

Sewing Repair Solutions

David Norman
214-693-5931

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Several of our customers are wanting to or are struggling with "Free Motion Quilting"

You can quilt on your domestic sewing machine, but there are some steps and considerations to understand.

First, you must be able to drop your feed dogs OR cover them depending to how mechanical your machine is. Linda's Old Elna Super had a little plate you had to clip over the feed dog area, since the feed dogs would NOT lower. The feed dogs CAN NOT be engaged while free motion quilting – that would prohibit your free movement of the fabric sandwich.

You are making a "Sandwich" - Your Quilt Top and Your Backing – with a Batting (such as warm and natural) in between. I would highly discourage any type of thicker polyester batting – it's too fluffy for most of the machines out there even when using a Walking foot and could bunch up the stitching. You want your finished project to lay flat. Don't make it harder on yourself by using fluffy batting. You may use any brand of "Quality" top and bobbin thread.

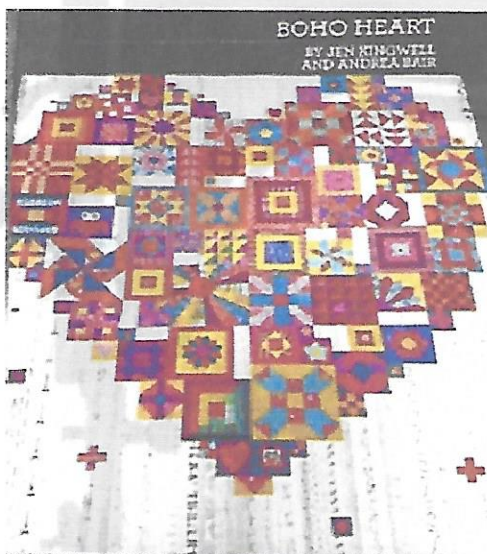
A DARNING FOOT – which is a spring-loaded foot – (you can see the spring on the neck of the foot) is the preferred foot for all free motion quilting. Also wear a pair of "Quilting Gloves" so your not having to GRIP the fabric. You want your fabric to lie flat during this entire process and gloves make it MUCH easier to move the fabric as you are sewing.

Free motion involves moving your fabric while it stitches – you must be able to move in all directions to meander across the fabric - very Free Motion - much like a river flows on a map. Keep your fabric moving at a constant speed (this is VERY important) to make your stitches consistent. Sometimes listening to music with a strong beat helps.

Some machines have a push start and stop button – you can use that OR if you are more comfortable, use the foot pedal. Either will work, but both methods take practice to keep consistent stitching.

Starting in the upper right hand corner and move slowly over the entire face of the fabric in flowing, smooth stitches. If you have a heavy foot – move the fabric faster just keep a steady speed. You want uniform stitch length throughout.

Be patient and Practice on scrap sandwiches until you feel comfortable doing a real project. **Good Luck & HAVE FUN !!**



SwanHaven Fabrics and Plants

Come join our "Sew-a-Long" starting January 2025 with Jen Kingwell's popular Boho Heart Pattern.

We are also offering a "Custom Sneaker Workshop" the first two Saturdays in December.

Call the store for more information
469-759-6447 or 214-232-5878

Beginning November 1st our New Store Hours will be
Wednesday Thursday Friday 11-5 -- Saturday 10-4
Closed Sunday - Monday - Tuesday

Come see us -- 1134 S. Cedar Ridge Dr. Duncanville

Email :
sewingrepairsolutions@gmail.com

Website :
www.sewingrepairsolutions.com

PO Box 541463
Grand Prairie, TX 75054

