



# Micro Quilting! A Primer

by Cindy Scraba, Threaducator

It's always exciting when a new quilting thread is introduced, especially when we've been anticipating its arrival. The timing couldn't be better or a name more perfect than MicroQuilter™. Superior Threads® has been diligently working on its development (upon my recommendation and nagging) for three years. MicroQuilter™ is scheduled to debut at the *Houston Quilt Market*.

## What's so special about MicroQuilter™ #100/2-ply (very fine) polyester thread?

As the name implies, this thread is designed to help quilters achieve a more professional finish to densely quilted areas. It's also great for precise, machine-stitched appliqué and for definition lines to patchwork along seam edges. The trend into condensed quilting continues as more quilts appear in the winners' circle showcasing this freelance style without limits! This technique can now be achieved more efficiently with domestic or longarm machines because MicroQuilter™ is very user friendly (for a fine #100 thread) and is also a super bobbin thread option that will go extra miles before refills. MicroQuilter™ is competitively priced at \$14.95 for a 3,000-yard cone—also good news.

## Which projects are suitable for this extra-fine diameter of thread?

Fibre artists and quilters will appreciate this thread for landscape projects, appliqué, wall hangings, 3D embellishments, miniature quilts and thread play or embroidery. Beginners can experiment confidently in free-motion mode with forgiving results—teachers take note. Any mistakes (opportunities for embellishment) will blend in with neutral shades and you won't be able to detect the boobos!

## Are there advantages to using #100 MicroQuilter™ thread compared to a #60 thread for example, similar to Superior® Bottom Line™ or Kimono Silk™ #100?

The fact is a finer diameter of thread performs well for detailed quilting with almost unnoticeable backtracking. Visualize your finest,



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single-hair paintbrush. It is strong for its size (like filament silk); however, polyester is more economical especially for large quilts.

To obtain answers to these remaining queries on MicroQuilter™, I consulted with the ultimate thread resource, Bob Purcell, CEO of Superior Threads®. He is easily the most experienced educator and a respected leader in the thread industry for eighteen years.

## What is the recommended machine needle size to use with this fine gauge of thread?

Bob recommended Superior® Microtex™ #60/8 or the Topstitch™ #70/12 titanium-coated needles as the preferred sizes for micro stippling to achieve nearly invisible stitches using MicroQuilter™.

**What other considerations will help to ensure successful free-motion quilting experience with MicroQuilter™?**

Compatible bobbin thread choices could be either the Bottom Line™ or MicroQuilter™. Currently the Bottom Line™ has the option of prewound bobbins in 35 colours to match either thread.

**What about colour choices, spool size, or prewound bobbins for MicroQuilter™?**

Initially Superior® is introducing natural blending tones with 30 colour choices and the standard 3,000-yard cone size only. Depending on the market and quilter requests, they will consider adding the smaller spool size and possibly prewound bobbins in the future.

Personally, I realize quilters need and want to have fun and simply quilt! As a Threaducator, it is my mission to encourage quilters to have confidence to use thread types outside their comfort zone. Once you identify what you have in your thread toolbox and which ones play well together, you can add new ones and use them successfully as well. Start with a sample block or perhaps a wholecloth sampler like the quilted images shown.

Both new and accomplished quilters will love this new thread option. If you wish to improve



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your free-motion quilting skills or haven't tried this liberating experience yet, this could be the perfect product to help you move forward. Feel free to browse my website to view the selection of new MicroQuilter™ blendables.

Happy Quilting at any level.💎

**Education & Inspiration**

are the focus of my column, thread talks and workshops.



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Note: CQA/ACC members can request a complimentary MicroQuilter™ Colour Card (available soon) shipped with any order. Be prepared to elevate your free-motion quilting skills (beyond the primary stages) and advance to the next levels with this efficient new tool!

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