

Telephone: 760-739-8222 or 800-401-8151

Volume I, Issue 4

Machine Needle Punch Felting

Last month's newsletter featured tools for hand needle punch felting. If you got excited about the craft of felting, we are pleased to introduce you to some tools you can use for machine felting. Embellish with fabrics, yarns, ribbons, decorative threads and trims, paper and almost any other material for sewing. Martins is fortunate to be able to offer you a choice of two different felting machines.



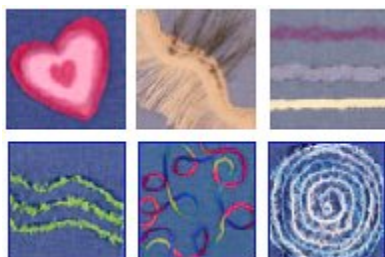
Janome Xpression Needle Punch Felting Machine

The Xpression is the first machine from Janome that allows you to do needle punch felting. It doesn't require thread, a bobbin, or any previous sewing experience. You can achieve amazing, one-of-a-kind fabric effects on your first try.

And the Xpression is so easy to operate, you can learn to use it right away.

Instead of one needle, the Xpression has five needles joined into a single unit, so they move up and down in unison. On the sides of each needle are tiny barbs. As the needles pierce the top layer of material, these barbs catch the

individual fibers and push them down into the bottom layer.



Five round holes in the needle plate correspond to the five needle points. These holes are slightly larger than those found on other felting machines, allowing penetration through even multiple layers to occur easily, quickly and cleanly, allowing for a better blending of fibers.

The fibers mingle to create new color and texture combinations that simply cannot be achieved with embroidery, appliqué, or any other kind of needlework. In needle felting there is no "right side" or "wrong side." Whether you push the fibers through from the front or back depends on the effect you're trying to achieve. Experimentation is part of the fun.

The machine is extremely easy to use and opens up a world of new possibilities for beginning and advanced sewing and craft enthusiasts alike.

The new Embellisher from Baby Lock

No thread needed. That's right, the Embellisher requires no threading or sewing; it simply "meshes" fabrics together. Designed for the

unique European art of machine needle felting, the Embellisher pushes fibers together creating beautiful surface embellishments. Simply move the fabric freely under the needles to create any look or design. The Embellisher can make all your projects, from garments to scrapbooks, more distinctive. Let your creativity soar with the new Baby Lock Embellisher! The Embellisher has seven barbed needles that mesh fabrics together. You customize the embellishing area by adding or removing needles.

Come into the store and try out both of these embellishers today!



April 2007



Special April pricing!!
Call 760-739-8222 for details.

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For those of you who may not be aware, one of our teachers, Linda Hooker, is moving to Colorado. Linda will be returning about every other month to continue teaching.

The current projects that Linda is working on include a repeat of the Hanging Sewing Organizer, Purse Class, and an Heirloom Class. Other classes on embroidery, lace and home dec classes are being considered, depending on customer interest.

If you are interested in attending any of the above mentioned classes, or have a request for another class, please contact Janet at 760-739-8222 or at janet@sewingmachinesplus.com

"To all of my students, friends, and wonderful customers:

It has been a pleasure for me to have had the good fortune to know you, work with you, and share the love of continually learning more about the exciting crafts of sewing and embroidery.

I will miss all of you, but will look forward to my trips back to see you again.

Hugs to you all,
Linda"

Who Is John Deer?

John Deer, one of North America's leading experts on digitizing and embroidery for the corporate and home marketplace, is a third generation embroidery guru. He has over 20 years of digitizing experience, and he owns and operates Punch Perfect, a digitizing and corporate consulting firm.

As a co-founder of Art-Sew-Perfect, he's produced trendy and fashionable stock designs as

well as numerous instructional and "how to" DVDs used for educating customers who want to learn the art of embroidery.

Martins will be sponsoring John Deer in our area to provide you with two different classes of embroidery education.

Keep watching your newsletter and email for further information about John's visit.

Mark your calendars now to reserve November 29, 30, or December 1.

"I keep my end tables full of needlework and quilting so I don't have to dust them."

Birthday Surprise

Do we know when your birthday is? Have you filled out our Subscriber Survey Update? Starting in April, we will be sending out a special email for our monthly birthdays. If you haven't done



so already, click on "Update your preferences" at the bottom of the email you received for this newsletter. The more information you

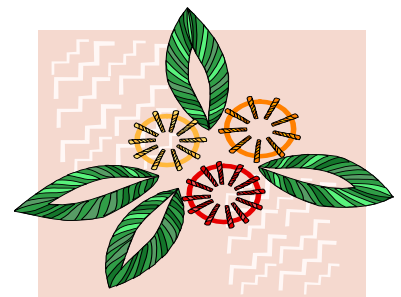
share, the more we can find out what your interests are and how we can send you just the information you need. Remember, we never sell our email list. This list is for the exclusive use of Martins.

Coming Soon...A New Embroidery Club

We are planning to start a club that will specialize in helping sewers who want to learn more about digitizing. Participants will be encouraged to share their original designs with other members of the group.

The club is in the planning stage, so email us at hinde@sewingmachinesplus.com or talk to Janet next time you are in the store. Tell us what you would like included in such a club, when the best

time for you to meet would be, if you would like to be notified of scheduled meetings, and any other ideas you might have to make this group a success.



Sewing Machine Maintenance

Here is an easy way to keep your sewing machine in good running order.



For some of us, we do not change a needle in our sewing machine unless it breaks. You should replace your needle after it has been used for several projects. Needles bend. Needles get blunt. Needles need to be changed regularly.

A guideline to follow for conventional sewing machines is to insert a fresh needle after every 10 to 12 hours of sewing, or after every two garments or projects. Another sign that it may be best to try a new needle is when you encounter stitching problems with a new type of sewing thread or a new sewing technique.

For serger machines, consider changing the needle after eight or ten garments.

Since serger thread doesn't slide back and forth through the eye of the needle, changing the needle may not occur as often. If the serger does begin to skip, try changing the needle.

(Next month we will look at using the appropriate needle for our projects).

April Class Information-Call 760-739-8222 to register

Decorate Your Denim – Friday, April 6 – 10 am to 1 pm - \$20

Take a denim shirt or jacket and perk it up with fancy cuffs and collar and some great embellishments. Supply lists and pictures are on our website.

Know Your Serger – Saturday, April 7 -10 am to noon - \$25**

Still haven't taken your serger out of its box? Is it collecting dust and stray bits of fabric draped around it? Do you dread starting a new project because you might have to rethread your machine? Let Janet help take the fear out of using this versatile machine.

Private Lessons with JC – Monday, April 9

Sign up for an hour or more for private sewing instruction. The cost is \$20 per hour.

Masterworks – Tuesday, April 10 - 10 to noon; \$25**

Hone your skills on your Masterworks software.

Palette – Thursday, April 12 – 1 to 3 pm - \$25**

Increase your skills in working with your Palette Digitizing software.

Beginning Sewing – Sundays – April 15, 22, & 29- 1 – 4 pm - \$45/3 classes

Bring your machine, your manual, and paper and pencil to the first class. This class is also appropriate for you and your child, ages 12 and up.

Trapunto Tote – Wednesday, April 18 – 1 to 4 pm - \$25

Learn trapunto while making a great tote bag. An embroidery machine in good working order is needed. A supply list with picture is on our website.

Serger Techniques – Thursday, April 19 – 10 to noon - \$20

Continue to become an expert on your serger with a special project. The prerequisite for this class is "Know Your Serger". We will be learning Flat Locking and bridging techniques with decorative threads. Watch the website for the class supplies.

Smocking by Machine – Saturday, April 28 – 1 to 3 pm - \$30

We will be making a small bag in this class. Supply list will be posted on the website before class.

****Class is free if machine or software was purchased at Martins.**



We will be closed for Easter Sunday on April 8. Enjoy the holiday.

Do you have an idea for a class?



We'd like to hear it! We'll develop and offer a class if you know four people who would like to take it! E-mail your ideas and contact information to

hinde@sewingmachinesplus.com. If you just have an idea, but no one else who wants the class, email us anyway. We are developing a calendar for classes throughout the year.

Where can I find the class calendar and information about supplies?

● Bookmark our information page:

www.sewingmachinesplus.com/martins.php

Sew What's New Club



We had an exciting Sew What's New Club meeting this past week. We had a great presentation by Macy Silveria on Long Arm Quilting. We had a visit by Kathi Quinn of Floriani Stabilizers, too. Everyone there learned lots of tips about ways to improve their machine embroidery. Rachanee S. won door prize of Floriani Stabilizer worth over \$70. We were so busy at our Wednesday meeting, that we forgot to give out a door prize. We'll make it up to you in April.

Next month, we'll be back to our usual 10:00 am to noon meetings. Our group is growing, so be sure to get there early to get a good seat.

See What's New!

Share a project!

Get a prize!

FREE

**April 18 or 21
10 am to 12 noon**

Free MasterWorks Trial

Have you wanted to discover an exciting new way to embroider with MasterWorks? Do you keep seeing Masterworks on our class schedule and would like to give it a try?

This easy-to-use digitizing software lets you turn practically any image into an embroidery design. With MasterWorks, you'll have an endless amount of options for your next project, including pre-digitized designs and over 160 built-in fonts. The best part is, all of your tools, images, stitch options and wizards are all on one screen, so it's incredibly easy to use. MasterWorks is compatible with today's most popular brands of embroidery machines.

The best part is, you don't have to make a decision without giving it a try. Come into the store today and get a free MasterWorks trial CD.

In addition, you can sample thirteen different Designers Gallery programs before purchasing them here at the store. Just go to:

<http://www.designersgallerysoftware.com>

and click on "Free Trials" across the top.



Happy Stitching!

