

News and Reviews:
Diane Weeden

QATV Series 1300: This is Pokey Bolton's last hurrah on QATV and, sad to say, it shows. I sat through all 13 episodes and came away with only three segments that really interested me: Catherine Redford's South African folk art embroidery techniques (and we didn't even get to see the quilt she brought!), Candy Glendenning's free motion sampler and the discussion (albeit brief) on colonial dyeing techniques. And truth be told, I can't figure out why the last one was even there!

Series 1300 is stale. There are two too many segments on wool folk art with embroidery (all three by Michelle May whom I am sure is very nice, but really, three segments?); two previously taped segments from long ago; and one segment where Pokey is nowhere to be seen. And maybe I am becoming cranky in my old age, but I don't really give a rip about what a kid thinks the new trends in ethnic fabrics are going to be.

If you haven't seen any of the previous 12 series, I suggest checking one of them out of the Timberland Regional Library. If you have seen previous ones, dial back your expectations...or better yet wait for Series 1400 with the new host.

Angela Walter's three books on free motion quilting: I admit I am a sucker for books on free motion quilting. I continue to suffer under the illusion that all I have to do is read the books and my machine quilting will improve rather than taking the next step and practicing. But if anyone can get me from book to fabric, it's Ms. Walters.

Both "In the Studio" and "Free-Motion Quilting" have valuable information about tackling home quilting projects. "Free-Motion Quilting" is especially useful because it shows schematics on how to quilt the various motifs. (Candy Glendenning free motion sampler from QATV 1300 would be put to good use documenting these motifs.) And "In the Studio" looks at design concepts such as contrast and depth and how they can be achieved through FMQ. Most of the examples in these books are wall hangings and quilts from the modern quilt movement. However, the motifs would work equally well on traditional and art quilts.

She also has a third book out, "Free Motion Quilting Workbook" that was really disappointing. It has about 40 pages of text (big print) that re-hash ideas from the previous two books and about another 40 pages of graph paper. If I bought this on Amazon sight unseen I would be asking for my \$16.95 plus tax and mailing back! I am also waiting to see the fourth book on FMQ motifs for 70 blocks. I am hoping this one will follow the format of "Free-Motion Quilting" rather than the work book. I'll let you know once Timberland sends it to me.