

Thread-painting

Supply list (2 pages)

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Thread painting may be easier than you think; it's basically 'coloring' with thread instead of paint. Though confidence with free-motion stitching is recommended for this class, precise stitching skills are not necessary to create a beautiful thread-painted motif; an enthusiastic novice can achieve stunning results (see additional photos of student work). This project offers several pattern options: a coloring-book-style butterfly in a couple of sizes suitable for all skill levels, or a choice of birds that require a more 'painterly' technique and better free-motion stitching skills. Students are also welcome to bring their own designs if they wish to try something unique. Please reach out to the teacher for more information if you would like a specific design of your own.

Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503 888-9784 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.

Thank you, Helene

TOOLS/MATERIALS:

- **12" square of fabric:** Ideally, this should either be a solid or 'read' as a solid. Choose any color you wish keeping in mind that it should contrast well with the thread colors you choose. **Tip:** a darker value fabric will show off the thread work better than a light one.
- **10" square of embroidery stabilizer:** Medium to heavy weight; you will be stitching fairly densely and will need to stabilize the fabric to prevent it from scrunching and distorting. This can be an iron-on product if you wish.
- **A Machine Embroidery Hoop:** This will keep your embroidery from distorting while you stitch. I prefer a 7" machine embroidery hoop of the spring-loaded or screw tightening type but a regular wooden embroidery hoop will work if it will fit under the free motion foot of your sewing machine; test it before coming to class to make sure it works with your machine.
- **Drawing pencil:** The kind you sharpen, not a mechanical pencil.
- **Saral Paper:** This is a chalk coated artist's transfer paper available at art supply stores, choose a color that will show up on your fabric; dressmaker's transfer paper is an appropriate substitute.
- **White Quilter's pencil:** Saral paper marks will rub off as you stitch so you may need to reinforce some of the design lines occasionally.
- **Thread:** in colors that will be appropriate for your subject (see guide below). The pattern provided for the project is of a butterfly or a bird. I recommend having a range of colors, perhaps even more than you need so you can make some last minute choices. Variegated thread can also offer some interesting effects as long as the color change isn't too drastic. Use metallic thread only if you have experience and feel at ease using it, you will be stitching very heavily and metallic threads are very temperamental though they may add a bit of sparkle if used sparingly. A regular sized spool of each color should be enough.
 1. **Butterfly:** you will need a variety of thread in colors of your choice, one for the body and several for the wings. If you wish to explore blending and shading, choose several colors that will blend smoothly from one to another well. There are design features on the wings that should contrast with the basic wing colors and a decorative metallic or rayon thread for the antennae adds a nice touch. Make sure that the color choices contrast well with the base fabric
 2. **Bird:** the bird will require more colors than the butterfly for the painterly shading. Rather than try and give you exact color numbers which vary greatly by brand (and I typically cross brands to get the colors I want) I have given you a basic 'palette' of colors to find. The exact tone or shade is less important than the colors you pick working well together. In general you will need: white, black, three shades of gray

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(light/medium/dark), three shades of warm brown (from medium golden brown to dark chocolate brown), warm yellow, golden yellow and yellow orange, dull greenish yellow (optional), pale 'sky' blue, medium 'French' blue, medium-dark 'French' blue, dark 'smoke' blue. Note: The blues are for the warbler only. You can also search bird identification guides for small perching songbirds and choose colors to match one of them for the project, the pattern provided is for a small perching songbird. Keep in mind, the more color/shade thread variations you have, the more realistic you can make your bird.

- **Extra Bobbins:** The bobbin thread does not need to match the top exactly, you can choose bobbin colors that will work well with groups of top thread, but you will need about 5-6 bobbins to cover the various colors.
- **Sewing Machine:** with feed dogs that can be dropped and a free-motion foot (**this is absolutely necessary**); an open-toed free motion foot is a better option than a closed-toe one.
- **Extra machine needles:** Sewing through stabilizer over multiple layers of thread will dull needles fairly fast, have back-up needles –Denim/Jeans needles in size 14 or 16 are recommended. The larger needles are better for thicker or more fragile threads. Topstitching needles in sizes 12, 14 or 16 are also a good choice for applying a dense layer of thread.
- **Thread snips**
- **Doodle cloth:** A 12" square of stabilized fabric the same as your project fabric to test stitching tension and/or practice texture and blending techniques on.
- **Batting and backing:** Optional but you may decide to do your machine embroidery on a layered piece making the embroidery part of the finishing work on your project. I recommend dense cotton batting such as Warm & Natural.
- **Pattern:** Supplied in the class

Other Incidental Supplies:

You may or may not need these things; they are mainly for comfort.

- **Lighting:** additional lighting may be helpful; a portable Ott light would be appropriate.



Still hesitant about the skill needed?

These were made by previous students. Most of them had no previous Threadpainting experience.

