



Free-Motion Doodling On Celestial Stars
September 13, 2016

**Questions and Answers
from the webinar**

Hi Sewing Friends!

Thank you so much for joining us for the Free-Motion Doodling on Celestial Stars webinar or watching the recording. If you joined us live, we hope you enjoyed the live webinar as much as we enjoy presenting these programs to you. This month Beth Bradley and Lori Kennedy were our special guests. Beth shared with us her pattern for the Celestial Star Wall Hanging as well as some great exercises from the book *180 Doodle Quilting Designs: Free-Motion Ideas for Blocks, Borders and Beyond*. She showed us how we can build our confidence so that when we are ready to free-motion quilt, we will be well prepared and feel more comfortable. Then Lori Kennedy, who is a contributor to the book, gave us some fantastic information about selecting a design, its purpose, and choosing the best thread for the overall look you want to achieve. Michelle also showed us how we can print a design onto Sulky Stick 'n Stitch™ Stabilizer and stitch along the printed lines. That's a really helpful technique if you're not quite ready to "go all the way" with free-motion quilting. As a bonus, those who registered for the webinar, received a free downloadable design from the book created by Lori Kennedy.

We certainly enjoy bringing programs like this to you and your support is your way of letting us know how much you like them. Thank you so much for all of the positive feedback. 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 any freebies, the recording of the presentation, and a PDF of the presentation, following the webinar.

Practice Doodling

Is there a reason you use a felt-tip marker versus another type pen/pencil?

A: You can use whatever you want, but Beth likes the felt tip Sharpie because it moves smoothly.

Great Tips from Our Viewers

- Doodle on a plastic sheet such as a plastic report cover with washable markers. Your doodles can be erased and then the cover can be reused.
- Use a dry erase marker and doodle on a plexi-glass square.
- Doodle on a dry erase board.

Do you rest your hand or arm on the table or keep it off when tracing and doodling free-hand on paper?

A: Yes. I rest my hand lightly on the sketch pad, but light enough that I can move my hand when needed. My advice is to try a few different hand/arm positions until you feel comfortable while still being mobile.

Piecing the Quilt

What thread is used in the needle and bobbin?

A: We recommend using a matching Sulky PolyLite™ Thread in the needle and bobbin. It is a lightweight 60 wt. polyester thread that won't add extra bulk to the seam.

What is the stitch length?

A: You want to use a short stitch length such as a 2.5mm, which is the default for many machines.

Sulky KK 2000™ Temporary Spray Adhesive

Will Sulky KK 2000 Temporary Spray Adhesive gum up the needle?

A: Our formula is specially formulated and will not gum up the needle.

Sulky Stick 'n Stitch™ Stabilizer

About Stick 'n Stitch™ Stabilizer

Stick 'n Stitch™ Stabilizer is not a new Sulky product; however, it is the printable 8-1/2" x 11" sheets of Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvay™ Stabilizer repackaged. This is such a great product because it is printable, using an ink jet home printer or copy machine. After removing the release sheet, it can then be applied to fabric for hand work (embroidery, cross-stitch and quilting) or free-motion machine quilting, demonstrated during the webinar. If you still have printable 8-1/2" x 11" sheets of Sticky Fabri-Solvay™, go ahead and use them. Just know that the next time you look for it, it may be repackaged as Sulky Stick 'n Stitch™ Stabilizer. Don't worry, Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvay™ is still available in the 20" x 1 yard package, 8" and 12" rolls and 20" x 25 yard bolt.

Does the printer ink run when removing the Stick 'n Stitch™ Stabilizer?

A: It can, but we've never heard of it not coming out. Be sure to use hot running water, to wash it away quickly. If you notice any ink spots, add some laundry detergent or laundry stain treatment and the ink will disappear. It's always a good idea to test your specific ink beforehand too!

Bobbin Thread

Should you match the bobbin thread to the backing fabric versus the thread in the needle?

A: Great question! We suggest matching the bobbin and needle thread, so that just in case the tension is not balanced perfectly, it won't be as noticeable. However, you can certainly use any color and weight thread you want in the bobbin. We strongly recommend not use 12 wt. thread in the needle and bobbin, unless you know that your machine will stitch well with the 12 wt. in both places.

Needles

If you're unsure which needle to use with Sulky threads, visit our website at www.Sulky.com and either search for the thread in the search box at the top of the screen or locate the thread you want to use by navigating to Products then Thread. Once you find the specific thread, you will notice the different size spools in which the thread is available. Click on a size, and at the top of the page you will find useful information about the thread, including the recommended needle size.

There is also a free download on the website that Patti mentioned in her question and answers last night. It's available here:

<http://www.sulky.com/resources/needle-thread-guide/>

Michelle prepared this little chart which might be a quick reference, too:

Sulky Threads				
Larger the number the thinner the thread		Smaller the number the thicker the thread		
60 wt.	50 wt.	40 wt.	30 wt.	12 wt.
PolyLite (11/75)	Cotton+Steel by Sulky	Rayon (12/80)	Solid Cotton (14/90 Topstitch)	Solid Cotton (16/100 or 16/100 Jeans)
Bobbin		Poly Deco 12/80	Blendables (14/90 Topstitch)	Blendables (16/100 or 16/100 Jeans)
				Cotton Petites
				

What type of needles (universal, topstitch, etc) are recommended for free-motion quilting?

A: We suggest matching the thread and needle first and then making any other adjustments as needed. For example, if you were sewing on a heavier fabric or using a heavyweight stabilizer, you might find that you need to increase your needle size by one, and not change the **type** of needle you use. It's always a good idea to test as each machine tends to be different.

Since universal needles can be used with all fabrics, when should we use a universal needle for quilting?

A: True, universal needles can be used with a variety of fabrics. Since most Sulky threads are decorative, we suggest specific needle sizes and types for each thread. Universal needles are commonly used when sewing lightweight fabric such as when doing construction sewing. Unless you've used them with specialty threads and know they work well on your machine, it would be better to choose the recommended needle.

Sulky Cotton Blendables® Thread

Can you cover use of the Sulky Cotton Blendables® Thread and when to use effectively?

A: Sulky Cotton Blendables® Threads are multi-color threads that have a masterful blend of different colors within the same range of tone and intensity, with random, subtle color changes every 2-1/2 to 5 inches! No other thread does this! Sulky Cotton Blendables® Threads are available in 126 different colors! You will be sure to find a color for your quilting or decorative stitches needs that will go with your fabric whether you are looking for something a little less noticeable to something more bold.

Specifically, because they blend so well with so many colors and combinations of colors, you will find they are more forgiving for someone who does not have a perfect quilting stitch. Some of us need more "forgiveness" in our quilting than others.

Sulky Polyester Invisible Thread

Can you wash and dry a quilt when Sulky Polyester Invisible Thread was used for the quilting?

A: Absolutely. It's 100% polyester. You can machine wash it on a warm normal cycle and tumble dry on a normal to medium heat setting. Do not use chlorine bleach, optical brighteners, peroxide or sodium carbonate when washing. It can also be dry-cleaned. But because it is polyester, it will not tolerate as high an iron temperature as cotton will.

Stitch in the Ditch

Where exactly do you sew when stitching in the ditch?

A: Align the needle so that it is in the center of the seam, and the needle will naturally fall on the "low" side of the seam.

What is the stitch length?

A: It really depends on the thread you are using. If you use invisible thread, you can use a shorter stitch length; however, if you are using a heavier or more decorative thread, it is more ideal to use a longer stitch length to show off the beautiful threads and stitching. Some of us hard-core Sulky Metallic fans use Sulky Holoshimmer™ to stitch in the ditch for just a little subtle hint of glitz.

Does stitching in the ditch deter from the overall design and increase the weight of the quilt?

A: Not with lightweight matching thread or Sulky Polyester Invisible Thread. It is an important step in the quilting process because it helps to eliminate puckers and stabilizes the entire quilt before quilting.

Free-Motion Quilting

What is the stitch length?

A: When doing free-motion quilting, you are the stitch length, because the feed dogs are lowered. As a rule of thumb, you want to aim for about 10 stitches per inch. Allow yourself plenty of time to learn and enjoy the process before you try to perfect your stitch length. It takes practice. Many of us still aren't there yet, but we are having so much fun!

Long-Arm Quilting Machines

Some of you wrote in questions about adjusting the speed for your mid-arm and long-arm machines. If you have a computerized mid-arm or long-arm quilting machine, your machine may or may not allow you to adjust your speed setting. Be sure to check your machine manual to see if you can, or contact your dealer for assistance.

The Thread Director™

The Thread Director™ is a helpful notion when working with Sulky Metallic Threads. If you have followed all of our suggestions and are still having trouble using metallic threads, then you may want to try The Thread Director™. Attach The Thread Director™ to a vertical spool pin, or bobbin pin and make sure that it is pointed towards the first thread guide.

The Thread Director is available for purchase at www.Sulky.com.

Our friends at The Thread Director™ have tried The Thread Director™ on just about every machine on the market. They have a fabulous website that is a wealth of information with helpful videos about how to use The Thread Director™ and install it on a variety of machines. If you still need assistance, feel free to contact them with your specific question.

Sulky's Online Classes

How much experience do you need to take the classes, I'm a beginner?

A: The Fearless Free-motion course is for beginners, and the Sulky Online Certified Teacher courses appeal to all levels. Lots of people just take them for fun.

I missed the coupon code for the Fearless Free-Motion class discount.

A: The coupon code for this class SULFF10.

Is the Creative Lifestyle Certified Teacher Training class a scheduled class or do you work at your own pace?

A: You have access to the five classes for eight weeks. You can work at your own pace during that time. You can download the videos to your computer and save them. That way you can watch them forever. If you would like to receive certification to teach those classes then you must complete all 5 of them within the 8 week time frame and submit them for approval within the course. The course remains open an extra month to allow people to share and still download anything they might need, but the projects must be submitted by November 7th, 2016, for this first offering.

What is the discount code for the Creative Lifestyle Certified Teacher Training class?

A: The code for this class is SULCL50.

Miscellaneous

What is the name of the lady that has an online video where she stitched with invisible threads and what was it called and where can I purchase it.

A: Turns out there are all kinds of them. I just went to YouTube.com and entered "stitching with invisible thread" and a whole bunch of them came up. There was 7 pages with about 10 to a page! So good luck!

Truthfully, we have all found our Sulky Polyester Invisible Thread so easy to use, we never even thought of doing a video on it. You might

want to try lowering your top tension a bit. But what you're describing is most unusual.