



## **Thread Lace Scarf March 8, 2016**

### **Questions and Answers from the webinar**

Hi Sewing Friends!

Thank you so much for joining the Thread Lace Scarf webinar or watching the recording. We hope you enjoyed the webinar as much as we enjoy presenting it to you. This month Michelle Umlauf, National Educator representing Sulky of America and Kelly Nagel, Social Media Manager at Sulky of America inspired you with two thread versions of thread lace scarves. One used the free-motion technique and the other uses the built-in decorative stitches in your sewing machine. Gee Caulder of the Caulder Group shared the story behind The Thread Director and showed you how it works to make sewing with metallic threads much more enjoyable. We certainly enjoy bringing programs like this to you and your support shows how much you like them. If you cannot schedule the webinar into your day, please consider registering anyway. We want to include you in our special promotions and give you access to the instructions, patterns, etc., that are only made available those who register for the webinar, such as this webinar. If you did not register for the webinar in advance, we hope you consider doing so the next time.

### **Thread Lace Scarf**

There were a lot of general questions about the thread, including what size spool was used, where do you put the thread, how much thread was used, and which sewing machine needle to use. Here are detailed answers, tying all of that information together.

A: For this project, we used one king spool of the 12 wt. Cotton Blendables™ Thread and one king spool of the 30 wt. thread. There are 330 yards of 12 wt. thread on a king spool and 500 yards of 30 wt. thread on a king spool.

There was plenty of thread left over; however, I'm not sure there was enough thread to make a second scarf.

Where you position the thread really depends on what your machine likes it best. Both threads can be used in the top or bobbin. However, we do not recommend using the 12 wt. thread in both the top and bobbin at the same time, unless you have tried this and your machine likes it.

Once you know where which thread works best, then wind several bobbins. Michelle used 6 bobbins of 12 wt. Cotton Blendables Thread to make the scarf. She found that each bobbin lasted approximately one-half hour at her sewing speed.

If you threaded your machine with the 30 wt. Cotton Blendables thread, use a 14/90 Topstitch needle. If you threaded your machine with the 12 wt. thread, you will need to use a 16/100 Jeans needle. If the thread breaks, and you are sure you are not pulling or jerking the Ultra Solvy™ stabilizer, use Sewer's Aid™ thread lubricant either on the eye of the needle or run a bead across the spool of thread. If you are unsure about using Sewer's Aid, check with your dealer before using it on your machine.

How long does it take to sew the scarf?

A: In all, it takes about 6 hours to make the free-motion version of the Thread Lace Scarf. Each end of the fringe takes about a half an hour. It also takes another half an hour to sew the grid. Then, it really depends on how large your circles are and how many times you go around each circle. I noticed that a bobbin filled with 12 wt. thread lasted for about half an hour for Michelle.

Would it be advisable to wind several bobbins at the start?

A: Not if it is your first scarf. The most important thing to figure out is where your machine likes which thread. You may find that your machine functions better with the heavier 12 wt. thread in the bobbin vs. the top. Once you know what works best for your machine, then go ahead and wind several bobbins. Michelle said she used about 6 bobbins filled with the 12 wt. thread.

Do you have to backstitch when starting and stopping?

A: It depends what you are sewing. If you are sewing the straight lines, it doesn't hurt to backstitch. However, you really cannot back stitch while doing free-motion sewing. Before you start free-motion sewing, raise the bobbin thread, stitch in place 2-3 times. This will create a small knot and secure the stitches. Once you sew away from where you started, it is safe to cut the thread tails. Also, since the circles overlap, you will probably go over the starting point again, maybe several times. The above applies, if the thread breaks.

Where can I get the instructions for the Thread Lace Scarf?

A: You can download the PDF of the presentation as long as you registered for the webinar. You will get an email from Sulky with the links.

What kind of presser foot did you use for the fringe?

A: You will want to use a presser foot that allows you to see what you are doing. An all-purpose or open-toe appliqué foot are both perfectly fine to use. Many clear plastic feet have marks on them that are very helpful, especially when sewing the fringe. Position the needle so that it matches up with a mark on the presser foot. Use that mark to guide you as you sew over the previous row of stitching.

Can we use Sulky Rayon threads for this technique?

A: Yes, and the scarf will be very soft and drapery. You can use any type of thread you want to make your scarf. We chose to use both the 12 wt. and 30 wt. Cotton Blendables Thread because we really liked the hand of the finished scarf. It's a good idea to make a practice piece to see if you will like the feel of the finished scarf.

Can you make the scarf without the fringe?

A: Yes you can! We just showed you the basics for making this scarf. The possibilities are endless.

Would variegated thread be appropriate for a scarf?

A: We used Sulky Cotton Blendables thread which has random color changes every 2 ½" - 5", which looks and feels beautiful. You could use Rayon variegateds and multi-colors, too. The color changes are predictable and you will get a slightly different look.

How do you wash the scarf later?

A: Wash the scarf by hand or put it in a lingerie bag before putting it in a washing machine set on the gentle cycle.

Do you sew the grid lines on the scarf the same way as the fringe?

A: The fringe was made by sewing on the same line of stitching twice. However, only one pass was done over the drawn grid lines. However, remember to sew around the perimeter of the scarf one more time to make sure all the rows in the

grid are connected. Don't worry that you will be sewing over the same area twice. There are no rules and you won't even notice when the stabilizer is washed away.

Can the scarf be made so that it is more free form?

A: Yes. The grid is the foundation for the scarf. Just make sure everything is connected or you will have holes to patch. Learn how to patch a hole in the scarf in the Ultra Solvy section below. Be sure to practice making a small square first and rinse the Ultra Solvy away to see how it stays together.

Can this scarf be wider than 4 inches?

A: Absolutely. You can make the scarf as wide as you like. For information about how to join Ultra Solvy stabilizer to create a larger piece, look below.

Can I use 2 layers of regular Solvy stabilizer?

A: No, Solvy is not as thick as Ultra Solvy, and therefore, you will not have the stability you need.

Could you use Fabri-Solvy instead of Ultra Solvy?

A: No, because Fabri-Solvy is not as stable. You could use it for the machine-fed scarf.

Have you machine embroidered on them before?

A: We have not. If you try it, please let us know.

Does the scarf shrink because of the cotton thread?

A: Yes, there will be some drawing up with any thread, and perhaps a little more with cotton. It also depends upon how many times you go around the circles and your tension setting.

You use a spring loaded free-motion foot. Is that your choice or have you found it to be the best to use?

A: There are a lot of options when it comes to free-motion feet. Many feet can be purchased directly from your dealer while there are some that are made to fit a variety of machines. I am partial to the spring-loaded, free-motion foot primarily because that is what came with my machine. One of the differences between a spring-loaded foot and a standard free-motion foot is the distance the foot is from

the material. A spring-loaded foot touches the material each time the needle goes down (acting like a little “hoop”) whereas a standard free-motion foot usually does not come in contact with the material. A regular free-motion foot is certainly capable of making a Thread Lace Scarf; however, the stabilizer may pull up and cause some problems. If you want to try a spring-loaded free-motion foot, visit your dealer and see if you can test one before buying it. In fact, take a piece of Ultra Solvy stabilizer and test on it. You will find that you have a variety of choices when it comes to a new free-motion foot. Some have a closed toe, some are open, some have marks for echo quilting, etc. We have found, though, that most machines do better free-motion with specialty threads using the spring-loaded foot.

What can be done to prevent puckering when doing this?

A: You may have noticed that the Ultra Solvy was rippled in the pictures, and that is normal for this technique. With this technique, tension settings are generally not as important as if you were actually doing quilting. However, if the stitches are not forming properly you will need to adjust your tension settings. Generally, you will need to lower the top tension a bit. The beauty of this particular project is that if there is puckering, it is only the stabilizer, it is magically gone when it’s washed away.

Would this work with metallic thread?

A: Yes, you would want to lower your top tension some when using Sulky Original Metallic Thread; more when using Sulky Sliver™ or Holoshimmer™ (flat metallic threads). Reduce your speed and if you are not using The Thread Director, use a vertical spool pin with the flat threads. Be sure that your stitch length is not too short or you will experience breakage. You can also use Sulky Sliver™ or Holoshimmer™ thread in the bobbin on some machines when your machine is threaded with the metallic thread. Or, you can use Sulky Polyester Invisible Thread. (Wind a bobbin very slowly and only about 1/2 to 3/4 full.)

How do you stitch the fringe so close together?

A: See the question above, “Do you sew the grid lines on the scarf the same way as the fringe?” for a detailed explanation as to how to sew the fringe so close together. This is also illustrated in the .pdf of the slide presentation and actual webinar.

Can you use two threads at a time?

A: Yes you can. You can even use one spool of Sulky Blendables Thread with a spool of one of the Sulky metallic threads, or any combination of threads you like.

The Thread Director really makes a difference in working with two threads. You may have to upsize your needle though.

Did you cut the fringe on the stop line so that it is even?

A: No. Once the stabilizer is rinsed away, you probably will not notice that a few strands of the fringe are longer or shorter than the others. In fact, if you cut the fringe, it will probably unravel.

Can you use a zig-zag stitch to secure the fringe threads?

A: You could probably use a very narrow zig-zag stitch together with a straight stitch, but I really think several rows of a straight stitch or a triple-straight stitch will give you the best results.

Can you use different quilting patterns in the scarves?

A: The smaller your grid the better quilt patterns will look. Just keep in mind that once you wash the Ultra Solvy stabilizer away, there will be nothing supporting the thread. I'd recommend making a practice grid and give it a try. The quilt patterns will not remain obvious. They will become "thread lace".

Could I mix the distance between the lines in the grid?

A: Absolutely. There are no rules. We just showed you the basics to inspire you to make more creative scarves. Remember that everything has to overlap each other or you will have holes to patch! Of course, holes can be part of the design, too.

Is there a pattern for the coat or vest available somewhere?

A: There is no pattern, because you can use any basic pattern. The vest shown during the webinar was made using a faux-weaving technique on Ultra Solvy. If you can find the out-of-print book, Sulky Secrets to Successful Embroidery (#900-B15), it has a section devoted to making coats, jackets and vests. There are two methods covered, the grid foundation like you learned during the webinar as well as another technique that uses tulle netting for the foundation. This section of the book contains a lot of useful information about designing, stitching the "fabric" and constructing a jacket, coat or vest.

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## Thread Lace Yarn Scarf

What size needle did you use with the 40 wt. Rayon Thread?

A: When using 40 wt. Rayon thread use a 12/80 or 14/90 Embroidery or Topstitch needle. If you have questions about what size needle to use with another type of thread, visit our website and look for the type of thread you are using. Our website contains a lot of helpful information about our threads and stabilizers.

How do you set the zig-zag stitch to keep it from flattening the yarn?

A: Once the Ultra Solvy Stabilizer is washed away, the yarns will not appear flat.

Can you couch the yarn with metallic threads?

A: Yes. Metallic threads add a beautiful shine to yarns. When using metallic threads, you will need to lower your top tension and insert a 14/90 Topstitch needle. Be sure to use a vertical spool pin when working with Sulky Sliver™ and Holoshimmer™ metallic threads. (Or whatever position keeps the thread flat to the tension area on your machine.)

What is the width of the zig-zag stitch used with the couching foot?

A: The stitch width depends on your yarns. I used a stitch width of 2.0mm. The stitch length was set at 4.0mm. You want it to cover the yarn and the needle should land very snugly on each side of the yarn, not through the yarn.

Is there a particular decorative stitch to use between the yarn?

A: You need to adjust a decorative stitch so that it will catch both strands of yarn. Although we used the honeycomb stitch for this, there are many other decorative stitches that will work. Remember though, that once the stabilizer is rinsed away, the stitches become lacy and do not retain the exact look of the original stitch.

How long does it take to sew the scarf?

A: It takes about 3 hours to make a machine-fed scarf. The more scarves you make the faster you will be able to make them. The free-motion scarf takes longer, probably 6 hours or so.

Can the scarf be washed in the washer, and can I iron it?

A: You can either hand wash the scarf or place it in a lingerie bag and put it in your washing machine on the gentle cycle. When ironing the scarf, be mindful of the heat setting and the type of threads used in making your scarf. Use a press cloth to protect polyester and metallic threads.

Can you use thin ribbon instead of yarn on this project?

A: Absolutely. We just shared with you the basics for making the scarves. At this point you can let your imagination soar and create lovely scarves using different threads, yarns, ribbons and anything else you can think of. Silk ribbons might be too fragile, so do a test first.

How did you get the same distance between the rows of yarn?

A: I used my presser foot as a guide and it helped make each row exactly the same width.

How much yarn do you need?

A: You really can sort of calculate that by measuring the length of your scarf, and multiplying it by the number of lengthwise rows. Then do the same thing for the short rows and add them all together. 15 to 20 yards is plenty for the scarf we demonstrated.

When can you add embellishments or what type is best for adding beads or other embellishments?

A: Honestly, the sky is the limit. You probably don't want to make the scarf overly heavy, but you could couch on heavier threads and then add beads and other embellishments. I would do this after the stabilizer is washed away to be sure that the beads are being thoroughly secured to the scarf itself. The exception would be if you are putting an applique onto the scarf; then you would want to do it before the stabilizer is washed away.

What machine will do those decorative stitches? I have a Janome MC11000

A: Any machine that has decorative stitches is capable of making the machine-fed lace scarf. If your machine does not have a wide selection of decorative stitches, I'm sure you will find one or two that will work. You'll find that just by changing the type of thread and color will add life to some ordinary stitches and give them a new look.

Does washing it cause the thread to lose some of its color?

A: No, although some excess dye may rinse away, the color will not change.

Do you prefer natural or synthetic yarns for these scarves?

A: It's a personal preference, really. Both work well.

Can I use 30 wt. polyester thread?

A: Yes you can. In fact, you can use any type of thread you want. For the peach ombre striped scarf, we used 40 wt. Sulky PolyDeco thread.

### **The Thread Director (most answers are from Gee Caulder)**

Can The Thread Director be used on a Bernina 830?

A: Yes. Place The Thread Director on the spool carousel and the thread feeds directly into the thread path

Can The Thread Director be used on any domestic machine?

A: Yes.

Can The Thread Director be used on any embroidery machine or serger.

A: Yes.

What thread did you use in the bobbin when you used the metallic thread?

A: I use regular bobbin thread metallic thread in the bobbin. I prefer not to use polyester thread in the bobbin when doing embroidery.

Does The Thread Director fit on a Janome MC6600P.

A: Yes it does.

Will The Thread Director fit on a Bernina?

A: Yes. Place The Thread Director on the vertical spool pin.

Do you use a metallic needle or just a topstitching needle?

A: I use a 14/90 Topstitch or a 14/90 metallic, but not a 12/80 metallic.

## **Ultra Solvy™ Stabilizer**

I have a septic tank, can Ultra Solvy still be rinsed in the sink?

A: Patti Lee, VP of Sulky says: “Yes, I have a septic tank also and have been using Ultra Solvy and other Solvy products at least 30 years. I haven’t had any problems. Nor have I ever heard of any from our consumers.”

Will the Ultra Solvy clog the pipes if I pour it down the drain?

A: We recommend that you use a sink that has a good water flow such as a laundry tub, bath tub, or even the kitchen sink. Since the Ultra Solvy is heavier, you need to use a lot of water when washing it away. Ultra Solvy will not harm your pipes or septic system.

Can you just put the finished scarf in a net bag in a front loading washer on the hand wash cycle?

A: You can try it. If the scarf is still sticky, just rinse it again.

Do the scarves feel soft, or are they scratchy?

A: They will be soft and drapery. Be sure that the Ultra Solvy is completely rinsed out and the scarf will feel soft and smooth.

Is there a way to repair the Ultra Solvy if it tears?

A: Since Ultra Solvy is a wash away stabilizer it is very easy to make a repair to an area that may have torn, or make a repair to a section of the scarf after the fact. Simply cut a patch of Ultra Solvy and apply it to the area that needs repaired. You can lightly dampen the Ultra Solvy patch with a sponge to make it sticky.

What’s the difference between Solvy and Ultra Solvy?

A: Ultra Solvy is 4 times heavier than Solvy, and it’s twice as heavy as Super Solvy.

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I want to make a larger item like the shawl. Can I add pieces of the Ultra Solvy together?

A: That's a very good question. Yes you can. You can either stitch pieces of Ultra Solvy stabilizer together with wash away thread, dampen the area of one piece of Ultra Solvy where it will overlap with a second piece

### **Sewer's Aid™**

What is Sewer's Aid™? Is this an oil? Does adding it to the spool of thread have any negative impact on the thread over time?

A: Sewer's Aid™ is a silicone type of thread lubricant. Patti Lee said: "I've never had any problems with thread that I have applied Sewer's Aid™ in over 30 years!"

Will the Sewer's Aid™ harm your machine?

A: Not that I've heard, but you can check with your dealer to be sure.

Is Sewer's Aid™ like Thread Heaven?

A: No. Same principle, but it's really liquid and slick. Thread Heaven is used for hand-stitching.

### **Misc.**

What is the name of the book that is out of print?

A: "Sulky Secrets to Successful Embroidery" #900-B15

### **Seasons with Sulky**

Has the Seasons with Sulky been offered before?

Yes, it has run twice before, and has been really popular. It is scheduled to run twice in 2016: May 9<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup>; and October 3<sup>rd</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>.