

Pat's Calico Cottage Newsletter

December 2009

Happy Holidays to You and Your Families!

Pat & Richard Walker

Pat's Calico Cottage

Authorized Gammill & Statler Stitcher Dealer

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2010 Southeastern Statler Retreat February 25 -28

Al Hutchins, Quilter, Teacher, Beta-Tester for CreativeStudio software and the author of the newly released and highly praised DVD "Understanding Creative Studio" and the latest release "Understanding Creative Studio Version 2.0" will be sponsoring a retreat just for Statler Stitcher Owners here in the metropolitan Atlanta area at the Simpsonwood Retreat & Conference Center.

Pat's Calico Cottage will be hosting the event. Not only will Al be teaching but there will be other notable teachers: Tammy Finkler, Kay Oft, and Julie Lawson. The cost of the retreat includes overnight accommodations for 3 nights, 4 half day classes, all meals, nightly events, as well as time on the machines to practice what you have learned in class!

If interested in participating you can download a brochure along with the registration form at www.patscalicocottage.com

Adopt a Hero Program

www.ryanrust.com

Join us in adopting a hero. It is a free service to help people adopt service personnel overseas. They simply make the connection between the adoptee and the service personnel.

How Much Thread Does It Take to Quilt My Quilt?

We often are asked how much thread it takes to quilt a quilt. It depends on the size of the quilt and the type of quilting to be done. The most thread

I've seen used in a quilt is 20,000 yds. (10,000 yds. on the top and 10,000 yds. on the bobbin). It is a beautiful thread painting entitled Precious Water by Hollis Chatelain and this quilt won Best of Show in Houston in 2004.

Everyone's technique is different so the following are only averages. Of course it is possible to use much more or much less thread. These numbers are for the top thread only. Double them if you use the same thread for the bobbin. The three sets of numbers following the size represent LightQuilting/MediumQuilting/HeavyQuilting.

Laptop/Crib size	200 yds./400 yds./600 yds.
Twin size	400 yds./800 yds./1,200 yds.
Queen size	600 yds./1,000 yds./1,600 yds.
King size	700 yds./1,500 yds./2,000 yds.

www.superiorthreads.com

2010 Skill & Maintenance Training Classes

These classes fill up very fast. If interested, please call as soon as possible to reserve your space!

Pat's Calico Cottage 2010 Training Classes				
S= Skill (Handguided), M= Maintenance				
Month	Date	Day	Skill Class	Maintenance
January	21,22	T-F	S	
January	23	S		M
February	10,11	W-T	S	
March	18,19	T-F	S	
March	20	S		M
April	8,9	T-F	S	
May	6,7	T-F	S	
May	8	S		M
June	9,10	W-T	S	
July	8,9	T-F	S	
July	10	S		M
August	11,12	W-T	S	
September	23,24	T-F	S	
September	25	S		M
October	7,8	T-F	S	
November	18,19	T-F	S	
November	20	S		M
December	No Classes			

Creative Studio Classes (Statler Stitcher) are scheduled on an individual basis. Please call studio if interested in scheduling a class.
(770-978-9551 or 888-987-8458)

Cancellation Policy: If you will be unable to attend please give us at least 2 weeks notice so that we can contact someone on our waiting list to fill your space. Thank You

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Upcoming Professional Teachers 2010

Statler Stitcher

Page Johnson will be here August 2010 the 6th through the 9th. Page Johnson is a professional longarm quilter from Minnesota.

Quilting all her life, she began her professional career in early 2003. She works full time for customers and is experienced in both freehand and Gammill Statler Stitcher computerized quilting. Over the years her award winning quilts have gained her national recognition in shows and publications.

Her style can best be described as an "off the wall out of the box" quilter. She frequently states, "Quilting is like cooking, just because you have a stove doesn't mean you can cook. There is also a difference between Macaroni and Cheese and Cheese Soufflé".

She will be teaching a variety of classes in our studio which will improve your skills using the Statler Stitcher. You can go to www.thequiltingpage.com to see some of her work and the free videos that are posted periodically which demonstrate her teaching style.

Hand Guided

No classes are scheduled to date however we would be interested in hearing from you on what your preferences may be.



Cranberry Shortbread Cookies

1 1/4 cups butter, softened
1 cup confectioners/powdered sugar
2 1/4 cups all purpose flour
1 (6-ounce) package Craisins® Original Sweetened Dried Cranberries, chopped*
Preheat oven to 325°F (160°C).

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in the flour, a little at a time, until combined. Stir in sweetened dried cranberries.

Cookies can be made into balls or flattened. To make round cookies, roll dough into 1-inch balls. Place 1 dozen at a time on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 15 to 17 minutes. Remove from sheets; cool and dust with additional powdered sugar.

To make flat cookies, form dough into 1-inch balls as directed above. Using the bottom of a glass dipped in granulated sugar; flatten balls on cookie sheet, making rounds 2-inches in diameter. Bake 12 to 14 minutes. Cool. Makes 6 dozen cookies.

Recipe provided courtesy of Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.



Brief History of the Sewing Machine Needle

It is a little known fact that the needle was one of humankind's first tools. Over the centuries it developed from a simple craft item to the precision tool for modern sewing machines, constantly adapted for new industrial applications and requirements. The use of sewing today does not stop at garments and furnishings, but is equally important for car seats and airbags meeting high technical safety standards. The needle has played a major part in the development of our civilization and our standard of living.

The most ancient sewing needles, which date back to 28,000 BC, did not have an eye but a split end which gripped the thread to be sewn (often raffia, gut or sinew). Needles from later than 17,500 BC already had the two features characteristic of the hand sewing needle today . . . the eye at one end and the tapering point at the other end. They were made from the materials available to human society at the time, for example, bones and antlers.

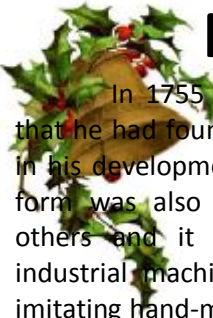
As people acquired skills in working metal materials, needles were also made from metal (Bronze Age approximately 7000 BC), first from copper, later from iron or bronze. Although there is no positive evidence as to the precise design of these needles, excellent pieces of embroidery from the pre-Christian era suggest that they were probably fashioned almost to perfection. Unfortunately, the articles made with these needles were only partially preserved and there are barely any traces of the needles themselves. This is largely explained by the effect of oxidation, which destroys metallic needles after a short time. Even needles made during the 19th century are now rarely found intact.

The invention of the sewing machine gave rise to the development of the sewing machine needle.

The basic form of the hand sewing needle remained the same, though the degree of tapering and the variation of the diameter over the length of the needle were slightly altered in the course of time. In order to be able to make comparisons, one must study the needle from its very point to just below the eye. Although the eye and the point have moved closer together, as the basic functional elements of the needle, they remain unaltered.

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In 1755 a German named Weisenthal thought that he had found the prerequisite for machine sewing in his development of a two-point needle. This needle form was also used later on by Madersperger and others and it is even used nowadays in modern industrial machines for sewing shank buttons or for imitating hand-made seams. An Englishman called Saint used a so-called hook needle or protruding needle similar to today's crochet needle for his machine designed in 1790. Even today, hook needles are used in some single-chain, drop-stitch embroidery (Cornely), saddle-stitch and linking machines. Both types of needles, however, were of little importance for the further development of the sewing machine needle.

Around 1800 Balthasar Krems from Mayen, Germany used a needle, for the first time, which had the eye moved close to the point. One should particularly appreciate this invention because one feature that looks so simple to us today was a sensation at that time. This eye-point needle paved the way for the mechanization of sewing world-wide.

Since then, the sewing machine needle has been developed to the form known today. The needle has accomplished its transition from a hand tool to the precision tool of the sewing machine needle.

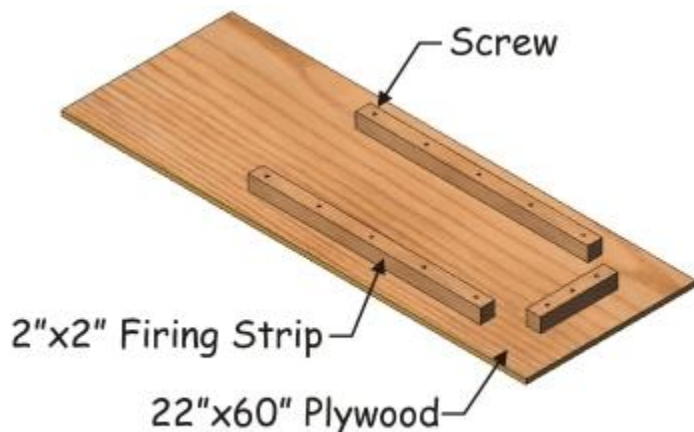
www.schmetzneedles.com



How to Make a Big Ironing Board

Have you always wanted a Big Ironing Board but did not want to pay the high cost of one that is already made. Well here are the instructions on how to make one of your own and perhaps a friend.

We hope you will find this tip useful!



Bottom View

Here is what you need to make your "big board"You will need one sturdy ironing board.

One sheet of 1/2" thick 4'x8' plywood. Have your lumber yard or home improvement store cut this for you. Have them take 36" off one end. The board is now 48"x60". Have them cut from this two 22"x60" pieces. Some places will cut free, others cut for about twenty five cents per cut.

Place your board on top of a sturdy ironing board and trace around where the top of the ironing board touches the plywood. Using 2"x2" strips of wood (called firing strips) you will put one strip on each outer side of your mark. Use screws to hold securely. Place one strip on the broad end. Secure with screws. This will keep your board from shifting.

Cover the top of the board with two layers of cotton batting. Use heavy cotton for your top and staple on to the back side. Then cover the batting with some metalizing material that you can buy at your local craft store. Some actually prefer to use 1 layer of cotton batting and then the metalized material on top.

You now have a big board for you, one for a friend, or one to sell!

These boards are heavy but great for pressing large pieces of fabric and quilts. We also use ours for laying out and pressing blocks.

They can also be set on a table top. You can buy some short wooden legs at your local home improvement store and use them to elevate off a table top.

"Sale"

40% Off Gadget Girl Templates

Fil-Tec Premo-Core Polyester Thread (3000 yd) \$5.00 each

Fil-Tec Magna Glide Pre-Wound "M" Magnetic Bobbins (8 bobbins per sleeve) \$5.00 each

Limited to current stock Only!