

TIPS & TRICKS

What is bobbin thread?

Bobbin thread is a fine thread intended only for use in the bobbin during embroidery. It is not a strong thread, so don't use it for regular sewing. This very fine thread reduces the build-up of thread under your embroidery, reducing bulk, and making your design softer.

Pre-wound disposable bobbins are a great value because the thread on them is so fine that a lot of it fits on the bobbin and they last a long time. Pre-wound bobbins are available at all Meissner store locations.

Viking owners can go to www.husqvarnaviking.com, USA, Education, Tips and Hints, to get a tip sheet for pre-wound bobbins.

Bernina Presser Feet Tutorials

If you or a friend has an older model Bernina machine (all the way back to the 530 in 1954) you can use most of the presser feet that owners of the new Bernina machines can. Do you know all the feet available for a Bernina sewing machine? Go to www.berninausa.com, click on Products, Accessories, Presser Feet and then you have the option of printing out a list of all Bernina accessory feet. You can click on the video option to see how to use any Bernina accessory foot, or search for a specific accessory foot for your Bernina machine. If the foot you want for your machine is not available at the Meissner store nearest you we will be happy to order it for you.

Brother sewing and embroidery machine owners

Take advantage of the many features and functions of Brother's top-line sewing and embroidery machines by exploring Brother's Embroidery Design Library. Expand your artistic reach by sampling from a potpourri of designs ranging from flowers to flags to seasonal decoration. It's



simple, it's easy, and best of all – IT'S FREE! With new patterns introduced monthly, you'll want to check back often. Stay one step ahead, with Brother. To download your FREE designs and stitches go to BrotherSews.com and under the Design Studio tab on the left side of the screen click on Free Designs and Stitches.

What is Sashiko?

Sashiko, literally “little stabs”, is a very old form of hand sewing using a simple running stitch, primarily on plain indigo-dyed cloth, as a form of decorative reinforcement stitching from Japan and China. Traditionally Sashiko is stitched without a hoop, stitching through multiple layers of fabric with a stitch count of 5-8 stitches per inch. Whether using traditional sashiko thread, crochet thread, Perle cotton, or four strands of embroidery floss, it is important to keep the stitches as even in length and regular as possible. Stitches of unequal length are easily noticed. Most patterns are simplified representations of things found in nature. A distinctive element in all sashiko patterns is the use of space—Japanese designs especially make full use of blank or “negative space as an integral part of the overall pattern.



Today, sashiko is used primarily as a decoration on items such as curtains, table cloths, clothing, and accessories.

Florence Fong is offering a 2-part class, Sashiko by Machine, at the Sacramento store (M675A) July 22 and 29. Look for a class description on page 10 of the newsletter and discover just how easy it is to master this technique in a fraction of the time the traditional technique takes.

Fish is the third of a three-volume CD collection by acclaimed Japanese artist Kiyomi Osawa. Her work is unlike any other machine embroidery; a result of her unique technique which uses an embroidery machine to literally paint her subjects in thread. As a result of her technique, her subjects seem to come alive on the fabric. The effect of her singular artistry is stunning.

There are 12 designs in all, each more beautiful than the last. The wonderful art of thread painting has arrived! Call the Meissner store nearest you to order this design card.

Tied up in knots

Do you wax your thread, twist your needle while sewing, or try any number of tricks to cut down on thread that wants to knot while you are hand sewing? This little trick may solve all your problems. We all know that thread has a nap and we are supposed to thread the needle with the tail that comes off the spool. Instead of folding the thread in half and knotting the two tails, cut a second length of thread and feed the two ends through the eye of your needle. The nap of the two lengths of thread will be going the same direction and not fight each other the way the thread does when you fold it in half and knot the two ends.