

Stencil Strategies

Date: October 31st, 2026
Time: 12:00 – 4:30
Cost: \$40.00
Instructor: Cherie T.

Here is an opportunity to discover the possibilities when using stencils to mark your quilting projects for free-motion quilting. It is especially helpful for people who want to do their own quilting, but feel intimidated by “free wheeling” free motion. Stencils allow you to follow guide lines to create beautiful stitching designs on your pieced quilts.

In preparation for this class, you will make a “quilt sandwich” – top, batting and back. On one side of the top, you will mark several border sizes and stitch those straight lines to indicate the borders, including extending those borders around the corners. On the other side, you will mark and sew on the lines of several squares that are common quilt block sizes. Finally, stitch along the outer edge. Binding is not necessary.

Expect a courtesy call from the teacher about a week before class begins, to address any questions and offer additional information. A mock-up copy of the sampler will be supplied with recommended dimensions via email at that time.

Having that homework finished and ready to go when you arrive at class will allow us to dive right in to the main objective – using the stencils. Setting up your machine for free motion quilting ahead of time will also be helpful. If you have not used this feature before, take a little time to familiarize yourself with the process, and try a little free motion on a scrap sandwich ahead of class.

We will explore using various threads – variegated, metallic, Sulky; as well as an array of sizes and colors. We will also stack stencils, to achieve alternative uses. I’ll show you how to augment, isolate or reduce the existing designs. Additionally, we’ll entertain the options for border stencils – how to turn the corners, how to calculate and arrange the repeats of border stencils. There are so many variations to consider! Let’s de-mystify the process to express our creativity while using these amazing tools.

Supply List:

- **Fabric**
 - 2 squares of plain fabric (muslin will do) at least 32” X 32” & up to 40” X 40”. The exact size is your choice.
 - 1 layer of batting, same size
- **Notions & Tools**

- Any stencils you already have or that you care to purchase (I will bring plenty to share.) Mark with your name, in permanent marker, or a length of yarn tied on, any stencil you bring, so they're sure to be returned to you.
 - Sewing scissors or snips
 - Extra bobbins and machine needles
 - Various threads in strong colors (bring what you have already)
 - Sewing machine, power cord, foot pedal & manual
 - Small craft or travel iron and ironing surface
 - Plain paper doodle tablet (dollar store quality)
 - Pencil and eraser
 - Removeable marking implement (Frixion pen – or water erasable pen – or vanishing pen – or chalk marker)
- **Optional:**
 - Washing your fabric is recommended (serge or zig-zag the cut edges first)
 - For the best result, use only 100% cotton quilting fabric. Home dec, outdoor fabric, polyester blends will not perform in the same way

Class Cancellation Policy

To reserve a seat, all Pocono Sew & Vac classes must be paid in full upon registration. In the event that a student needs to cancel their reservation for a class, they should notify PS&V at least 7 days in advance (by [phone](#)) to be eligible for a full refund. Cancellations made less than 7 days before class will not be issued a refund.

If a class does not have the minimum number of participants 7 days prior to class day, the teacher will cancel class. The customer will be fully refunded within 7 to 10 business days. Any questions call PS&V at [800-442-8227](tel:800-442-8227).

Some classes require homework to be done before class, such as cutting/prepping fabrics. If homework is required, it will be posted in the class description. Please read the class description thoroughly before signing up before a class. If homework is not done by the start of class, you will not be able to attend, and a refund will not be issued. If you have any questions regarding class homework, please call the store and we will be happy to help.