

## Thread ~ Play ~ Learn - Q & A

Text and photos by Cindy Scraba

Sometimes it's good to refresh your memory buttons on THREAD knowledge. With all the modern options available, Thread has become an essential and versatile tool of choice. Each stage of a project requires critical (yet delightful) decisions on "what to thread into your needle". Hopefully these queries, which were prompted by members, will help the next time you're threading up for a creative project!

### Query 1. Can the same Thread be used for top quilting as for piecing projects?

The short answer is "maybe" depending on the project. Typically, quilting Threads are thicker (range of 40 to 50 wt./ 2 to 4 plys) with intention to sit on top of the fabric to be seen and show off the stitching. In contrast, piecing Threads hold a project together (50 wt./ 2-3ply); the seams should lay flat and thus go unnoticed. However, when micro quilting, that technique calls for a finer Thread in the range of 60 to 100-weight rating. The objective is to avoid Thread build up due to backstitching—the opposite of ThreadPlay (photo) when you want layers to build up. (Using cotton or polyester is a personal choice and has been discussed in previous Cinderella Columns.)



### Query 2. Should I use a different Thread in the bobbin than I use on top?

My mini demo project shown in photo employed a 60-weight polyester Thread (Superior Bottom Line™) to reduce bulk underneath—also the preferred method for embroidery designs. The top quilting was done with a 40wt. 4-ply Thread (Superior Magnifico™ & Metallics™ for more glitter) to lay down layers and fill in quickly. Opposite Threads attract and are compatible!

### Query 3. Will the same Thread work for both machine or hand stitching appliqué?

Depending on whether you intend the stitching to conceal or embellish dictates the Thread choice for appliqué. Basically, finer Threads are applied for hand appliqué to camouflage and bury stitches. Thicker Threads embellish and become part of the quilting design and personality of the project. Invisible (Monofilament) Thread is another popular choice for both machine and hand appliqué applications.

### Query 4. Which Thread is best for beginner quilters?

If you're a beginner, it's easiest to enjoy success quilting with higher quality Threads, whether they're cotton or polyester. You get what you pay for. Don't expect high performance on a low budget. You do have



to try Threads to learn what you and your machine prefer. When you're more experienced at trouble shooting with different Thread types, machines and techniques it's easier to introduce new Threads into your repertoire. Quilters dream in technicolour and try to use as many Threads as possible from their stash, whenever possible. It's "sew" great to have all these modern options.

### Query 5. Thread Therapy Helpline?

Reminder: Feel free to E-mail me if you need assistance making decisions on Thread types or compatibility issues or visit my website for previous articles. Some Thread manufacturers have educational references and links on their websites, as well.

This month, I wish to thank members who take the time to contact me with their queries. Often topics (like these discussed here) arise during my Thread Talks as well and become the inspiration for Cinderella's Column. Your queries are important and usually another quilter shares your curiosity. Thank You for asking and ultimately helping others with similar Thread concerns.

Think twice—Thread once! Enjoy your playtime and the learning journey.  
*Happy Stitching Always!*

