



What's Humming?

Current Best Sellers

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Big Foot



A New Twist-Layer
Cake French Braid



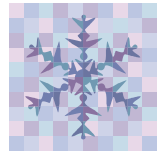
Stars and Stripes



Jelly Roll French Braid

Winter

January 2014



The whole county seems to be having the worst weather this year. I hope all of you are staying warm and safe with all this ice and snow.

Are you sewing, crafting, or just climbing the walls. I know on a warm day, I just want to get out for a little while. I've been busy, but just lunch with friends and a run to the post office is enough some days.

January has been a really busy month for me.

Of course with any business comes all the end of the year paperwork we all hate to do. Still have some tax preparation to do, but it is getting there.

I have also been sewing a

new design. I just finished the quilt and pattern. It is called "Spinning Wheels". The block is actually called "Wheels".

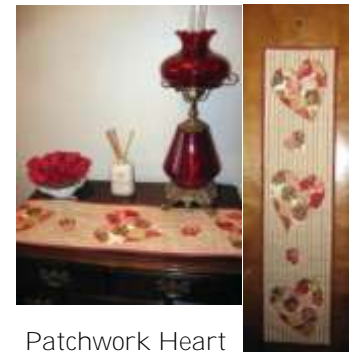
I have a quilt my Mother-in-law, Thelma, did using this same block. It is scrappy and without the sashing I used. I have always liked it though. I'm not sure how old it is, but she passed away in 2007, so it is a mystery I'll never know.



Do you decorate for Valentine's Day? I have a couple of quick projects you still have plenty of time to complete.



Be My Valentine



Patchwork Heart

What's New!

Windsor Lane by
Bunny Hill Designs



Grant Park by
Minick & Simpson



I recently added a lot of fabric to my website. I hope you will stop by and check it out.

Eat Your Fruits n'

Veggies by Pat Sloan



Happy Quilting!



Unique Quilt and Sewing Patterns

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Welcome to Pure Joy Patterns (Pure Joy Designs). **That's me, Sharon McCurdy, in the photo. I have** been creating patterns for a long time, though not as a business. Years ago, I would make clothing using my own designs. Back in those days, I did a lot of machine appliqué, which I still love today.

When I was introduced to quilting, my world changed. I found myself creating patterns and samples for the quilt shop where I **was working. That's when my love of designing and writing (I wrote software manuals as a technical writer), finally came together...and** the rest, I guess you could say, is history.

Everyone always asks where I came up with the name "Pure Joy Designs". Well, my mother's name was Joye. Years ago, my sister and her husband (owners of [Wire Works Custom Jewelry](#)) made **Mom a necklace that read "100% Pure Joye". I always loved the** necklace and decided to use the concept as my company name. Additionally, Pure Joy is a daily reminder of Mom, who passed away in 2007.

Tips & Ideas

Thread Spools:

I passed this tip on a couple of years ago, but for all of you who might be new to sewing, I thought I might show it again.

I have seen so many struggle with getting the thread started on a new spool of thread. If you use spools such as Gutermann or Sulky, this hint will come in handy. A few years ago, they made the spool so the end with the small teeth on it will actually pull out so you can get the end of your thread.

Actually the whole top will pull completely out of the spool. Just stick your nail in the groove and pull out.



The first time it might be more difficult, but it will be easy next time you use the spool of thread. It also works great when you done. Just pull the top up, wrap your thread in the groove and push the top back down. Now the end of the thread is snug as a bug. Never again struggle to find the end of the thread.

Selvages:

I have had a few discussions with various people about removing the selvages from fabric before sewing. Some have told me they never remove the selvage. All I can say, is Please remove your selvages.

Since industrial loomed fabric often has selvages that are thicker than the rest of the fabric, the selvage reacts differently. It may shrink or "pucker" during laundering and

cause the rest of the object made with it to pucker also. If you have **ever made curtains and didn't remove the selvage**, they will never hang straight. The same thing will happen with a quilt.

There are plenty of uses for selvages. There are several books out now showing how to use selvages in making purses, bags or other items.

Here's what I did with some a couple of years ago. It's a latch hook rug. Remember those?

