouble with pieces fitting in the past, it could have been because you eased the corners to meet the stitching line. When you do that, you are robbing valuable seam allowance from the next seam.

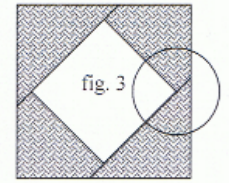
Match the center of the long edge of the triangle with the center of the side of the square. Pin. The tips of the triangle will extend 3/8" beyond the edges of the square as shown in figure 1.

Stitch. Press the seam allowances toward the triangle. Repeat on the opposite side of the square (fig. 1).

Sew the remaining triangles to the last two sides of the square. **NOTE:** This time the pieces will meet at the seam line (fig. 2). Press the seam allowances toward the triangles. Trim the dog ears.



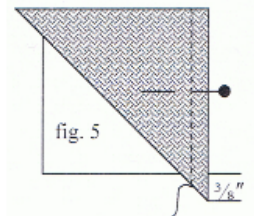
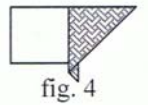
Following the steps above will leave you with a perfect square with straight edges and a 1/4" seam allowances beyond the intersection of the stitching lines as highlighted in the circle on one side of the unit in figure 3.



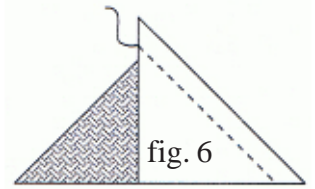
Do you want to make a sample Square Within a Square unit? Cut and use the following pieces:

- Cut one square 4 3/4" for the center.
- Cut two squares 3 7/8". Cut each of the 3 7/8" squares into half-square triangles, four triangles total.

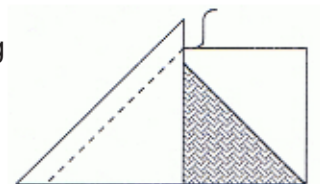
Here is a slight variation. If you are sewing a half-square triangle to a square as shown in figure 4, align the square, 90° corner of the triangle with a corner of the square. See figure 5. Again, the tip of the triangle will extend 3/8" beyond the opposite end of the square.



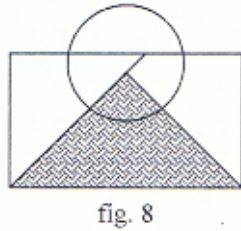
Here is another similar application of this information. If you are sewing two half-square triangles to a quarter-square triangle as in making a traditional flying geese unit, align the 45° corners of the quarter-square triangle and the first half-square triangle. See figure 6. The second tip of the half-square triangle will extend 3/8" beyond the square corner of the quarter-square triangle.



Add the second half-square triangle to complete the flying geese unit. Again, align the 45° corners, and let the opposite tip of the half-square triangle extend beyond the top of the unit (fig. 7).



The top of the flying geese unit will be straight, and there will be an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance just like when making the square within a square unit. See figure 8.



Cut one square $2\frac{7}{8}$ ". Cut the $2\frac{7}{8}$ " square into half-square triangles, two triangles total.

Add this information to your "tool box" of skills and use it as you continue your journey to becoming a better and more confident quilter!

Do you want to make a sample Flying Geese unit? Cut and use the following pieces:

Cut one square $5\frac{1}{4}$ " for the center. Cut the square into quarter-square triangles, four triangles total. Only one is used for the unit, but without using a specialty tool or template, you must cut four quarter-square triangles.

COURTESY: Debbie Caffrey
Debbie's Creative Moments, Inc.
www.debbiescreativemoments.com



Double Green Shopping Bag



This bag is "double green" because it not only dispenses with the unnecessary plastic bags from the store, it re-uses blue jeans. Just think, every time you use this bag you will know that there are two less pair of jeans and thousands less plastic bags in a land fill.

The Double Green Shopping Bag is so much fun to create. It makes a great excuse for a party. Invite your friends to bring their old jeans and get together for a Double Green sewing bash! Price \$9.95. Available from Janet's website.

COURTESY: Janet Pray
Islander Sewing Systems
www.islandersewing.com

Denim Purses

Riveted Purse

Here's a unique pouch purse that shows off some more of those jeans labels from your favorite denim brands. The Texas Star rivets are easy to install and can be used with various colors in the center.



1 Use pattern (in Barb's book) to cut four purse sides. Cut a 10 1/2" circle for purse bottom. Cut interfacing for each piece 1/2" smaller than pattern and fuse. Cut four diamond shapes from contrasting denim using large diamond pattern. Center jeans labels on large denim diamonds and stitch around labels.



2 Center small diamond pattern in center of each purse side and mark all four points. Connect lines and cut from center of diamond to each point. Fold fabric to inside and pin to form diamond opening. Center label behind opening, pin, and stitch 3/16" outside opening. Repeat on all four sides of purse.

3 Follow manufacturer's instructions to install concho and rivets on each of the four purse sides, with center of conchos 1" away from each side of diamond (2 conchos on each side of purse).



4 Stitch purse sides, right sides together. Finish with reverse flat felled seams.



Difficulty Level: Moderate

Materials

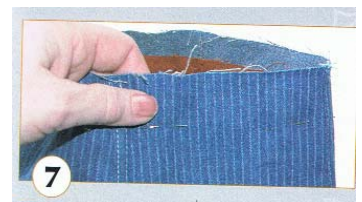
- Pinstripe denim (or denim of your choice)
- Four jeans labels
- 4 pieces contrasting fabric (3 1/2" x 4 1/2")
- 1/3 yd. fabric for lining
- Iron-on interfacing
- 8 Conchos
- 8 Turquoise rivets (7 mm)
- Decorative rivet setting kit
- 36" leather lace
- 2 draw-string toggle cinches
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- Thread
- Hammer

5 Stitch purse bottom to purse, right sides together. Trim and clip seam.

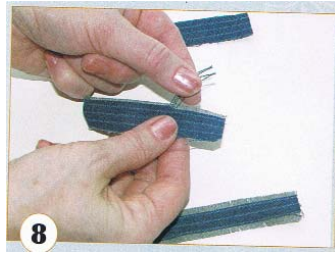
6 Use pattern to cut lining pieces. Cut a 10" circle for the lining bottom. Stitch side pieces together and stitch them to lining bottom using zigzag seam finish on all seams. Turn wrong side of fabric to outside and push lining into purse.



7 Pin lining to purse 1" below top of purse. Turn top edge of purse under 3/16" then turn again to cover raw edge of lining. Stitch 1/4" from edge where lining meets purse inside the purse.



8 To make tabs, cut 8 pieces of denim 3/4"x 3 3/4." Fray edges 3/16" on each side.



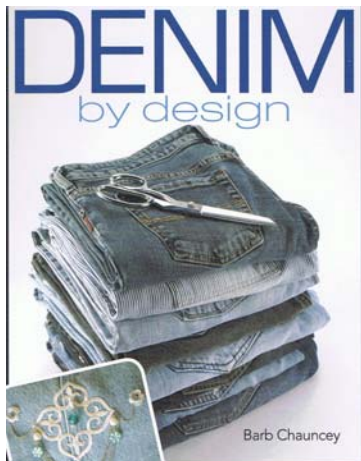
9 Turn tab ends under 3/8." Pin tabs to purse top, 1" from each purse side seam. Stitch through all thicknesses, catching ends of tabs on outside and inside.



10 Cut leather lace in half and thread each through four tabs at top of purse. Push leather through drawstring toggle cinches. Tighten to close purse. Tie a knot halfway between end of laces and purse to create handle.



For more purse patterns, check out Barb's book "Denim by Design."



COURTESY: Barb Chauncey
A Barb Chauncey Design
www.picsbook.com

What is Cotton Theory™ Quilting?

Cotton Theory quilting is a new and different way to construct your quilt. It's backward!

Unlike traditional quilts, which are pieced together, layered with batting and then quilted, Cotton Theory projects are quilted first, one segment at a time, and then assembled using Betty Cotton's fold-and-finish procedures.



Most quilters enjoy piecing together the top of a traditional quilt because they can see the design as it takes shape, and the results are rewarding. The actual quilting, however, can be a challenge, especially if your traditional quilt is large. Often, quilting becomes the least favorite part of constructing a quilt.



The Cotton Theory method makes quilting easy, no matter the size of your quilt. You quilt each piece individually before you construct your project, so quilting becomes just as enjoyable as piecing together the design.

You can quilt pieces creatively and accurately to produce completely reversible quilts with decorative stitches and optional machine embroidery.

During Cotton Theory assembly, you sew the raw edges of your quilted pieces together, leaving seam allowances that are folded on the outside of your quilt and then stitched in place using one or more Cotton Theory techniques. This adds an extra dimension to the surface. The result is a reversible quilt that combines sewing, quilting and embroidery, if you choose. You end up with two quilts - one on each side - by constructing one project.

All work is done with a sewing machine; there's no need to do handwork.

It's fast, fun, and completely unique.

COURTESY: Patsy Shields
Sew Better Seminars



Fringe Flowers with the Embroidery Machine

Fringe flowers add additional dimension to embroidery designs. There are several types of fringe flowers that can be made with an embroidery machine.

One type of fringe flower that is the easiest is shown in Illustrations 1 and 2. After sewing all of the design, flip the hoop over. With small sharp scissors, cut away the bobbin thread to the long satin stitches that made the fringe. Don't worry as there is plenty of other stitching to hold one side of the threads in. Brush away the clipped bobbin threads. On the front side of the design, use tweezers to pull the thread loops to the top. Trim any unruly fringe threads on the front side. There always seems to be a few.



Illustration 1



Illustration 2

Another type of fringe flowers is shown in Illustration 3. It is created by cutting each side of the satin stitch bar on the backside creating a short stubby fringe.

These are tiny little things so be patient with them. Trim along each side of the satin stitch bar cutting the bobbin thread even with the fabric. This is a tight area so snip away at them patiently until they are cut. Leave the bobbin stitches and the embroidery thread "fuzz" in the center of the satin stitch bar. Do not brush that off the backside, as it must remain to keep the front stitches in place.

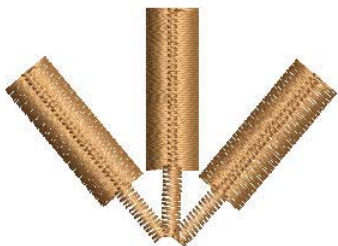
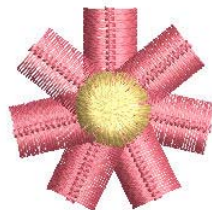


Illustration 3



On the front side, use tweezers to gently loosen the stitches on either side of the satin stitch bar. Gently rake under the stitches. Cutting the fringe this way creates more of a fuzzy fringe rather than loopy fringe like the other fringe flowers.

Trim any unruly fringe threads on the front side. There always seems to be a few.

For an added measure of security add a small piece of fusible interfacing to the back side of the fringe on this second type for fringe flower. I recommend "Fusi Knit" brand fusible because it is light weight, not scratchy, and it stays fused.

To add the fusible, keep the design in the hoop. While adding the fusible to the backside of the work, the concave side of the hoop protects the design from getting crushed during the fusing process.

Insertion Lace Machine Embroidery

Insertion Lace is heirloom designs that can be stitched on most fabrics. The designs require fabric, water soluble stabilizer, and an optional wing needle. They can be sewn all one color or in multiple colors. Ribbon can be woven through the 'lacey' areas much like heirloom insertion lace beading (shown below).



Materials Used

- **Stabilizer** – Recommend one layer Vilene water soluble stabilizer.
- **Fabrics** – Recommend light weight and medium weight cotton. Wovens work best for wing needle areas. Pre-wash and dry all fabrics. Starch and iron all fabrics.
- **Threads** – Embroidery Threads: Recommend polyester embroidery threads but any 40 weight thread works with this approach. I used Madeira Polyneon.
- **Bobbin Thread** - Same thread in bobbin as used in the top for the wing needle and lace areas.
- **Needles** - Size 80/12 Topstitch needle and optional wing needle (size 100 or 120). If you do not have a wing needle use a large jeans needle - it will be just as pretty.

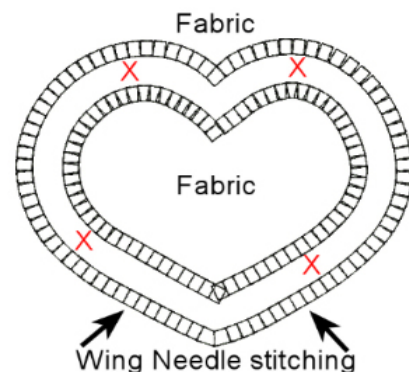
To find out if you can use a wing needle in your embroidery machine please visit the educational pages of the website for instructions. <http://www.laurassewingstudio.com/Educational/Wingneedle/wingneedle.html>

Sewing the Designs

- To sew the design, hoop one layer of water soluble Vilene Stabilizer with 1 layer of fabric. The fabric will be on top.

- Use a balanced tension on the machine.
- The first part of all the hearts are wing needle areas. Use the wing needle or large jeans needle to sew these areas. Once sewn switch back to the regular needle.

Insertion lace requires some fabric removal. After the wing needle areas are sewn, remove the hoop from the machine. Do NOT remove the fabric



from the hoop. Lay the hoop flat on the table. Using small sharp curved scissors, trim away the fabric from between the wing needle areas – the areas marked with a red X in the diagram. Thread snips are not appropriate for cutting fabric. Be careful not to cut the stabilizer or the stitching.

For instructions on how to cut fabric within the hoop please visit the educational pages of the website for more details instructions. <http://www.laurassewingstudio.com/Educational/CuttingFabric/cuttingfabric.html>

Once the entire design is sewn it can then be removed from the hoop and the water soluble stabilizer can be washed out. Use manufacturer's recommendations. Use a towel to absorb the excess water. Lay flat to dry. Using a thick terry towel folded into 4 layers, lay the project face down onto the towel and steam press the project. Please don't press hard or the embroidery will be pressed flat permanently.

Heirloom Insertion Lace Beading – The lace areas of these hearts can accommodate 1/8" or 1/4" ribbon to be woven in/out of the loops. Use a tapestry needle to thread the ribbon through the loops. Secure the ribbon ends on the backside with hand stitching.

**COURTESY: Laura Waterfield
Laura's Sewing Studio**
www.LaurasSewingStudio.com

Hoop N' Quilt

Hoop N' Quilt (H N Q) technique makes an "impossible" quilt possible. Quilt tops that are traditionally challenging to piece are easy to make the HNQ way. Unlike other in-the-hoop quilt techniques, this method does NOT require fusible batting in the hoop, or cutting fabric in the hoop.



The finished quilts are not stiff or bulky in any way. Rather, they lay flat, feel soft, draping like a quilt made with more traditional techniques. What's more, they are wonderful to use as bed covers, lap covers, or sofa comforters, as they drape about you like any quilt in which you would bundle up for warmth. Of course, a sleeve can be added to the backside should you wish to hang your quilt on the wall for viewing.

These full size designs allow you to make quilts for full/ queen/king size beds. However, they can also be made into wall quilts, throws, tablecloths, bedspreads, purses, clothing, or whatever your heart desires.

Quilts made with the Hoop 'N' Quilt technique can be constructed with or without quilt batting. It is a matter of personal choice. Here in Houston we don't get to use quilts often, so one without batting affords me opportunities to truly enjoy my creations a bit more often. Of course, in colder areas a quilt with batting is an absolute. If you are not a quilter this technique can also be used to make a bedspread or tablecloth, vest or jacket, or any other article that could afford a little embellishing.

Hoop 'N' Quilt projects are great travel projects – except of course for flying – as you can cut the pieces sitting at the park, talking on the phone, or anywhere you have a couple of minutes of hands free time.

Hoop N' Quilt draws upon the precision and accuracy of the home embroidery machine to create a series of identical pieces (diamonds, hexagons). There is very little fabric waste. Merely choose the color combinations, sew the pieces with the embroidery machine, cut out the pieces, and assemble them into the layout that inspires you.

Zigzag sew the pieces together. Once assembled, sew the layout to a background fabric, finished bedspread, purse or other ready made project. If making a quilt, sew it to a background fabric. Add batting and a backing fabric like you would for any quilt. Then quilt it to your hearts desire.

For the informed quilter, the notion that creating quilts with hexagons or 60 degree diamonds is challenging comes as no revelation. However, my approach is both quick and simple. If you have ever made or wanted to make your own GMFG, NY Beauty, or 60 degree diamond layout, I hope you'll try my approach. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

COURTESY: Laura Waterfield
Laura's Sewing Studio
www.LaurasSewingStudio.com