

## Great Ideas Worth Sharing – Group 2

### Laureen P: **Fusible Appliqué**

At her first appliqué class Laureen was told to iron all the fabric in the kit on to double-sided Heat and Bond. Then when cutting the particular pieces for each block, they just need to be ironed on. The design can then be edged with hand or machine stitching. The Heat and Bond keeps the fabric from fraying. This technique was also used on her CTPQG apron's friendship star.

### Marilyn C: **For Smooth Fingers**

Marilyn recommends "New Skin" a product that protects fingers from getting scratched or pricked by needles when hand sewing.

### Shelley B: **For Sticky Fingers**

Shelley recommends using "Sort Quick," a finger tip moistener available at Staples, to keep fingers from slipping when aligning sewn seams together.

### Sandra C: **Stitch-in-the-ditch Help**

Use the blind hem foot as a guide when doing "stitch in the ditch" quilting.

### Patricia J: **Keeping It In The Correct Order**

Patricia recommends using Post-it notes to organize small stacks of fabric pieces. Write the name of the piece on the note, and stitch it onto the related group of fabric pieces using a single thread. When you are ready to sew, you can pull the fabric piece from the back of the stack as you need it.

### Linda B: **Your Camera, Your Quilting Friend**

When shopping for fabric, take photographs of the fabrics, use the edit setting on the phone or camera to change the color values/contrast and see if you like the grouping together.

Shelly B adds that this can also be used when arranging the blocks before sewing them together.

### Mary E: **Taming Slippery Rulers**

Mary uses double sided Nexcare Tape. One side is sticky and taped to her ruler. The other side is textured and keeps the ruler from slipping.

### Rita D: **Taming Stretchy Fabric**

Rita starches her fabrics after washing, then irons them. The starch keeps the fabric cut on the bias from stretching. It makes a big difference in precision.

### Lois S: **Creating Special Textured Fabric**

Lois uses a paint can strainer with pencil size holes. After placing her fabric, right side up, on the strainer, she uses a pencil (eraser side) to push the fabric through the holes. Then she irons "Heat-N-Shrink" to the underside. After pulling off the paper, she removes the fabric and has a tufted looking fabric to make into something special like flowers or a fancy border.



### Rita P: **Hanging Small Quilts**

Make two separate sleeves on a small hanging quilt. Leave the center free to add a wire ring,

Rita demonstrated how she makes a wire picture holder for a small hanging quilt. She uses # 14 wire, needle nosed pliers with a built-in wire cutter, garden scissors to cut the wooden dowel and sandpaper to smooth the edges. She

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wraps the wire around the pliers 3 times, bends the wire at a right angle and repeats the process. One wire is slipped onto the dowel and the other is used as the hanging loop. The dowel is inserted into a divided sleeve on the quilt back. It is now ready for hanging.

### Mary Anne M: **Needlepoint**

When working with needlepoint attach a pair of magnets to your work, one on each side of the fabric. This is a handy place to put your needle so it doesn't get lost.

### Rita M: **Organizing With Coffee Cans**

Rita used a decorated coffee can to organize and keep small pieces needed for a quilt project. A pin cushion was glued inside the lid to hold pins and needles. Rita's contained 1 ½ inch hexagons in a variety of colors along with the pattern piece. The kit could be used by a child for sorting or be kept until sufficient pieces are collected to sew together.



### Sharlee D: **Graph and Contact Paper**

Sharlee recommends using your computer to google "printable graph paper". You will find a variety to use when designing quilt blocks.

Use contact paper as a pattern to quilt a design in the center of a quilt block. After quilting around the design she pulls off the pattern paper and has a nice neat design.

### Sharlee D: **Your Best Friend, The Digital Camera**

Your camera is your best friend when making quilts. Take photos of quilt blocks to select the best arrangement. Take a photo of the finished quilt top to see if it needs tweaking before being quilted. Carry your camera to take photos for inspiration for your next quilt. Look for patterns in floor tiles, brick arrangements, rugs, etc. Take photos of trees, flowers, sky, and scenes. Bring your camera to guild meetings and to quilt shows to take pictures for inspiration. Be sure to take photos of all your finished quilts, plus fabric swatches and info about the quilt (size, fabric, batting, embellishments etc.)

### Janice K: **Wrinkly Fabric?**

Janice recommends using "Downy Wrinkle Releaser" to remove wrinkles in fabric.

### Janice K: **Can't See That Thread?**

When using invisible thread, use black marker on the end of the thread so you can see it better as you thread it through the eye of the needle.

### Virginia M: **Tracking Fabric Information**

Virginia recommends cutting the selvedge, with the information on it, off the fabric. This way you have the fabric maker and other information you need if more of the same fabric is needed.