

Bear in Mind

An electronic newsletter from Bear Threads Ltd.

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From The Editor –

I am writing this as all are being warned of a major winter storm approaching the eastern seaboard. I cannot even plan on stitching by the fire as we have been swamped with orders. With shops ordering for Easter sewing, as well as stocking up from our sale, we all here at Bear Threads are working hard to get your orders out in a timely manner.

The liquidation sale continues in full swing as the “Bears” looks for a new berth to dock their ‘Good Ship Lollipop’. It would be a shame for someone not to carry on the tradition of the beautiful fabrics and trimmings for which you have all grown so fond. Check your inbox for the second e-mail concerning additions to the sale. And please refer back to the USPS mailing that sent the first announcement to you in December. Many of those laces are still available. Some items – in lace, embroideries and fabrics – are out of stock, but others are fully stocked. Don’t take any chances!

Our 2 part series on Feather Stitching concludes this month with more ideas for you to consider as you hone your Feather Stitching skills.

Enjoy all the fun of St. Valentine’s Day, stay warm, and as always,

Happy Stitching.

Sheila



ALL IN THE FAMILY!

We felt it fitting to share one of the last Beard (!) Meetings of Bear Threads with you, our loyal customers. In years past, you have met Theodore and Thelina, and now we introduce you to Breczar and Neuguecy. Breczar and Neuguecy were Papa Bear Jim’s constant companions as a child. They are the most senior board members having both been restored by a lover of vintage bears in California. They are smartly dressed in vintage outfits that were actually Jim’s as a tot. (Not that Jim is vintage – just the clothing!!!)

The foursome has completed a meeting discussing options for “Bear Threads”. They are actively looking for a new captain to steer the ‘Good Ship Lollipop’ into the future to insure continuance of the beautiful trims and fabrics from which so many of our loyal customers think they cannot be separated. New ownership would assure the registered designs and exclusive fabrics would continue.

They have asked you, our customers, to ask yourselves, or your friends and family, of any potential interest. As you can see, some tears were shed during the meeting at the thoughts of the alternative! A plea was issued for you to help with the dilemma!

Feather Stitch II

By Sheila T. Nicol

I hope that you have taken some time to practice the basic feather stitch. Once mastered it is a really fast, easy and stress free embroidery stitch. Absolutely every book of embroidery stitches has the feather stitch and many variations included, so I will not take time or space here to list those. Even the internet has many videos and explanations. Projects for feather stitching include crazy quilting as mentioned before, sleeve and collar embellishment, aprons and hand towels, pillow cases, an array of needle cases, pincushions, scissor fobs, etc. The list is endless. But as in all embroidery, I must warn you to think about the project and its' use. The need for washing is a huge factor on the type of embroidery thread and the color you choose. Darker colors tend to bleed in even the best thread, and silks, while they are oh so luxurious and are available in such beautiful colors, are a no-no if being washed! Even wool threads can be used for pillows and larger, bolder looks. For example try 1 strand of Appleton on a heavy twill or Dupioni Silk for a statement sofa pillow. Don't be afraid to let you imagination soar!

Are you planning to trim your newly feather stitched project? Because feather stitching and most variations are basically geometric in design, trims with a similar feel work best. For example, an embroidery or lace with squares or diamonds work well and follows the theme. The following Swiss embroideries work well: E-146, 139, 139A, E-142, E-134 and E-73, 74 and 75. French lace set L-4687, 88, 89, 90, and 91 also complement the embroidery. As a matter of fact, for more casual projects Ric Rac is perfect!!!

We thank Pat Goldman from Chadwick's Heirlooms in Richmond, Virginia for the lovely pictures of a classic velvet dress with lace spoke collar enhanced with feather stitching.

Visit her at

www.chadwickheirlooms.com

We have included photographs of more projects for you to enjoy.



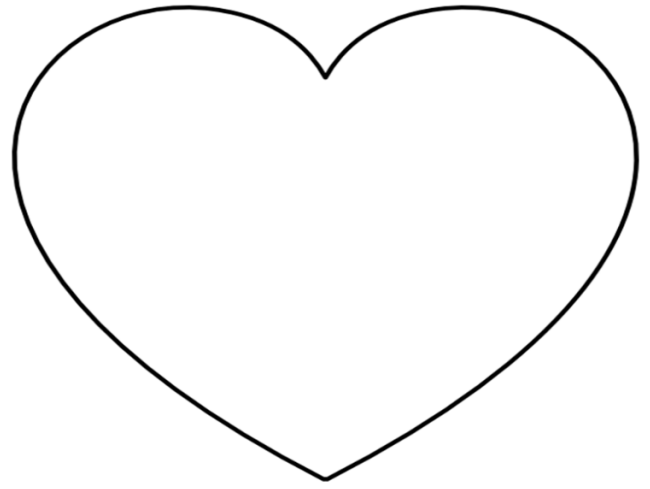


Thanks to Cheryl Davidson, of A Frayed Knot, for more photos of feather stitching. She enhanced a beautiful blouse that was purchased from a store, and did exquisite embroidery on the little girls dress. Note that the fabric of the dress is our Dimity II in Ivory (now at 40% off). It has a woven 'faggoting type' stripe that just accommodates a strand of DMC! What a lovely way to enhance any type of embroidery.

VALENTINE 2016 TRIVIA

Who Receives the Most Valentines?

- 1) Children
- 2) Sweethearts
- 3) Wives
- 4) Teachers
- 5) Mothers



Being the month for hearts I have included a small heart template which can be enlarged on any copy machine. Try feather stitching the outline and add your monogram inside. A small version would make a sweet needle case.



MALINE LACES

Some Helpful Hints

Some of the most beautiful laces used in Heirloom Sewing are the Maline Laces. By the nature of their denier they are extremely fragile. Being 15 point laces, they must be treated as such. NEVER use a hot iron on any lace, and in particular Maline laces are happiest when ironed with a cool iron.

Right or Wrong? Technically, the side with the clipped threads is the correct side. Unlike Valenciennes laces, they are not woven lace and pattern at the same time. Maline grounds are woven first and then the flower/design is stitched on top of that with the design thread carrying on the front from one flower to the next. Then the threads are clipped leaving a small 'clipping'. However, if you prefer the other side that is perfectly fine. Just make extra sure that you keep the same side as the 'right' side throughout the garment!

Colors – Just as you never find snow-white wool, there are no stark white Maline laces. They are much too fragile to withstand the bleaching process. Maline 'white' is closer to our 'ivory', and Maline ecru is a much lighter version of Valenciennes Ecru, or coffee with milk as I like to say!

Because of their difficult manufacturing process, they are pricier than most Valenciennes Laces. HOWEVER, we have just sent an E-Blast with further reductions of our Liquidation sale, and MANY of the Malines are included at up to 35% OFF. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!!!

AND NOW YOU KNOW!

Answer: Teachers!

Followed by Children, Mothers, Wives,
and Sweethearts!

*As a footnote: Valentine is second only to
Christmas in number of cards sent.*

*Halloween is second only to Christmas in money
spent on decorations!*

WELL THAT WAS A SURPRISE FOR ME!

Sewers are so knowledgeable!

A Short History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is named in honor of Saint Valentine, the patron saint of lovers who, it is believed, was murdered on Feb. 14 AD 270. During that time, the Roman emperor Claudius II cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome, as he was having a hard time getting men to join the military, and he believed married men, being emotionally attached to their wives and families, did not make good soldiers.

However, Valentine secretly married couples until he was caught, then, refusing to renounce his Christian beliefs, was sentenced to be beaten to death with clubs and have his head cut off.

One legend suggests he left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter before his death which said "Love from your Valentine," the first Valentine's card.

It was the pope who set aside Feb. 14 to honor St. Valentine in AD 496. However, the day was not often celebrated until the Middle Ages. Gift giving and exchanging of hand-made cards became common in England around the 18th century, while in the 1840s the holiday caught on in the United States.

Today, approximately one-fourth of all the cards sent in a year are sent on Valentine's Day. But while the day is about love, cards, chocolates and flowers in the U.S., the day is celebrated differently around the world.

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