

Share your Secrets: Techniques ,Tools and more

Tools:

1. Appliqué scissors by Tool Tron Industries
www.tooltron.com
2. Desk Needle Threader by Clover available at
www.clotilde.com
3. Appliqué needles and between by Roxanne
4. Iron-off hot iron cleaner by Dritz
5. mini iron by clover
www.clover-usa.com
6. Dreamlights BENDABLE LIGHT attaches to sewing machine for intense direct light
www.bendablebrightlight.com
7. www.dreamworld-inc.com sells the customized clear table for your sewing machine
8. Retractable Pull Tool Holder for scissors
www.lacis.com (\$2.75)
9. Bottom Line Bobbin threads as recommended by Libby Lehman www.redrockstthread.com
10. Sewer's aid- a liquid silicone run a linear bead along the side of a difficult thread like metallic.
11. Fiskar micro tip scissors a favorite of many for fine work available at Mapes in Narberth and Joanne fabrics to name just two sources.
12. Joanne recommends Olfa Multipurpose scissors that grip as you cut and assist in less slippage
13. Quilt Halo by Sharon Schamber
www.sewforless.com \$21.99
watch a utube on this item and change your machine quilting life forever!

Tips:

Debbie shares:

1. A fabulous lightweight fusible recommended by Paula Nadelstern as a replacement to Touch of Gold:

Steinlauf & Stoller

239 West 39th Street

Toll Free: (877) 869-0321,

(212) 869-0321-2;

www.steinlaufandstoller.com,

Open Monday to Friday, 8-5:30

Thread, zippers, tools, shoulder pads, etc.

I buy the featherweight fusible interfacing

(CL-FW) that enables me to play nicely with silks at

this notions distributor; \$30.00 minimum for mail orders.

2. The best silk thread is Tire Silk Thread available at comes in 175 colors from www.silkthings.com and if interested in 5 of the same color can be purchased wholesale through Debbie (\$4.50 per spool or 5 for \$2.25 wholesale

3. Use a doctor's hemostat to grab needles that are stubbornly resisting pulling though your quilt

4. Debbie's favorite batting is Quilter's Dream and you can buy yardage (as wide as 90") at Granny's Den in Glenside

5. A guild member suggested when using a Bernina you don't have to change your presser foot to a 1/4 inch foot. Using your straight sewing foot (#1 or #34), move your needle position 3 clicks to the right. The edge of that presser foot is now 1/4 inch from the needle. I don't know if this applies to any other brand but it saves me a lot of time and holds the fabric in place very well.

6. Judy F. shares that she has been doing some of the exercises in ART QUILT WORKBOOK by Jane Davila and Elin Waterston "It is very helpful for non artists like me who have no background in color and design and just go by the seat of our pants."

7. Robins suggests using small metal containers from gum/mint for disposable sharps. She likes the altoid containers for old olfa blades.

8. Joanne Nolt shares:

When I make the wall hanging for the church, knowing they will hang

for their life I use felt for the batting. I am hoping it will hold the shape longer than a regular batting would. Time will tell.

I always use an inner wire structure for the dolls to help them hold their shape

9. Eileen and Robin recommend Carol Heisler to machine quilt your quilt

10. A handy tool to assist in pushing fabric through the machine is a dental implement

11. The mesh material used around flower stems can be recycled to put around slippery thread that assists in better storage

12. Terry's tip based on her experience as originally a new quilter.. join a guild that has talented people with a generous heart... like Heartstring

13. A "green" suggestion by Bonnie is to recycle free frig magnets and insert (glue) them into flat packets or a container (like from birth control pills) to be then used to hold pins, needles and even a small scissors.

14. Janet shared the idea of recycling the cardboard insert to a bolt of fabric by covering it batting and muslin to make a portable ironing surface located tight next to your machine for those small block ironing using your time and energy more efficiently

15. Robin suggested a similar idea using a small snack table and covering it in the same way to create a ironing surface wherever you need it

16. Karoline suggested placing a clothespin bag near your machine to catch your thread and trash from sewing. Also if you lay a piece of batting on your shoulder it can be used to catch those scraps and threads

Techniques:

From Eileen

1. When I start to cut pieces for blocks... knowing that the blocks may not be assembled until a later date, I use 9" X 12" sheets of paper and put the component pieces for each block together... each on its own sheet of paper... then the papers get stacked... one on top of each other... to the left of my sewing machine. This eliminates the chance that pieces will get mixed up or lost. I keep my pattern nearby for reference and when I'm ready I assemble my blocks... one by one... without having to actively think about searching for the component pieces when I start to sew my blocks. I can scribble notes on the sheets of paper without worrying that they'll get misplaced. No more pins. No more post-it notes.

2. Rows of baskets keep my fabric organized and easily accessible on my storage shelves. When planning a new project it is easy to generate new fabric combinations by sorting and redistributing the fabric pieces into different baskets.... and still keep my studio clean enough to work in.

3. Margo has a technique to make your fabric look like chenille which she will be sharing at a future workshop... in the meantime if you cannot wait contact her directly margoclyma@comcast.net

4. Cindy offered some basic design strategies especially when adding a border. Make use of your digital camera to capture the quilt and view it from many different angles as well as to look at it in black and white to help deal with value challenges.

5. Another design idea offered by Karoline, especially when dealing with a quilt too big for your design wall is to take a digital picture of it and using Photoshop cut out the block and then play with laying it on different backgrounds, manipulating it making

different versions till you find the one you like.

More:

Great Fabric stores in New York City can be found listed on www.paulanadelstern.com.

My favorites are:

B&J

525 Seventh Avenue,
between 37th and 38th Streets,
2nd floor
(212) 354-8150,
www.bandjfabrics.com
Open Monday to Saturday

Mood

225 West 37th Floor,
3rd & 4th floors
(212) 730-5003,
www.moodfabric.com
Open Monday to Saturday

NY Elegant Fabrics

222 West 40th Street
(212) 302-4984
NYElegant@aol.com

Ayazmoon Fabrics

235 West 40th Street
(212) 869-3315,
ayazmoon@aol.com
Open seven days a week

Handloom Batik

518 Hudson Street
Hudson, New York

518-828-2205 as a source for beautiful batik fabric. The owner is Oosha cost \$18.00 per yard. No online ordering but you can order over the phone or usually find her at conferences like Lancaster

Tender Buttons
143 E. 62nd St.at Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10065
212-758-7004

Favorite websites:

www.fabric.com

www.sewthankful.com

www.fabricdepot.com

<http://www.stencilsonline.com/graphic.html>

You can specify design, type, size, etc. and they custom cut a stencil for you. I ordered one to use as a quilting pattern but I imagine you could also get them custom cut to use for surface design as well.

www.Spoonflower.com a source for custom made fabric. Check with Lauren for more information about her experience with them

Books:

1. Good book for beginner quilters recommended by Martha: "Quilter's Catalog: a comprehensive resource guide."

2. Fun to listen to audio book "The Master Quilter" by Jennifer Chiaverini