

Pat's Calico Cottage Newsletter **December 2008**



Thanks to everyone who donated their time to make the Georgia Quilt Show and Pat's Calico Cottage successful. We could not have done it without you!

National Ovarian Cancer Raffle Quilt Winners

Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets. All of the quilts were made by members of the Pat's Calico Cottage Sales Representatives staff. Each quilt has a label that gives credit to both the piecer and/or quilter.

All of the proceeds from the raffle quilts will be donated to the Georgia Chapter of the NOCC. If you would like to make additional donations, either in time or money, contact your local chapter.

NOCC Raffle Quilt Winners

Catherine Broussard #2
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Laurel McKeith #1
Savannah, Georgia

Mary Greene #3
Tucker, Georgia

Joyce Griffith #4
Hudson, Florida

Jodie Seila #5
Bogart, Georgia

Deb Palik #6
Marshall, Michigan

Mary Ann Evans #7
Reidsville, North Carolina

Colleen Regan #8
Alpharetta, Georgia

Sherry Wood #9
McDonough, Georgia

Joyce Blackwell #10
Fishers, Indiana

Michael & Tonya Hinton #11
West Plains, Missouri

Judith Ladiere #12
Seneca, South Carolina

Mavis Rosbach #13
Jesup, Georgia

Penny McLoughlin #14
Alcoa, Tennessee

Winner Georgia Quilt Show Raffle Quilt designed and made by Regina Carter (Grannymaws Knows Quilts in Jackson, GA)

Pat Jones
Cleveland, Georgia

Meet the Raffle Quilt Makers

#1 Kathi Carter
Quilting by Kathi
Lanett, Alabama

#2 Pat Walker & Mary Holloway
Pat's Calico Cottage
Snellville, Georgia

#3 Pauline Springer
Rocky Top Quilting
Newport, Tennessee

#4 Mary Holloway
Pat's Calico Cottage
Snellville, Georgia

#5 Pat Walker & Mary Holloway
Pat's Calico Cottage
Snellville, Georgia

#6 Lynda Johnson
Easley, South Carolina

#7 Pat Walker & Mary Holloway
Pat's Calico Cottage
Snellville, Georgia

#8 Geraldine Jordan
Gerry's "Lil" House of Quilts
Albany, Georgia

#9 Regina Carter
Grannymaws Knows Quilts
Jackson, Georgia

#10 Mavis Rosbach
Quiltbird Studio
Jesup, Georgia

#11 Pat Walker
Pat's Calico Cottage
Snellville, Georgia

#12 Mary Holloway
Pat's Calico Cottage
Snellville, Georgia

#13 Theresa Ayers
Mountain Creek Quilters
Greenback, Tennessee

#14 Elizabeth Hewitt
Elizabeth's Quilting &
Embroidery
Powell, Tennessee



Tips and Techniques

In every newsletter we try to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

What Needle Do I Use?

We stock and sell SNF 1955 MR Needles (Singer) in 5 sizes and Groz-Beckert Needles SAN 11 in 5 sizes. All needles are \$4.50 per pack of 10 needles or \$3.80 per pack of 100 needles (10 packs). These needles are for longarm quilting machines.

SAN stands for *Special Application Needle*. It is specifically made for multi-directional use, which is exactly what longarm machines need. Multi-directional means more accurate stitching while moving the machine in any direction. The industrial multi-range "MR" needles are stronger and less likely to break when sewing multi-directional and at higher speeds.

Groz-Beckert needles are *Titanium-coated* needles that last longer and run cooler. They are also *extra strength* which equates to maximum flexibility and bending.

The deep scarf on MR needles prevents skipped stitches, less puckering, and less thread breakage.

So Which Needle Works Best with My Thread and the Quilt Material?

Please keep in mind that these are guidelines. Ultimately the type fabric, your machine, and the type of quilting will determine the final size that works best for your machine.

SAN 11 #14 (MR 3.0)

Silks, antique quilts, cotton quilts with cotton batting, tightly woven fabrics, mono-poly threads and some extra long staple Egyptian cotton (#50).

SAN 11 #16 (MR 3.5)

Most cotton quilts with cotton batting. Interchangeable with a MR 4.0 unless you are a very fast hand guided quilter (you could have slanted stitches due to excessive flexing from fast quilting).

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Tips and Techniques.....continued

SAN 11 #18 (MR 4.0)

Most cotton quilts with batting. Best all around needle for most quilts, heavier fabrics, specialty threads (Rainbows 40 wt., LAVA 35 wt., Bottom Line 60 wt., So Fine, Metallics) or heavier threads (King Tut 40 wt., YLI 30 wt., Signature 40 wt.).

SAN 11 # 20 (MR 4.5)

We rarely use this needle but it can be used if you do not have an MR 5.0 readily available.

SAN 11 # 21 (MR 5.0)

These needles have less flex and a bigger eye that cuts down on abrasion and are good for denim, upholstery fabric, comforters with thick batting and some specialty threads (Metallic).

Ballpoint Needles

We do not carry these needles but we can special order them if you quilt looser woven fabrics such as knit. The difference between using a ballpoint and a sharp needle is how it enters the fabric. The ballpoint needle moves the fabric threads aside rather than piercing the threads like a sharp needle. If used on tightly woven fabrics they will push the batting to the backside of the quilt.

Is It OK To Use Polyester Thread In a Quilt?

Some say that polyester thread is too strong and will tear the fabric. If the fabric ever tears as a result of heavy use, most likely it will tear at the seams. The seams are the true stress points of a quilt, not the machine quilted areas. The solution is to piece with cotton thread, thereby matching the nature of the fabric fibers with the thread fibers. This equalizes the stress points of the quilt. Then, use other threads such as metallic, polyester, and 20 or 30 wt. cotton to decorate and enhance the quilt by creative quilting. If a polyester thread is used in decorative quilting, it will not tear the fabric under normal or even heavy use because there is minimal stress away from the seams.

Whether you are creating a showpiece or a daily-use quilt that will be put to the ultimate tests, it is perfectly fine to use quality polyester or non-glazed cotton thread. Which fiber type will last longer? Poly will last a lot longer than cotton. But then, after 80 or 100 years, the quilt has served us well and we should expect some deterioration. What good is a masterpiece that is locked away in an air-tight closet? Quilts should be enjoyed and shared. That's how memories are made!

Training Schedule

The 2009 schedule for Beginner Skill Classes, Creative Studio for the Statler Stitcher, and Maintenance are posted on our web site at www.patscaliccottage.com.

Advanced Skill Class Training Schedule

We are in the process of talking with several different teachers so that we can offer you advanced skill training. We need your feedback before we can book them. Please send us an email or give us a call if you would be interested in a class by either of these teachers. Phone: 770-978-9551

We cannot book these classes unless you let us know that you are interested and willing to commit!

Al Hutchins

Intermediate Creative Studio Training for the Statler Stitcher

This course is designed for the experienced user of Creative Studio to delve deeper into the unlimited capabilities of the program and to expand the students ability to effectively put this program to use. Such techniques as proper placement of boundaries to increase stitch accuracy, using the origin point to maneuver design groups, and getting patterns to conform to odd shapes are taught and explored. We will also spend time in addressing students' questions and problems and work out new and different ways to utilize this program.

Linda McCuean

Advanced Techniques for the Hand Guided Quilter

Linda's whole cloth quilt "Bella" was the winner of the inaugural \$100,000 Quilting Challenge and is recognized as a masterpiece quilt.

What's New in Threads

We now have all the new **So Fine** pastel thread colors from Superior. Thread charts are not yet available.

We have also expanded the number of colors that we carry in **Isacord**. Isacord thread the universal machine embroidery thread for a wide range of applications. Produced from high sheen, top quality trilobal polyester, this thread combines sheen and softness with high tensile strength and excellent color fastness.

Great Holiday Gifts from Gammill.....

NEW ! Magnifier

Sturdy clip construction for easy attachment to machine handles. Can be used for threading, detailed quilting, or performing maintenance. **Cost: \$20.00**

NEW! Cutting Mat

For GS1 10', 12', and 14' ft stands. Flexible and sturdy, great for rotary cutting. Sanded finish with one inch gridlines. Fits perfectly on a 12' table and is easily modified to fit a 10' table. **Cost: \$135.00**



May Peace, Joy, and Good Health Be Yours at This
Holiday Season and Throughout the Coming Year!
Pat and Richard Walker