



Get Off Your Flat Projects with 3-D Embellishments September 15, 2015

Questions and Answers from the webinar

Heidi Lund's Technique using organza and Sulky Fabri-Solvy™ Stabilizer

Did you use one or two layers of Fabri-Solvy™?

Only one layer of Fabri-Solvy™ is needed for this technique

Do you have a printable Solvy™ stabilizer?

Sulky has printable Sticky Fabri-Solvy™ sheets that are 8-1/2" x 11". These sheets are designed to run through an ink jet or laser printer, or copy machine. You could print the template, pattern or design on the Sticky Fabri-Solvy Stabilizer sheets, peel off the release sheet and stick it directly to the top of the fabric.

Is there a reason you hoop in a small hoop and embroider only one leaf, instead of hooping into a larger hoop and doing several leaves in one hooping?

It's good for a beginner to start that way. Much more control, and less chance of any puckering.

How do I know if I can use a hoop with my sewing machine. I have never tried to do anything like that.

Virtually every machine can do free-motion work, even if it means you have to cover the feed dogs (if they don't drop) with a taped business card like Heidi talked about in the seminar. It's important to have a hoop designed for free-motion work, though, so that it hoops tightly and it slides under the needle without having to remove the foot and shank. I believe that www.speedstitch.com still sells these high-quality, German wooden hoops. If not, they are available at: <http://www.faedmunds.com/embroidery-hoops.html> I just checked there and they also have the spring-type hoops that Heidi used.

What thread did you use in the bobbin?

Depending on which thread I am using, I use matching thread in the bobbin. During the webinar, I showed you how to make the organza leaf and I had a 30 wt. Blendables in the top and bobbin.

How do you audition your thread types on fabric or organza to see how things look?

I stitch out a leaf and see if I like it. I don't usually have trouble with color, and there are so many threads to select from. If I don't like a leaf, I change thread.

How do you decided which thread to use for each item?

There really are no rules. The whole point of using Blendables thread is to have a selection of colors at your fingertips that are all on one spool. If your stitching a leaf out on a green piece of tulle or organdy you can use a green thread which would blend, but wouldn't it be fun to us a contrasting color of thread like yellow/orange or a pink/green.

If you use rayon thread for your outer edges of the leaves, rather than cutting them out, can you burn them out with a burning tool?

As long as you use a synthetic fabric, you can use a special tool to burn around the leaf. I prefer to cut closely to the stitching line to prevent any black residue left on the fabric. Another reason I prefer to cut closely, is that I have allergies and the fumes from the burning synthetic really bother me.

So you are using free-motion to stitch around the edges and not a satin stitch with the machine, correct?

I used free-motion stitching to satin stitch around the edge of the leaf. In Michelle's presentation using the Iron-On Transfer Pens and Solvy™ Stabilizer, she used a machine fed satin stitch.

Is the "waste" water from removing the Solvy™ safe for septic systems?

Yes it is safe for septic systems. In general, you should cut away any excess wash away stabilizer, which will help speed up the removal.

Do you quilt your background before adding the 3D embellishments or after?

I always work from the background to the foreground on a piece whether it is an art quilt or a garment. This means I do my surface design on the fabric first, sandwich my fabric with warm and natural batting, add a layer of Sulky Totally Stable® then free-motion quilt my background fabric. The next step is to add my leaves, fibers and embellishments.

On slide #23, the background seems to have blue leaves. Is it part of the print or something that Heidi has stitched on the fabric?

Heidi used a stamp, I believe, sort of a fern-like rubber stamp to do that. Then she stitched around it.

Do you use fray check on the raw edges?

I do not use Fray Check or any glue on my pieces

Are those iron on crystals?

Those crystals that you saw are actually "Hot Fix" Swarovski Crystals. You apply them with a hot tool or a really hot iron and a Teflon press sheet.

If I use fabric instead of organza is the removal process the same for the stabilizer?

The danger with fabric is that it may draw up some with the stitching, so test it. But the process would be the same.

Would pre-washing the fabric help with shrinking and curling up of the fabric?

It might, but it's really the stitching that draws the fabric up. A denser fabric like batik would be firmer and less likely to distort. Again much will depend on your machine tension, and how wide your satin stitch is. This is where you would use the other techniques in the supplement leaf and use a fusible to stabilize your fabric and make a "sheet" of leaves at a time.

What's a jeans needle?

The jeans needles that I use are Schmetz and they have a Teflon coating on them that makes them slide thru layers easier.

Brand beading thread? Where do you get it?

Silamide Beading Thread available from your local bead shop or online from Fire Mountain Gems.

I have an idea of making a jacket using the leaf technique?

I have many jackets with leaves cascading from them. One of them is pictured in the book An Updated Supplement to Sulky's Secrets to Successful Stabilizing. It can be found on the last page of my leaf tutorial.

Thread

Which thread weight is the most versatile?

Sulky 30 wt. Cotton Blendables is the easiest to use since it is a lighter weight thread than the heavier 12 wt. that Heidi likes to use. In terms of weight, it is closer to the 40 wt. industry standard (about 1/3 heavier). When using the 30 wt. Blendables, use a 90/14 Topstitch, Quilting or Embroidery Needle, and lower the top tension, if needed.

What's the difference between Blendables and variegated thread. I don't like the stripey look.

Variegated thread has predictable color changes every so many inches. The Blendables has random color changes that occur every 2-1/2" to 5". For example if you look at Blendables #4105 (Americana). One segment of the red thread may be 2-1/2" long, but the next time the red color is repeated, it might be 5" long. So that also makes it more forgiving when you quilt with it.

Can the Cotton Petites be used on top in the sewing machine? Do I need to loosen the top tension?

Sulky Cotton Petites thread is the same as the 12 wt. thread on the larger spools. The only difference is that the Cotton Petites thread has less thread on the spool, making it more economical - only 50 yards versus 330 yards on a king size spool. You can use it on the top of your sewing machine. If you do, be sure to use a 100/16 Jeans needle. You may need to lower your tension. All machines don't like the heavy 12 wt. for free-motion. A very similar look can be achieved using the lighter 30 wt. Cotton or Cotton Blendables.

Do you have any larger sets of 30 wt. and 12 wt. Blendables?

We have several 42 to 64-spool collections in Sulky Sllimline Boxes. And they are available in both 12 wt or 30 wt. In addition, we have few Blendables designer collections such as Heidi Lund's "Life in the Tropics." Thirty 12 wt. Blendables are available in the Cotton Petites line, which has 50 yards of thread on a spool. There are 16 or so Cotton Petites 6-pack collections, though there may only be a spool or two of the Blendables in some of those collections.

Do you have a selection of Fall color Blendables thread?

That's Joyce's favorite season, so there are lots of Fall colors, but not a specific large collection. There is a 12 wt. solid & Blendables color Cotton Petite Autumn 6-pack in the Thread Sampler Pack area: <http://www.sulky.com/catalog/sub/sulky-12-wt-cotton-thread-sampler-packs>

Embroidery Designs

I like the butterfly design on the pink case. Where can I get it?

There is a whole collection of these butterflies available on the Sulky Embroidery Club. These butterflies are included with the Embroidery Zen II class.

Future Webinars

This was great, how do we find out about other Sulky webinars?

We will add your name to our mailing list and you will automatically receive invitation to our future webinars. If you want to stop receiving the emails, you can opt-out at any time.

Sulky Iron-On Transfer Pens

Can I only use the transfer pens for tracing designs? Does the ink wash out?

The ink is considered permanent before and after the transfer. A time-saving way, when doing applique, is to use the pens to make multiple transfers of a shape. There are many other uses for these pens and your imagination is the limit, to include drawing with them and transferring the design to another medium. Make sure that whatever you are transferring to can tolerate the heat from a dry hot iron. It doesn't have to be fabric. We've used it on plastic, wood, and more (test first). Remember, the transfer is permanent. And on fabric, the color lasts virtually forever on cotton/poly blends. It can lighten slightly over many washings on 100% cotton. The Sulky Iron-On Transfer Pens are available in 8 different colors. There is a video showing how to use them on the Sulky website: www.sulky.com in the Transfer Pen section.

Online Classes

Do you need a sewing machine that embroiders for the classes?

You do not need an embroidery machine for the Artistry in Appliqué, Seasons with Sulky, or Magical Thread Art online classes; however, you do need an embroidery machine for Embroidery Zen I and II.

Do you have unlimited access even after the class ends?

No, at this time, you only have access to the class during the designated times, but you can download the course material, including the video, and save all of it to your computer or thumb drive, etc. So there's really no need to go on the class again (other than for social contact) since you get to download and keep the video and all the printed materials. It does stay open for an extra month after the official end, to give you more time to do that.

Where can I get the blanks for the Embroidery Zen classes?

Here's a link: <http://www.sulky.com/catalog/sub/zencombo>

Or go online to our website: www.sulky.com and click on Education and Events and then on the Combo Zen info, then on the supply info on that page, which has all the supplies (including the blanks for both Zen I and Zen II).