



**Pinnacle Table Runner
July 12, 2016**

Questions and Answers
from the webinar

Hi Sewing Friends!

Thank you so much for joining the Pinnacle Table Runner webinar or watching the recording. If you joined us live, we hope you enjoyed the webinar as much as we enjoy presenting these programs to you. This month Vanessa Vargas Wilson, aka the Crafty Gemini, was our special guest. She presented a special project featuring the 5" Slicer Ruler that she designed to be used specifically with pre-cut 5" squares of fabric. She even demonstrated a way to use her ruler to make the cuts from fabric off the bolt. Vanessa used her Crafty Gemini Favorites 12 wt. Cotton Thread Collection by Sulky to hand quilt and machine quilt the table runner. Throughout the webinar Vanessa inspired us all with her clear instructions and just showed just some of the possible design variations for the Pinnacle Table Runner.

We certainly enjoy bringing programs like this to you and your support is a way of letting us know 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 limited-time special promotions and give you access to the recording and PDF immediately following the webinar.

Background About the Slicer Rulers and Pre-cut Fabric

Vanessa was inspired to design a ruler that worked with pre-cut 5” and 10” fabrics, and as a result, her 5” and 10” Slicer Rulers were developed. Many manufacturers offer pre-cut fabrics, and each manufacturer may refer to them as something different. Five inch squares of pre-cut fabric are commonly referred to as “charms”. Often times the manufacturers pink the edges of the pre-cut fabric to prevent fraying during shipping. During the webinar, Vanessa used the 5” Slicer Ruler. She showed us how to use it to cut the charm squares as well as fabric from off the bolt.

There are no other rulers on the market like Vanessa’s. There may be other shaped rulers that can be used to create different blocks using charms and other pre-cut fabrics. The next time you visit your local quilt shop or attend an expo, take a look at the different rulers that are available. You may be amazed at all of the choices.

On Vanessa’s website, www.CraftyGemini.com, she offers a library of free projects that use the Slicer Rulers. Here are the links for the slicer projects: <http://craftygemini.com/10inchslicer> and <http://craftygemini.com/5inchslicer>

There are 24 squares in a Charm Pack. Vanessa used every 5” charm square in the pack to make the Pinnacle Table Runner. She showed us step-by-step how to use the 5” Slicer Ruler to cut the charms and how to cut the same amount of contrasting fabric off the bolt.

How does it look with print fabrics?

A: It will depend on how busy the print fabrics are. The best way to find out is to make some sample blocks and play around with it to see if you like it before continuing.

Pre-Wash and Caring

Are pre-cuts washed?

A: NO. The manufacturers do not recommend pre-washing. If you steam your charm squares you can pre-shrink it a bit with the heat and moisture but don’t wash them.

How do you wash the Table Runner?

A: Regular machine wash and dry on a low heat setting or hang dry. Just like you would a quilt. If you are concerned about the fabrics bleeding there is a great product called Color Catcher by Shout. You can find it in the laundry soap aisle.

Cutting & Quilt Blocks

Do you flip the ruler over so that the markings end up being backwards or do we just rotate the ruler?

A: Flip the ruler over so that the markings appear backwards, which will enable you to cut a mirror image of the first cut.

Is there a pattern for the quilt block?

A: No. A pattern is not needed for this block when using the 5" Slicer Ruler. Vanessa designed these rulers for the 5" square charms or 10" squares.

Can you use the 10" inch Slicer ruler and layer cakes the same way?

A: Yes you can. You can make any size quilt with both the 5" slicer and 10" Slicer rulers. For more project and block ideas made with the rulers you can visit: <http://craftygemini.com/10inchslicer> and <http://craftygemini.com/5inchslicer>

What presser foot did you use?

A: Use a 1/4" foot to help sew accurate 1/4" seams.

What is the trimmed size of the block?

A: The trimmed blocks measure 4-1/4" x 4-3/4"

The finished size of the Pinnacle Table Runner as demonstrated is approximately 17-1/2" x 43". However, you can make the table runner larger or smaller. Just make more blocks to make the size you need. The other variations of the table runner will measure about the same since nothing changes.

Glue Basting and Piecing the Blocks

Vanessa prefers glue basting to pinning. Her glue basting technique uses regular white Elmer's Glue®, which is washable. Glue basting holds the pieces together until you piece them together. Although the cut triangles are not a true 45° bias, they are still off grain, and there is a little bit of stretch in the fabric that can be a little tricky to work with. Glue basting helps to control the stretch and allows you to sew a more accurate 1/4" seam allowance.

To glue baste, apply several very small dots of Elmer's Glue along the seam allowance on one side of the triangle. Set it with a dry hot iron. Use a heat setting that is appropriate for the fabric you are sewing. Since all iron temperatures seem to vary, we always recommend testing. Once all of the triangles are set, you can quickly chain-stitch the units, which Vanessa talked about. Remember to press the seams towards the darker fabric. Then repeat this process by applying glue to the other side of the triangle to finish the block.

You can also use a glue stick if you prefer, but it can be tricky to get a minimal amount of glue in the seam allowance, if you're using a chunkier glue stick. If you want to use a glue stick I would recommend the kinds that are designed for quilters. They are narrow and almost pen-shaped to ensure you only get as much glue as you need on the fabric.

Vanessa used Sulky PolyLite™ 60 wt. thread to piece the blocks. This is a lightweight thread and is great choice of thread for piecing. You can wind a bobbin with PolyLite™ thread or use Sulky Polyester Bobbin Thread or convenient Sulky Prewound Bobbin Thread. Vanessa used a 1/4" foot, set her stitch length to 2.0mm and sewed using a 1/4" seam allowance.

How do you line up the pink triangles with the white triangles?

A: A: When piecing the units to create the block you want to match the cut edges of each piece from point to point. Line them up flush and even along the cut edge before sewing with a 1/4" seam.

How do you sew the blocks and rows together?

A: Vanessa does not recommend sewing a long row of blocks to another long row, because there's a higher risk of not matching the points since everything tends to move on you. Instead, split the table runner into thirds and only sew a few blocks across, then sew to the second row, then the third, etc. You'll end up with 3 or 4 smaller parts of the overall project and that will make it easier to put it all together since you only ever have to worry about matching 4 or 5 points at a time. This technique keeps each side of the triangle in place.

Spray Starch

What kind of starch do you use?

A: Faultless™ Heavy Starch. You can get it at Target or the Dollar Store sometimes.

Did you starch the charm squares and fabric prior to cutting?

A: No. I starched the backing fabric prior to sandwiching the layers together.

Quilting

Did you use Sulky 12 wt. Thread in the bobbin?

A: No. You should use a lighter weight thread in the bobbin. Most machines do not function properly when you use the 12 wt. thread in the top and bobbin. You can wind a bobbin with matching or coordinating thread as Sulky 30 wt. Cotton Thread, Sulky 40 wt. Rayon or PolyDeco™ or PolyLite™.

Can the table runner be hand quilted only?

A: You can do all hand quilting or all machine quilting, depending on your preference. Vanessa chose to do both because she liked the juxtaposition of the more traditional hand-quilting look with the more modern machine quilted look. You can choose to quilt it one way or both. It's up to you!

When selecting my quilting thread, do I need to worry about my backing fabric and if the top thread goes with it?

A: It depends on your taste. You may want it to coordinate, but no one really sees the back.

What foot do you use to quilt?

A: You can use a regular foot as long as you can see your drawn guidelines. A better option would be to use a walking foot, if you have one. A walking foot will help evenly feed the fabric through the machine.

Do you need a quilting or embroidery machine?

A: No. All you need is a regular straight stitch sewing machine in good working condition to make and quilt the Pinnacle Table Runner.

Do you stitch to the points on the pre-cuts or the valley of the pre-cut?

A: Stitch to the points on pre-cuts. They are pinked and will typically end up being short if you follow the valleys. But it depends on the manufacturer. Some pre-cuts are cut bigger than the stated size and others are smaller. Measure yours before beginning to make sure you know what you are working with and can be consistent no matter which part of it you choose to follow.

Binding

Why did you use a pop of color in the binding?

Q: This is something Vanessa does a lot in most of her quilt bindings. It gives the project a more modern and asymmetrical look and it's a great way to use up small scraps.

Sulky KK 2000™ Temporary Spray Adhesive

How close do you hold the can to the fabric when using the KK 2000™ Temporary Spray Adhesive?

A: When using KK 2000™, we recommend that you hold the can about 4" - 6" away from the project. Be sure not to spray in the same area as your machine.

Can I spray the batting with KK 2000™?

A: For best results, spray the fabric with the KK 2000™, not the batting. The batting will absorb the KK 2000™, and you'll use less KK 2000™ when you spray it directly to the fabric.

Sulky PolyLite™ Thread

Q: Does PolyLite™ come in different colors?

A: PolyLite™ thread is available in 36 solid colors and 24 variegated colors. The small Snap Spools have 440 yards of thread and the Maxi Spool has 1,650 yards of thread on the spool. The smaller spools are also available in the Slimline Dream Assortment Collection.

Crafty Gemini Favorites - 12 wt. Cotton Petites

The Crafty Gemini Favorites Collection features six of Vanessa's favorite colors. You can check your thread stash to see if you already have her colors. Look at the sticker on the end of the spool. If it has been removed, the color codes are also printed along the edge of the ends of the spool. The colors in this collection include 712-0640 Med. Aqua, 712-1001 Bright White, 712-1047 Mint Green, 712-1119 Dk. Mauve, 712-1122 Purple, 712-1191 Dk. Rose.

Q: Is the Crafty Gemini Favorites - 12 wt Cotton thread waxed?

A: None of our threads are waxed. This thread is perfect for hand work too as one strand is equivalent to 2 strands of embroidery floss.

Questions About [CraftyGemini.com](http://craftygemini.com)

Do you ship worldwide?

A: Yes. You can check out our online shop at <http://craftygemini.com/shop>

Is the 5" Slicer Ruler available in South Africa

A: There are currently no shops carrying my rulers in South Africa, but we ship worldwide. If you are interested in purchasing the ruler you can visit our online shop at <http://craftygemini.com/shop>

Is there a source for the Slicer Rulers in Canada

A: Not currently, but we ship all over the world and we offer affordable shipping costs. If you are interested in purchasing the ruler you can visit our online shop at <http://craftygemini.com/shop>