

Fiber-Art Cards the Wendy Hill Way



Wendy Hill, author of five books, including her latest with Pat Pease "*Creative Quilt Challenges*" © 2016.

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by Wendy Hill, Coauthor of *Creative Quilt Challenges*



What I Used

WHAT FABRICS I USED:

Assorted cotton scraps (sometimes felt is used for the animals).

WHAT THREAD I USED:

[Sulky 30 Wt. Cotton Blendables®](#)

WHAT SUPPLIES I USED:

- 4-1/4" x 6-1/4" piece of batting or flannel (see options on page 3, #2)
- 4" x 6" piece of fast2fuse® Interfacing
- card stock (or other material) postcard back, cut 4" by 6"
- [30 wt. Sulky Cotton Blendables®](#) for the satin stitch edge finished
- 12/80 Jeans or MicroTex*
- Silicone non-stick sheet for fusing

**Sulky recommends a 14/90 Topstitch needle with 30 Wt. thread, but the 12/80 is what Wendy uses and recommends. Results can vary by machine. So, should you experience any shredding or breakage on your machine, you may want to upsize the needle.*

Project Overview

Early on with my first postcard in 2008, I perfected a satin-stitch edge-finish that I came to use on some quilts. I learned right away that Sulky® 30 wt. Cotton Blendables® is the only thread to use. I designed my own 4" by 6" postcard back the old fashioned way: with actual cutting & pasting and deckle edge scissors and glue stick. My local photocopy shop reproduces the image (2 per page) and cuts them apart for an easy and affordable professional result. For the postcard "middle", I always use a double-sided fusible interfacing called fast2fuse® by C&T Publishing. I use the original thickness of fast2fuse interfacing.

Chinese New Year Animal Postcard Challenge!

1. Look for copyright-free animals or draw your own. Use a photocopy machine to enlarge or reduce the animal to the right size.
2. Use the basic directions below to make your own fiber-art postcard.
3. Upload your photos to your Instagram account. Be sure to use the hashtag *#creativequiltchallenges*
4. Make a collection of all 12 animals! The Chinese Zodiac is a mathematical cycle of 12 animals; each animal represents one year, and people are associated with the animal for the year they are born. The 12 animals are Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.



Fiber-Art Postcards the Wendy Hill Way



(Image 1)

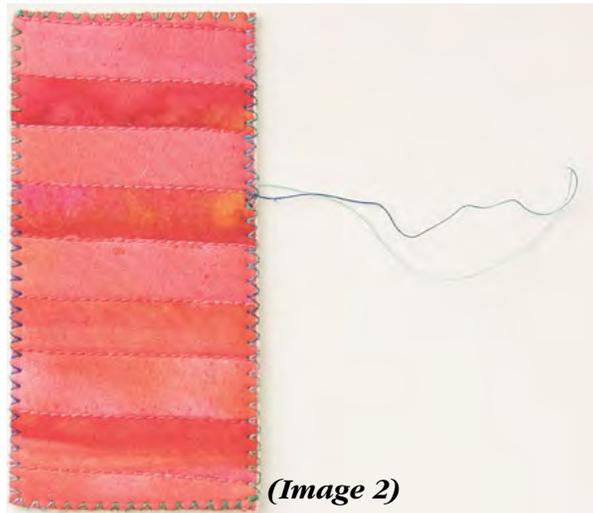
Instructions

1. Create the postcard “front” 4-1/4” x 6-1/4”, which is really just a small quilt top.
2. Layer with batting, and quilt the top to the batting. OR. . .use flannel instead of batting. OR. . .omit batting altogether. OR. . .wait to quilt after fusing to the interfacing. These are just small choices depending on your quilt top that have to do with your preferences. You’ll discover your preferences when you make lots of postcards.
3. “Square-up” the quilt top to 4-1/4” by 6-1/4”. Tip: The extra fabric (trimmed before satin stitching) covers up the white edge of the fast2fuse interfacing in the satin stitching step.
4. Center the fusible interfacing on the back of the quilt top. Place interfacing side down on the Silicone pressing sheet, and fuse according to the manufacturer’s directions.
5. With a walking foot, on the back of the postcard, stitch around the fast2fuse interfacing on the interfacing, very close to the edge of the interfacing. This stitching line shows you where the edge of the post card is on the other side. Use a blending thread color (with the quilt top) in the bobbin.
 - a. Stitch as close to the edge as you can.
 - a. Be consistent. You are “outlining” the postcard on the front.
6. Fuse the postcard back to the fast2fuse interfacing. Double check to make sure both sides are in the correct direction.

TIP: I use a press cloth over the card-stock to avoid smearing the ink. Put the freshly fused post card under a book until it cools off. It makes it really flat.



7. Trim the excess quilt top fabric that is hanging over the edge of the fast2fuse/card-stock back - leaving a skimpy 1/16” bit of fabric beyond the edge.
8. Satin stitch the edge from the front of the postcard. Start along a side (NOT a corner), leaving the tail of thread so you can see where the next 2 rounds begin. **(Image 1 & 2)** Stitch slowly and steadily, making sure the needle skims the side of the postcard.



(Image 2)



(Image 3)



(Image 4)

When you come back around to the tail of thread, change the stitch settings. After the third time around, cut the threads leaving a few inches. With a hand sewing needle, lead the thread down the side of the satin stitching (about 1/2") and cut off.

The “magic” of this satin stitch is found in the way I stitch around the edge three times. If you try to stitch a real satin stitch the first time around, you’ll probably experience pitfalls of humps, bumps or gaps. With my method, you start Round 1 with a narrow width and long stitch length. Each time around, the stitch width is wider, and the stitch length is shorter. (Image 3)

The final round is the desired width and the stitch length is closely spaced, but still not in the official satin stitch setting range on your machine. (Image 4)



TIP: These are the settings for my Bernina 155. Use this as a guide to figure out the settings on your machine. Write it down for future reference!

Round 1: Stitch width 2 and length 2

Round 2: Add 3 clicks to the width and decrease the length by 4 clicks.

Round 3: Add 3 clicks to the width and decrease the length by 3 or 4 clicks.

