

CAMILLE ROSKELLEY'S STIPPLING TUTORIAL



Step 1: SUPPLIES

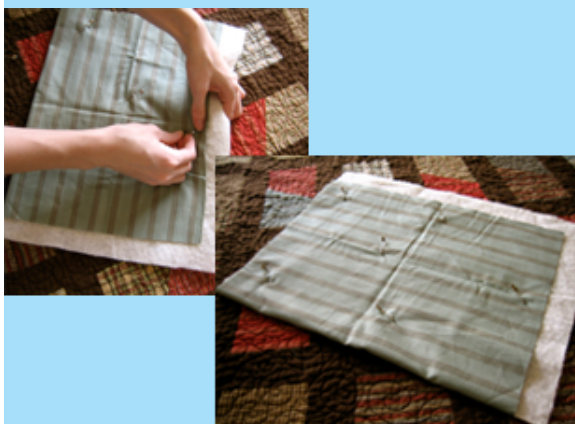
You will need:

- A darning foot, or open-toe foot made specifically for your machine.
- Two fabric scraps to practice on, about 18" x18" and a piece of batting the same size. I recommend a cotton or cotton/poly blend.
- Quilter's safety pins - they have a slightly rounded center section.
- And most of all, patience!



Step 2: PRACTICE ON PAPER FIRST.

On a piece of paper, start in one corner and practice drawing a continuous line in a pattern you like. Some examples are shown in the last photo.



Step 3: PREP.

Once you get a hang of drawing a continuous line, get your machine ready. Attach the stippling foot and put the feed dogs down. The tension may have to be adjusted. Since each machine is different, experiment with this to find the correct settings.

Make a "quilt sandwich" with your fabric and batting (fabric, batting, fabric) and use the safety pins to pin it together every 6 in. or so.



Step 4: GO FOR IT!

Starting in one corner of your practice square, take a deep breath and go for it! Push down on the pedal about 3/4 of the way, and think of the pedal as being off or on. On is 3/4, off is off. Your stitch length will be more consistent. Move your fabric in a steady circular motion, creating the pattern you practiced. The most important part of this is that you move it smoothly. This will take a LOT of practice!



Step 5: PRACTICE!

I did 10 or 15 practice squares before I ever attempted a quilt! Even then, my stippling was by no means perfect. When you start a quilt, take the same steps with a few adjustments. For your "quilt sandwich", tape the backing to a hard surface, like a table. Make sure your backing & batting is 2" bigger than your quilt top on all sides. Start in one corner & work your way down, ending in the opposite corner. Doing this will help prevent folds on your backing.