

Great Ideas Worth Sharing – Group 4

Bev S: **Be Prepared!**

When attending classes or retreats, tape an envelope either to side of your machine or on your table , with your name on it. Inside place your medical information: your prescriptions and dosages and your medical history (operations, illnesses, etc), and update it annually. No one will see the information because it's in an envelope, but in case of emergency, it can be handed to EMTs quickly. This information should also always be kept with you in your purse. Let's face it, your husband or children do not carry this information to school or work with them. It could save time and **SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

Bev S: **Lots of Ideas Collected During a Lifetime of Quilting**

- * If you need a template for a perfect circle, use a CD/DVD. They are 4-3/4 across and finish up at 4-1/2".
- * I save a strip of selvage from each fabric I'm using in a quilt. The part that has the name of the fabric, the manufacturer, and all those colored dots. If I run out of a fabric, I can check my selvages and go get some or order some of same.
- * From Fons & Porter: If you are taking a child with you, make sure you bring a book for the child to read or a few small toys.
- * With a dull rotary cutter blade and no time to go out and buy a new one, cut 5 or 6 squares of aluminum foil (about 5" square). Stack them shiny side up on top of each other. Run your dull blade thru the foil for a quick sharpening. Don't forget to do this on your Rotary MAT!!!



- * Also from Fons & Porter: Keep a clean bath toilet bowl brush in your sewing room. After a long sewing session, just skim it over your carpet to catch loose threads before they get caught in your vacuum cleaner rollers.
- * Fons & Porter: Did you know that fleece is a thread magnet? To keep threads from migrating throughout the house, wear fleece while sewing. You'll be a mess, but your floors stay clean!

Andrea O: **Keeping It Together and Keeping It Clean**

- * When purchasing patterns and the fabrics at the same time, when you get home, put the pattern, fabrics and trims, embellishments in one clear plastic project baggie for future use so that you don't forget which fabric goes with which.
- * Used dryer sheets will clean the sole plate on your iron if it's messy or gunky.

Christina B: **Leave Your Quilts in a Bunch?**

Don't fold your quilts for long periods of time. Bunch your quilts up and leave them in a pile and there won't be permanent creases. Remember to go back and re-bunch every year or so.

Ruth O: **Great Use for Leftover Fabric**

Make a pillow/pillowcase out of leftover fabric from each quilt; especially if you are giving it away.

Barbara K: **Google This and Other Online Tips**

- * Google "Magic Binding" for a handy binding technique.
- * Get flip-up magnifying attachment that attaches to your eyeglasses. Keep them in a checkbook holder so they don't get scratched. They are called Wonder Clips. Can get them at Harbor Freight Tools in Milford, and online.
- * When looking at fabric on-line, you can move the ruler over the photograph to the correct size on the motif (Editor's note – IF there is a ruler in the vendor's online shop. Not all have this feature.)

Lorraine S: **And When Ripping Out Becomes Necessary . . .**

When ripping out seams, snip every 4th or 5th stitch. Cut one and turn over. Just pull the whole thing apart. Works like a charm.

Barbara D: **Your Camera as a Quilting Tool & One from Nancy's Notions**

* When you have pieces of a quilt on your design wall and might be moving pieces, take a photo of each arrangement with your cell phone so that you can recreate a previous arrangement that you liked a lot.

* Use a "Kut It Sew Straight Guide" with a laser light. The light gives you a perfect line when you lay it down on your fabric. Great for quilting and sewing. Get it online at Nancy's Notions.

Marcia C: **Rotary Cutter Safety**

Use an old eyeglass case to safely transport your rotary cutter.

Pat C: **Fabric Grippers**

To hold your fabric in place when quilting on your machine, get Dollar Store sponges with the scrubber on one side. Place a sponge on each side of your machine needle and hold onto them when you are quilting. Especially good if you have very dry hands.

Judy M: **Binding Trick**

Suggestion from Missouri Star Quilt Co. – for a two color binding, cut 2 strips 1-1/4" and 1-3/4" (must add up to 3") and sew them the long way. Will make a flange when you sew binding strips to your quilt.

Ruthe P: **Clean Your Machine & Take Your "Buddies" Shopping**

* Use artist brushes to clean inside your machine.

* Swatch Buddies can be placed on a ring and glued to swatches of the fabric you are using in a quilt and just take the swatch buddies with you to fabric shop. More convenient than a bunch of folded fabric in your purse or tote bag.



Paulene D: **Transporting Quilt Block Pieces**

When transporting your blocks, place each whole block on a separate page so you have your blocks separated and in order.