

Stitching Assignment 1

SUPPLIES

Fabric, batting and thread -- something fairly plain for the top. Size is up to you, but a yard (36 by 44) each for top and bottom is a good start. Batting can be whatever you have on hand, but it's better to choose something on the thinner side (no puffy polys right now). Thread can be whatever works well in your machine, again, stick to something on the thinner side -- this isn't the time for your super-thick variegated threads. This is a good time to use up some partial bobbins!

Time -- Hopefully you can spend at least 30 uninterrupted minutes on this assignment, if not longer. You will want your undivided attention on this task, so that you can really focus. It takes awhile to get into the groove of stitching and you need to get past the initial feeling of discomfort before you can really make progress.

Quilting machine in good working order -- Make sure it is working well before you start, so you can concentrate on stitching, not on a misbehaving machine.

Drawings to refer to -- bring your tracing page, or some of your better drawings to the quilting machine with you. Lay them on top of the quilt sandwich, where you can see them.

Read through the entire task list first! When you stitch, try to keep your feathers similar in size to the feathers you have been tracing and drawing. Try not to go much bigger or smaller. Fill up your sandwich, and don't worry about over-quilting other lines. This is just like newsprint, only with fabric and thread.

TASK 1

Warm up by doing a little bit of something freehand that you are already comfortable stitching. Meandering, loops, stars, or another design of your choice so you can make sure your machine is working well and that you are in the quilting zone.

TASK 2

Stitch a straight line from right to left that is approximately 12 inches long. Take a deep breath and start stitching some feathers, following the basic stitch sequence you learned during your drawing practice.

If you are feeling really uncomfortable, try drawing out some feathers with chalk or an erasable pen, then stitch on your lines.

Do not worry about what the feathers look like. The shape does NOT matter right now.

All you need to worry about is the rhythm.

After you finish your first line, try another one, stitching in the same direction. Try it several times.

TASK 3

Now try stitching your straight line from left to right and feather in the opposite direction.

TASK 4

This time, stitch your straight line towards you and then feather away from yourself.

TASK 5

Finally, practice stitching some straight line feathers with the initial line stitched away from you, the feathers will be stitched towards you.

WHEN YOU ARE DONE

Use a permanent marker to date your practice piece. Keep this one around awhile, you will want a record of these Over the Top Feathers. You will want to be able to look back some day and see how far you have come!