



LEARN & CREATE

with Baby Lock



Kiss Your Stash Goodbye Yarn Couching

It's easy to create texture and add dimension to your quilting when you follow along with Denise in this installment of "Kiss Your Stash Goodbye"! Denise has nifty tips for creating efficiencies in the way you sew. Filmed on the Crown Jewel III and can be done on just about any sewing machine! You won't want to miss any of the fun.



Supplies:

- Quilt frame Loaded with top, back and batting
- Yarn rolled into a ball not a hank
- The Allen wrench used to change presser feet on your long arm machine
- Yarn Couching foot set (BLQ-CCF)
 - The three sizes of couching feet in this kit enable you to couch a wide variety of threads, yarns, ribbons and other fibers to add a special touch to your quilts.
 - Your machine should already be fitted with the mount that works with interchangeable hopping feet
 - If your machine is not yet fitted to accept interchangeable feet, you will need BLQ-HFK Hopping Foot Conversion Kit



1. The Yarn Couching foot set comes with three different feet
 - Each foot has a different size hole in the center of the foot
 - The different sizes of holes are designed to be used with different sizes of yarn or other fibers
2. Test yarn with feet to see what size foot you need to use with the thickness of yarn you have selected
3. It is easiest to test the yarn with the feet before you attach the foot to the machine
 - Note that it is best to wind the yarn in a ball so it can be unwound smoothly
 - Yarn left in a hank will get tangled as you sew
4. Feed the yarn through the hole in the foot from top to bottom
 - The yarn should slide easily through the hole in the foot without getting stuck
 - If the yarn frays or gets stuck, then the foot is too small
5. Cut a new end on the yarn and try again with a foot with a larger hole
6. Hold the yarn stretched between two hands and tilt the yarn to see if the foot slides easily along the yarn

Where can yarn couching be used?

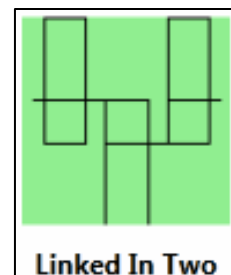
1. Yarn couching is a way of adding texture to a project
2. Although you would probably not want to use yarn on a whole quilt, it could be wonderful in a border
3. Or it could be used to add texture to a wall hanging

Denise made a design in Art & Stitch to practice couching

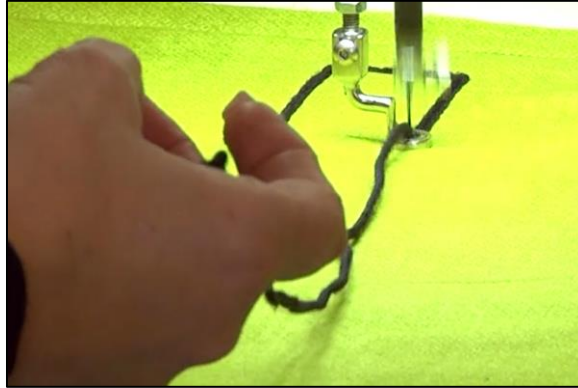
1. Practicing on sample fabric is a good idea
2. If you mark squares on the practice fabric, you can use those areas for test sewing
 - Make notes with a sharpie marker about the yarn, thread, stitch length and pattern used on the practice fabric
 - Save the practice pieces to refer to in the future so you know what you liked and/or did not like and it can save you time setting up for couching projects in the future

Yarn Couching with Pro-Stitcher automation

1. Denise selected a simple geometric border pattern in Pro-Stitcher
 - The Pro-Stitcher design used was Linked in Two from the Designs\Darlene Epp folder
2. Set a 2-Point Area using Pro-Stitcher
3. Skew design in area
4. Repeat 3 times



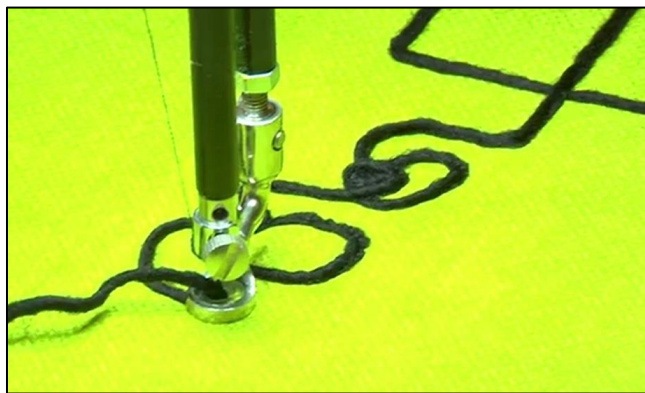
5. The stitch length was set at 16 stitches per inch, so the yarn was secured more times
6. Unwind plenty of yarn and puddle it on the quilt top so there is lots of yarn ready to be fed into the stitching
7. Set the speed to slow
 - Using a slow speed gives you time to place the yarn as the machine sews
 - You may even want to run a test sew of your pattern before you begin couching so you know how the pattern sews and where it will be going next
8. As the machine was stitching, Denise laid the yarn in front of the foot



9. As you gain confidence with the technique, you can adjust the speed of the sewing to find the speed that is comfortable for you
10. If you see the yarn twisting, you may need to stop sewing and remove the twist
 - Cut a length of thread from the skein or ball of yarn
 - Gently untwist the thread and smooth it toward the cut end

Freehand stitching with the yarn couching foot

1. The same stitch length of 16 stitches per inch was used
2. Guide the machine with one hand
3. Use the other hand to move the yarn as you go
 - The straight line sections in the image at the right were automated
 - The curves quilting lines were stitched free hand



Although it is easier to put the yarn into the foot before the foot is on the machine, you may need to add a new piece of yarn in the foot after the foot is on the machine

1. To add a new piece of yarn when the foot is on the machine:

- Place yarn under needle



- Needle up/down several times to create a knot in the yarn



- Move machine out of the way and the yarn will pull through the foot



Happy Quilting,

Denise Applegate-Schober

