

“There’s plenty of time to start a challenge quilt,” says a quilter. “I’ll get around to it soon. But first I have to finish a queen size quilt for the quilter. It’s due today.”

We may have control in finishing a sewing project but the challenge is in starting a quilt project. “I haven’t wanted to quilt since the holidays when I had to put away my sewing machine in order to make room for company,” confesses my sister. “I have too much fabric to not sew anymore. Maybe if I get out my sewing machine and set it up I will sew again.” She sighs. “I have lots of unfinished projects. Once I start I can sew fast,” she says wishing the machine was up and ready for her to start a marathon sew-in.

Putting metal to the pedal can make you go faster, but only in a vehicle. Putting mettle, your foot down to the floor on the foot control, to your sewing machine can only create frustration. Faster sewing is accomplished by controlling a button either on the control or on the machine. After that the key is “Steady as She Goes” to accomplished machine sewing. You can only sew as fast as your needle dances.

“I thought that I would pull an all-nighter,” says a quilter when learning about the deadline of a quilt project. It could be done if an idea allows the time allotment, and having stamina. You must have stamina to quilt during the “Mister Sandman” hours.

“I find that I do not get any quality sewing done after 9 p.m.,” comments another quilter. “If I sew after that hour I make mistakes and the morning hours are spent un-sewing.” We all know that un-sewing a mistake takes precious time away from creating that Paducah award winning quilt.

Getting a project finished by deadline is also not about pulling an “all-nighter”. For some quilters, seasoned or not, sewing faster is not an option even though there is really no quilting police. Sewing into the night and skidding along sunrise might also heighten un-sewing skills. Mistakes can create happy accidents, though. So a high five goes to all nighters who can cope. Sleeping can be creative for some quilters. New ideas surface as dream channels change from eye twitch to eye twitch. Inspiration comes in many forms. As abstract as dreams can be, modern quilt designs can show signs of mimicking those dreams.

My quilting skills are always ten years behind. Or twenty, maybe. I am just getting fascinated with the “water color look”. A kit has been sitting idle since the millennium. I found it the year before my hair turned gray. The kit was in a quaint quilt shop in the discount bin. It was a good price. I must have been waiting for the right moment to ponder the pattern. There is a covered bridge involved in the piecing. In another decade I am sure that the modern look will catch on to my coat tails. That is when I will find that there is not a gray tone fat quarter of fabric in any quilt shops. It will only be found in second hand stores.

Better buy some now and be ready! On second thought no worries, there is plenty of time.

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