

The Running STITCHES

January
2014

2014 is here and many of us make resolutions when we welcome in a new year. We set a goal to lose weight, get fit, and finish our UFOs. But how about enjoying the moment, no need to feel guilty. I personally do not make resolutions because I never hold on to them. In fact, my resolution should be and will be now that I am thinking about it: "Enjoy the moment". How about that? This resolution I think I can live with all year!

The theme we chose this year is "Show Time". We decided to go with this theme because we are going to be involved in several shows and we are always delighted to see your projects in progress or finished. We also like to show you new collections, new projects, new classes and new guests. We are scheduling a lot of classes, trunk shows, etc. Have you ever thought of presenting a trunk show yourself or with a few members of a quilt group? Let us know and we will certainly schedule you. We are also planning a few new Blocks of the Months; one with Sherri Hisey (our mystery quilt designer), one featuring batiks, one that will be a weekly block, but more information on those will follow.

This year will also be a year of traveling because Raymond and I were honored to be selected to be part of a special business program, to enhance our offerings, allow for growth and increased customer satisfaction. Our first meeting with other retailers (American & Canadian) will be in New Orleans on the first week of February. We will meet three times this year. We are very excited about this new adventure and we will let you know how it goes. Hopefully we will learn a lot which will allow us to serve you even better.

2013, was a wonderful year and I have my staff to thank. So, to celebrate them, I organized a retreat. We had a ball. We could sew all we wanted, we ate well, we laugh a lot and we bonded a whole lot too. What a weekend it was and what a great team I have. I'd like to thank each and every one of them (Gabriele, Wendy, Margaret, Linda, Kathy, Heidi and Alison, Dan the technician and Raymond my rock) for a great year and a great weekend.

So let's jump into the new year, enjoying the moment and getting ready Because "It's Showtime!"

Michele

THE RUNNING STITCH

| Monday - Friday 10:00 - 6:00 | Saturday 10:00 - 5:00 | Sunday closed |

| 462 Hazeldean Rd, Kanata ON K2L 1V3 | 613-836-5908 |

Photo Album

TRS Staff Retreat
2014



There was no way we could get a serious shot, or one where everyone was looking.... What did you expect?!

Come in the store to ask us for an explanation about our goofy pics, or the quilts shown!

NEW YEAR OPEN HOUSE

Resolve to make this year your best quilting year yet!

Sign up at the Open House for
**ANY class & get a \$10 gift card/
per class!**

New classes on tap that pique your interest? This is the perfect opportunity for you to find out more. Meet the teachers, ask questions and see the samples

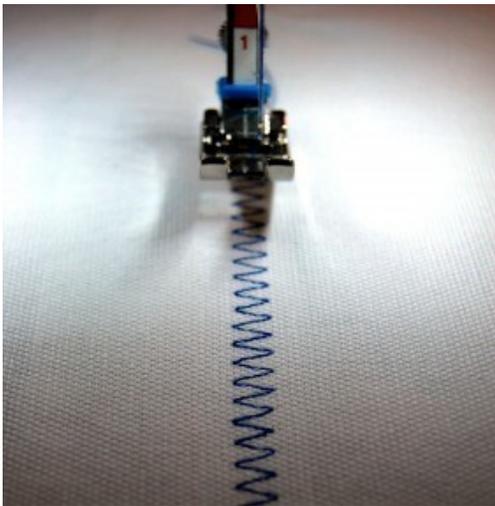
**January 10th
6pm - 8pm**

*Register during the Open House
and get a voucher of
10% for the supplies you will
need for that particular class*

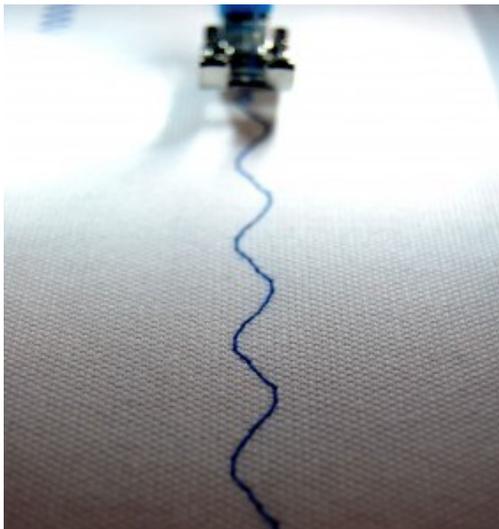


Quilting With The Running Stitch

Some people refer to this stitch as the “BERNINA stitch #4”, because most new BERNINA sewing machines include the utilitarian Running Stitch in the stitch library as stitch #4. Other people call it the “Serpentine stitch,” because it resembles a sidewinding snake.



When used with the factory settings this stitch creates a pattern of short stitches forming a zigzag (see above).



Alter the stitch by increasing the stitch width to the widest setting, then increase the stitch length to about 2.0-2.5mm to create a gently curving stitch (see left).

I don't know about you, but I think I'm going to give the simple “BERNINA #4” stitch a try next time I'm quilting! What about you, have you tried quilting with this stitch, or used another utilitarian stitch while quilting?

Happy stitching!



Fiesta Wall Quilt from *Quilting Modern* (Interweave, 2012) by Jacquie Gering and Katie Pedersen. Photo by Joe Hancock.

**The Running Stitch
Anniversary Sale
20-70% OFF
January 2-4th**

**Hurry & Save up to \$400 on a new BERNINA/bernette
Download & print your coupons at LetItSew.net**

Time is  **running out!**

**Plus, Enter to Win a B 330
before it's too late!**



BERNINA⁺
made to create

Top 10 2014 New Years Re-SEW-lutions



Every year some people make resolutions, those little reminders and mental check lists to try new things, do things differently, and strive towards bettering themselves. Well we think that is possible too with your sewing, so we did a little research, a little soul searching and came up with a New Year's Re-Sew-lution

10. Learn to sew or learn a new specific technique.

We love to sew, and we're not surprised that more people want to learn how, too! Taking classes can be a wonderful way to get started and to learn new techniques. Why not find out about some upcoming classes and see what techniques are being featured.

9. Learn all about machine embroidery.

We LOVE machine embroidery here! From embellishing custom accents for your wardrobe to creating one of a kind gifts and even quilting in the hoop, the possibilities with machine embroidery are endless. If you are an absolute beginner, try taking a class to find out what it's all about.

8. Clean and organize your sewing space.

A clean sewing space can inspire you to get stitching and help you be more productive! Need some help on getting organized? Check the notions and cases we have in the store. Looking for inspiration from other successfully organized sewers? Check out the "Operation: Sewing Room Organization" group at Flickr.com.

7. Keep my Machine working like clockwork

Cleaning and oiling your machine on a regular basis will keep it running smoothly and quietly! General rule of thumb is to change your needle, oil and clean your machine after every project, but Wendy gives a good tip for all of you that switch between multiple projects all the time. Clean and Oil every two to three bobbins. You Gals with the Bernina's with the Larger bobbins this especially goes for you!

6. Sew more for myself.

Sewing for others is sometimes the most rewarding thing about the sewing ! If you're not sure what to sew for yourself, try getting inspired by talking to friends that sew or looking at some of the new sewing books hitting the shelves. If you get inspired by seeing what others are stitching up, try browsing some sewing, quilting, or crafting blogs.

5. Sew more in the new year.

Finding more time to sew is always easier said than done! A tip that works best for many sewers is to set aside some uninterrupted sewing time either weekly or once a month. Or why not invite a friend over to sew with you, or host a sewing get-together for friends and family on a regular basis? We have a **Sew Day each month** where you can come and gather with other quilters and sew (lunch and a \$10 gift card are included).

Have a group of girlfriends who you know love to sew, but no ones living room is big enough to hold you? Come and use The Running Stitch. We have a great deal, we provide the space, electricity, tables, set up and clean up, - heck we event throw in lunch and a ten dollar gift cards for everyone who attends. These days have been great, as there is no muss or fuss, and you have the store at your disposal. Call the store and check for availability.

4. Sew to serve others.

If you are resolving to volunteer some of your sewing time to help others this year but don't know where to start; Many local organizations, like hospitals, Veteran's organizations, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and animal shelters may accept handmade donations too, just call and ask how you can help. Sewing to serve others can be rewarding when shared with a group, and a sewing for charity party or event might be a great way to mark this resolution off of your list!



3. Learn how to use all of those nifty features on my sewing machine.

Resolve to take a class to learn how to use certain stitches, techniques, or accessory feet in the new year. And, once you've learned something new, try to incorporate it in a project! You could even make a check-list of machine features that you see listed in your manual and want to get better acquainted with, and check them off as you go.

2. Use different colors

Yup push yourself this year. I know you love to work in blues, or civil war prints, batiks or solids, but try something different, force yourself to do more than just one project in a line, a colorway or a style that is not what you are use to. We can help you pick it out, or make a kit to take the stress away, but you never know... this is the year you could go modern! Or discover your love of purple!

1. Finish up all of those UFO's!

This is by far and away the top resolution for most quilters we talked to! Here at The Running Stitch, we know all about unfinished projects (what, me sew more than one project at a time?! lol). We've found that keeping your projects organized is a great way to stay on-task until a project is finished, and here are some of our best tips.

First, take a look back at all of your unfinished projects. Do you really want to finish them all? You know, the baby you were making that quilt for isn't really a baby anymore! Consider "breaking up" with some of your projects and re-use or donate the fabric to make way for **new sewing projects**.

To help avoid UFO's: Find a method to organize your sewing projects. I use a write-on/wipe-off board to list all of my current and future projects, and if I want to add another project I can quickly see if I need to change my priorities or even get in gear to finish stuff before starting something else. Some sewers use bins or bags to organize all the fabric, patterns, and notions for a project, and can look to see how many projects are in the works. Still others use handwritten lists, bulletin boards, clip boards, and even computerized lists to stay on top of what is in progress.

What ever it is you do—we just hope you have fun! We can't wait to see what you come up with—so bring it by the store!

Ali



What's Happening in the Classroom...

SAMPLER I

This is a 12 block pieced sampler quilt top. It is completed with sashings, corner stones and borders. Come and learn all about basic rotary cutting, piecing, pressing and how to sew borders correctly.

In the first class, we will be discussing colour theory and coordinating your fabrics for the quilt.

Wednesdays AM: 10am-12:30pm

Session I: Jan 8, 15,22,29 Feb 5,12,19 March 19

Thursdays PM: 6:30-9:00pm

Session I: Jan 9,16,23,30 Feb 6,13,20 March 20

Instructor: Gabriele Howell

Cost: \$125.00



LIVING IN HARMONY

If you've never pieced with diamonds, this is the perfect time to start! This quilt will open up new frontiers for you, playing with 60 degree diamond shapes. A borderless quilt, it's all about the piecing. And jazz your quilt up with a pieced back, also included in the class.

Dates: Jan 18, Jan 25

Time: 1:30pm-4:00pm

Instructor: Krista Zaleski

Cost: \$50



GIANT DAHLIA

The Giant Dahlia is a classic design, and with today's gorgeous fabrics we can make the Giant Dahlia look brand new. The Giant Dahlia uses Marti Michell's acrylic templates and with Gabriele's guidance you will create this beautiful quilt with ease.

Dates: Jan 20, 27, Feb 3, 17

Time: 6:30pm-9:00pm

Instructor: Gabriele Howell

Cost: \$90 plus pattern





Machine Quilting I

Learn how to turn your beautiful quilt tops into gorgeous quilts on your own machine. In this course, you will make a small quilt samplers of various stitches for future reference. Starting with your walking foot and straight lines, you will discover “in the ditch”, grids, and decorative stitches. With your darning foot, you will experiment with stencils, meandering, and outline quilting. Marking and sandwiching the quilt, types of thread, needles and batting, and machine settings will be covered.

Dates:

I—Jan 25, Feb 1 (10:00-1:00)

II—March 1, 8 (1:00-4:00)

III—March 29, April 5 (10:00-1:00)

Instructor: Wendy Fraser

Cost: \$60.00 + supplies



SEW DAY

Bring your machine and any WIP's and UFO's and sew away with Gabriele. Get help with projects from an expert teacher. Lunch will be provided and you can grab a little something you might need to finish off your project with a \$10 gift certificate good toward anything in the store!

Dates: January 23rd , Feb 18, March 25, April 15

Time: 10:00-4:00

Instructor: Gabriele Howell

Cost: \$40.00

(Includes Lunch and \$10 gift certificate)

**Space is limited*