

Double the Fun Twin Needle Expressions

The twin needle for sewing machines was developed many years ago. They can be used in virtually all zig-zag sewing machines that accept the standard 130/705 (15 x 1) needle and thread from front to back. The single needle shank, which goes into the needle clamp, has two separate needles attached to it by a colored bar. This special needle offers many decorative options but also stitches two rows of perfectly aligned topstitching. A triple needle is also available.



Original Concept for the Maple Leaf Pocket Design
was made by Ellen Osten, for the Sulky Guild Program, "Sew Elegant".

Twin Needle Basics

Twice the fun in getting creative! Double your stitching progress with two needles on one shaft!

SUPPLIES

- 2 spools of the same color of Sulky® 40 wt. Rayon or Sulky Metallic and 1 spool of 60 wt. PolyLite™ and 30 wt. Blendables® Thread
- 1 - 10" square of Base Fabric for the Journal Page
- 2 - 8" squares of Fabric for the Leaf Pocket
- 1 - 8" square of Sulky Fuse-n Stitch™ Stabilizer
- 1 - 8" square of Sulky Tear-Easy™ Stabilizer
- 1 yd. of Decorative Yarn to twist for Stem
- Frixion™ Marking Pen or Chalk Marker
- 5 Groove Pin Tuck Foot
- Open-Toe Appliqué Foot
- All Purpose Foot
- Edge Stitch Foot
- Size 12/80 Universal Machine Needle
- 2.0 or 3.0 Twin Needle size 12/80 to use with both Metallic and Rayon
- 2 copies of the Maple Leaf Pattern (one printed on Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvly™)
- Scissors to cut Paper
- 5" Sharp Scissors for cutting and trimming
- Point Turner
- General Sewing Supplies

Successful Twin Needle Play

by Sue Hausmann,
Sew and Quilt Edutainer



1. Needles. There are many different sizes, types and widths of twin needles.

They come in sizes 10/70, 12/80, 14/90 and 16/100. Types are Universal, Jeans, and Leather, plus a Stretch Twin needle, size 11/75, for stitching on knits and specialty fabrics. The distance between the two needles, which is measured in millimeters, is the width of the needle. Twin needles come in widths of 1.6, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 4.0 and 6.0. The larger the number, the further apart the two needles are. Select the type, size and width that is best for your fabric and technique. For example, for the daintiest of tiny pin tucks on batiste, a 10/70 Universal needle with a 1.6 or 2.0 width; for heavier fabrics, select a larger, wider needle. The 4.0 and 6.0 are most used for topstitching and hems but can create large pin tucks on some fabrics. Never use a twin needle that is wider than the stitch width allows on your machine as it will hit

the presser foot/needle plate.

2. Bobbins. The bobbin is wound and inserted in the same manner as with a single needle. Because the stitching on top of the fabric is two rows, the bobbin thread zig-zags back and forth, catching each of the rows of stitching. This gives the stitching some elasticity so twin needle stitching is excellent for hemming knits and topstitching ribbing.

3. Stitches. Most pin tucks are created with a straight stitch, however, many forward motion stitches, such as the serpentine stitch and some of the newer serpentine quilting stitches, sew beautiful, decorative pin tucks. When selecting a stitch that has a width, such as a zig-zag or decorative stitch, always set the width so the needle does not swing so far to one side or the other that it hits the presser foot. Once the stitch is chosen and the width set, use the hand wheel to "walk" the machine through a complete stitch pattern before sewing. Most computer machines have a twin needle safety feature that allows you to set the width of your twin needle, and then it sets the stitch width on all selected stitches until this setting is cancelled. Consult your instruction book to see what feet are available for your machine. The grooves on the underside of the foot allow the fabric to "tunnel" up into the groove to create the pin tuck.

4. Presser Feet. There are many presser feet available to stitch perfect pin tucks. You can easily stitch straight rows of pin tucks by placing the previous tuck into one of the grooves next to the current stitching. If you do not have any Pin Tuck Feet, look at the underside of your presser feet to see if any have narrow grooves on the underside. Try setting the straight stitch needle position to line up with these grooves. Don't set the needle position so far to one side that the needle hits the presser foot. For decorative stitches, attach a foot with a large groove on the underside, such as a satin stitch or decorative stitch foot, so there is room for the fabric to "tunnel"

5. Fabric. To create pin tucks, the fabric must be light-weight enough to "tunnel" as you stitch. Linen, cotton, silk, and many other fabrics will pin tuck beautifully. Experiment on scraps. Prewash the fabric to remove sizing and do not starch when ironing to keep the fabric hand supple.

One key thing to remember is that pin tucks "take up fabric". The larger the tuck and the more tucks you stitch, the more fabric is used. Since you may need extra fabric for your project, stitch your tucks before cutting out the pattern pieces.

6. Marking. For precise pin tucks on woven fabrics, you can pull a thread to be sure your tucks will be on grain. Or, mark the fabric with a fabric marking pen like the Friction Pen because the marks disappear when you iron over them. Always test on scraps before marking your project. If the tuck is the length of the fabric, snip the location of each tuck at the top and the bottom fabric edge, then stitch from snip to snip.

7. Stabilizers. Because you want the fabric to "tunnel" up into the groove on the underside of the foot when stitching twin needle tucks, do not place a stabilizer under the fabric. However, when stitching twin needle decorative stitches or topstitching, be sure to place stabilizer under your fabric; two layers of *Sulky Tear-Easy* under woven fabrics and one layer of *Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvly* under knits and delicate fabrics that can be put in water to

remove the stabilizer after stitching. *Note: Do not press over the Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvly with steam until you are ready for it to dissolve away!*

8. Threading. You'll love Sulky 60 wt. PolyLite™ Thread for fine pin tucks when you want to see the pin tuck and not the thread. To create beautiful decorative pin tucks, use either Sulky 40 wt. Rayon, any of the Sulky Metallics including Sliver™ and Holoshimmer™, or Sulky 30 wt. Cotton in Solid Colors or Blendables®. Use a matching color of PolyLite on the bobbin for most pin tucking because, not only does the bobbin hold a great many yards of this fine thread, it is strong enough for pin tucks, yet light enough so it does not build up under the pin tuck. Most machines have two spool pins, so place one spool on each. If you do not have two spools of thread, wind a bobbin and use this as your second top thread "spool".

Consult your instruction book for specific instructions on twin needle threading for your machine. A few tips include placing the spools so the thread reels off in the opposite direction, placing both spools vertically (or horizontally), threading the two threads as one up to the tension disk, then splitting the threads with one on each side of the tension disk.

The final tip varies with machines; if you find that one thread pulls more easily than the other, place this thread in the final guide above the needle and leave the other thread out of this guide. You cannot use the built-in needle threader with twin needles. Adjust the stitch length as needed for your fabric. The general rule is a shorter stitch length for lighter weight fabrics. Always check the width when selecting stitches with a width.

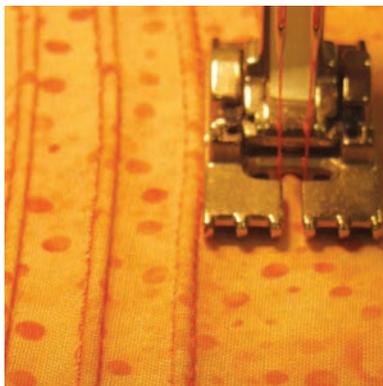
Contact Sue at:
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To make your Journal Page, use Sulky PolyLite in the bobbin throughout. You will make different style pin tucks and twin needle decorative stitches, using different thread types. Once your fabric is stitched, you will use a Maple Leaf Template to create a 3-D pocket.

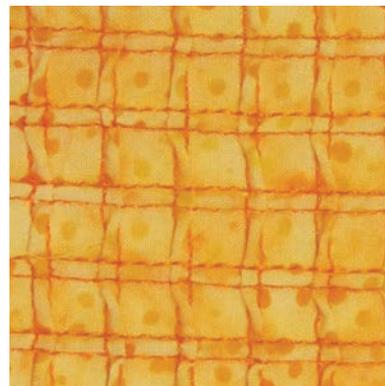
Stitch Pin Tucks on the Journal Page's Fabric Base:

1 Using a ruler and a Frixion Marking Pen or Chalk Marker, draw a straight line down the center of the 10" square of Base Fabric.

2 Put two spools of Sulky 40 wt. Rayon Thread on top. *Tip: If you only have one spool of thread, fill a bobbin from that spool and place it on the spool pin under that spool. Follow your machine's directions for threading with multiple spools.* Attach a 2.0 or 3.0 twin needle. Thread the left thread through the left tension disc and left needle, and the right thread through the right tension disc and right needle. *Tip: To keep the threads from tangling as you stitch, it helps to have the thread coming off the spools in opposite directions from each other. In the bobbin, put Sulky Bobbin Thread or a matching color of Sulky PolyLite thread.*



3 Attach a 5 groove Pin Tuck Foot to help create a raised tuck, which adds more dimension. Sew a straight stitch down the drawn line from end to end. Use the width of the foot as a guide to stitch row after row on either side of the line until the entire base fabric is stitched.



4 Next, stitch in the opposite direction, crossing over the previous rows to create a grid. Iron an 8" square of Sulky Fuse 'n Stitch onto the back. Trim to 5-1/2" x 7-1/2". Set aside.

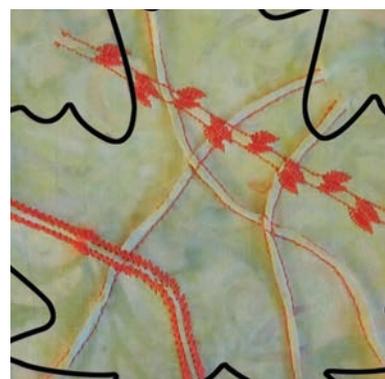
Stitch the Maple Leaf Design:



1 Make 2 copies of the Maple Leaf Pattern (one on paper and one on Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solv printable stabilizer). The paper one will be a template for drawing the leaf, centered, onto the right side of the 8" square of fabric using a Frixion Marker or other removable marker.



2 The reason for having the leaf drawn is to help you determine where you want your stitching. It is best not to have the pin tucks start or end at a point of the leaf as it makes it really difficult when turning the leaf to make the pocket later. Always begin and end the stitch outside of the leaf pattern line.



3 Next, add decorative twin stitches. To keep the decorative stitches from puckering the fabric as you stitch, lightly spray the wrong side of the pin tuck fabric with Sulky KK-2000 Temporary Spray Adhesive and adhere a layer of Sulky Tear-Easy onto it.

4 Set up for single needle stitching:

- Remove the twin needle and put it back in its case.
- Insert a size 12/80 single Universal Needle.
- Remove one of the spools of thread on top and continue using the same bobbin thread.
- Attach an Open-Toe Appliqué Foot.
- Select fancy decorative stitches and test them in the area outside of the leaf pattern before sewing them randomly, like you did with the pin tucks, over the drawn leaf design.
- Always stitch starting and ending beyond the leaf design lines.

5 Gently tear away the Sulky Tear-Easy Stabilizer from the wrong side of the fabric so you don't break the stitches. On a padded surface, lightly press the stitched fabric from the wrong side so as not to flatten the tucks.

Create the Maple Leaf Pocket:



1 Trim away the excess Sticky Fabri-Solvy from the printed Maple Leaf.

Remove the release sheet and smooth the design over the center of the wrong side of the second 8" square of fabric.

Lightly spray the right side of the fabric square with KK 2000 and smooth it over the right side of the stitched leaf fabric square; use a pin to line up the three large points on the leaves.

2 Using a short stitch length, straight stitch on the drawn line from the Fabri-Solvy side, remembering to leave an opening between the dots for turning the leaf right side out. Stop with the needle down in the fabric at the points and carefully pivot to realign the needle with the drawn line of the leaf. Back stitch at the dots to reinforce your stitch at these stress points.

Trim close to the seam. Clip curves and points. Turn right sides out through the small opening. Use a blunt stick or point turner tool to get the leaf points turned out well.

You can use a needle and thread to help pull the points out more sharply.



3 Finger press and roll the seam to the underside of the leaf. Tuck the seam into the opening. Attach the edge Foot. Position the pocket at a slight angle on your Journal Base fabric and pin together. Topstitch using a straight stitch 1/4" in from the leaf edges; leave the top edge unstitched. Backstitch at the beginning and ending. Add a yarn stem.

Designer Gallery



By Peggy Dilbone

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"The fabric I chose for this dress inspired the stitches and thread used for the decorative stitching. The fabric was oriental and I loved the touch of gold on all of the cute little figures. My great granddaughter thought it looked Indian, and it did remind me of the lovely bright colors of the Seminole Indians of South Florida where I grew up. I used a great array of Sulky 40 wt. Rayon threads to match the colors in the fabric. I chose the white background to showcase the beautiful decorative stitches. I stitched the twin needle pin tucks with a 7 Groove Pin Tuck Foot on the white fabric with Sulky Gold Metallic in the 2.0/80 twin needles and Sulky PolyLite in the bobbin. The combination made beautiful pin tucks. After stitching, I backed the fabric with Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvy, which I really love because it rinses out so quickly and completely. It was perfect to stabilize the fabric for the multiple stitches, and no "picking out" stabilizer from behind those intricate stitches." - - - Peggy