

TOP STITCH

Volume 23, Issue 1

Winter 2020

Embracing New Beginnings



Under the tree in the living room sits a small package with a cryptic message..."I owe you better". This isn't any heart wrenching moral projection, it's simply that the gift within is not much like what I had planned. It's somewhat wonky and full of mistakes (all of which I personally know) and ultimately it is somewhat amateur looking; mostly because it is the work of a beginner.

In 2019 I was inspired to take on a new craft - not because I was out of projects - but mostly because my interest caught fire after seeing several exhibits in Seattle. Without any base reference, nor previous knowledge, I dove into learning a totally foreign technique with the intent of incorporating it into my textile art someday.

So now I'm a Beginner again. It reminds me of when we first took on the challenge of running a machine and fabric store at the beginning of 1995. I knew absolutely nothing about sewing, except that for the prior 15 plus years any machine I dared touch found a way to talk back at me. Jonathan was considered an expert by then, having put in nearly a decade in the trade, but I knew no difference between a size 80 and a size 12 needle (spoiler alert...there isn't any!).

Those early days - thrown in the deep end - I spent as much time re-asking the same questions as the customers that kept asking me. But within a few months the answers I realized were - mostly - the same. It took several repetitions, but by being exposed repetitively, and recognizing the need to learn, I began to assimilate the breadth of experience I now possess today. It didn't happen over night.

But now I'm back at square one and it is both exhilarating and frustrating. Everything seems to take eternity to do. I'm clumsy and awkward. I have to concentrate on each aspect, and I find myself having to re-read directions and my notes over and over, and over again. Someday I hope it will all be second nature; the knowledge of a skill set crafted by experience. The ease of expertise. Reliability.

For now, nothing works out quite like intended. I've made more mistakes than successes (at least that's how it feels), but there is a certain joy and thrill within that learning environment. It is that joy of discovery. That joy of play. Embracing being a Beginner is like finding your inner child (and maybe even some new toys).

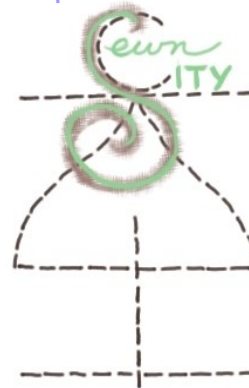
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Top News

Users of BERNINA DESIGNER Software v.8 NEED to be AWARE: Your software will AUTO UPDATE the next time you open the software while connected online. The process takes a very, VERY LONG TIME (...upwards of an hour...) It is IMPERATIVE that you NOT interrupt the process in anyway. The only remedy will be for you to contact the BERNINA software support team directly through their online request form.

Now Open:



for those

beyond

the crowd

etsy.com/shop/SewnCity

In the Works: Enamored in Seattle

It would not be fair of me to write that front page story without supplying the reveal. While many won't get that far, I know some will be extraordinarily curious to know what my new passion has become. If you guessed that it is related to glass art, you would be on the right track. The new Chihuly Garden at the base of the newly restored (and our first visit) Space Needle was simply breathtaking. We visited for hours, enjoying the late afternoon and sunset, as the change in colors swept across plants and glass sculpture. Earlier that day we had seen an exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum called Victorian Radicals incorporating the Arts & Crafts movement. I found myself lured by the glassy enamels featured in display cases. And lastly, we had taken a day for the 50th Anniversary exhibit of Apollo 11 at the Boeing Museum, on loan from the Smithsonian. The scorched scarring burned into these orbital artifacts were fascinating in their own way.

For some reason I started thinking about that day in art class around age 10, when we played with copper enamels. I kept my little charm for years. I told Jonathan that I was thinking of getting fired up, and started looking into what kind of supplies I would need. Being the sweet, enabling hubby that he is, he was more than encouraging. So here I am now with a hobby I find so enthralling that I am willing to brave the intemperate garage, dressed in 3 layers of polar fleece.

Besides the gift for Jonathan, I did make a small tag for my nephew in New Jersey (I'm an honorary Auntie) of which I'm much more confident with the result. Of course, he just turned five. And it has his initials. So I think I'm pretty safe there.

Eventually I will feel that my results match my desires and I will try to create that original vision I had, but for the time being I'm just engrossed and enamored with my little kiln (I call EZB-One) and the glass enamels I'm cooking in it.

NEED BACKS AND LARGE CUTS?

Check out our new \$3.00 /yd shelf!

TOP STITCH: WE HAVE YOUR BOTTOM COVERED

Where you buy your machine has a great deal to do with the long-term happiness with that purchase. You should expect to receive whatever services are included at the store where you paid for them.

When you Buy a BERNINA at TOP STITCH the following are ALWAYS included:

1. Complete Class Instruction for use of your new machine at no additional cost.
2. Free, unlimited trouble-shooting assistance by phone, e-mail or in-store.
3. Full warranty coverage performed on our premises by a BERNINA specialist.

Plus our exclusive BERNINA BUYERS' BONUS Discounts:

- ▶ **15% off** regular priced fabrics, notions, books, machine accessories, embroidery designs, etc.
- ▶ **Discounted*** maintenance & service on purchased machine saves you up to \$110. each time.
(*only applicable when our authorized technician was the last to work on the machine)

Your 15% discount is good for one full year after purchase and will be renewed automatically for another 12 months whenever you pay for maintenance on the machine.

These New Owner classes are complimentary with your purchase of a machine from TOP STITCH.

- Taught by master technician, experienced tailor and all around sewing guru, Jonathan Hanken, these classes surpass the information usually provided and greatly enhance your success and enjoyment with **BERNINA**.
- Choose one of the options listed below for your model, then call, email or come in to **reserve your space** (pre-registration is required). The Embroidery segment can be taken before OR after your basic sewing class.
- If you **purchased your machine here** (new, demo or USED) you can take your New Owner's Guide classes additional times at **no additional charge**.

Class Policies:

Space is limited; as a courtesy to others, please inform us immediately if you need to cancel (there may be others on a waiting list)

We will cancel a class three days in advance if we do not have the minimum number of students.

You are expected to put a reservation on your calendar; we do not make reminder calls.

Your BERNINA SEWING MACHINE - \$200.00 (*Free with machine purchase*)

- Saturday, January 18, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, January 29 and Thursday, January 30, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Wednesday, February 12 and Thursday, February 13, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, February 22, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 26, 1:00 - 4:00 pm (both days)
- Wednesday, April 15 and Thursday, April 16, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)

Your BERNINA EMBROIDERY USAGE - \$100.00 (*Free with machine purchase*)

- Saturday, January 25, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Thursday, February 20, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Saturday, March 28, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Your BERNINA SERGER - \$200.00 (*Free with machine purchase*)

- Saturday, February 1, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (both days)
- Saturday, April 25, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

TOP STITCH

BERNINA⁺

made to create



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Tuesday—Friday 10:00 - 5:00

Saturdays 10:00 - 4:00

CLOSED Sunday & Monday

CLOSED:

March 7 - 10

And All
Mondays

"In With the New"

★ **SUPER SALE** ★

20%-60% OFF ALL FABRICS*

★ **NEW THIS YEAR:** ★

\$3.00 / yd[★] shelf!

JANUARY 4 - 25TH

*one half yard minimum, muslin and solids excluded. ★ whole yard cuts only.