

Unmarked Free Motion Quilting

Robbi has only one rule about free motion quilting: the lines should be smooth. They can cross, they can wiggle, motifs shouldn't be robotically the same, they should be smoooooth. The key to smooth is to relax and express yourself. If you can doodle with a pen, you can do artful free motion quilting, "Goddess of the Last Minute" style. We'll be practicing on inexpensive felt rectangles in the morning, switching to muslin sandwiches in the afternoon. The felt rectangles are really easy to work with, most people use a sandwich of two. If you don't feel like making the muslin sandwiches, just bring more felt and keep going on those. The supply list is short, you'll be using machine embroidery threads to work on your technique. It's fun and easy to get started!

Tools

SEWING MACHINE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER and with which you are FAMILIAR. Sewing machine MANUAL. Free motion or darning foot for your machine. Extension cord. Sewing machine needles (universal or embroidery) - size 75, 80 or 90, scissors to clip threads, tweezers to remove thread if necessary, small paint brush to clean lint out of machine, pen and paper to take notes and practice drawing quilt patterns; I highly recommend glasses to protect your eyes in case you break a needle and it flies.

If your machine has a knee lift, you should bring it, even if you don't use it that often. I'll show you why it's nice to have.

Materials:

Sixteen or more precut 9" x 12" felt rectangles or whatever the store nearest you sells, bring different colors if you can. I usually buy a pack of felt at one of the craft stores. The felt that comes by the yard doesn't work as well as the precuts rectangles, there is a difference in stretchiness, (I don't know why) One practice quilt sandwich approximately 15 x 15, muslin or other solid fabric for bread (use whatever you have laying around), cotton or wool batting for the "meat." Don't Baste! (or just bring more felt) At least one small spool 40 weight machine embroidery thread, either polyester, cotton or rayon. Bring a spool of variegated thread if you'd like to play with it too. Bobbins can be whatever color you have on hand, but it's easier if they are the same weight as the needle thread. You won't need more than a few ready to go.

Robbi Eklow

robbieklow@sbcglobal.net

7/26