

SEW, YOU WANT TO MAKE A QUILTED GARMENT?

I. INSPIRATION

A. THEME

1. Holiday: Christmas, Valentine's, Halloween
2. Pet or Critter
3. Hobby
4. Career or school

B. Fabric Collection

C. One Special fabric

D. Class project: avoid "orphans" & "UFO's"

1. Crazy quilt class- MQA
2. Guild programs

E. New technique-small scale

F. Challenge

II. GETTING STARTED

A. Choose theme or beginning fabric & start collecting. We all love an excuse to shop! See something? Go ahead or you will regret it!

1. Fabrics relating to theme- don't forget preprinted panels
2. Notions
 - a. Ribbon
 - b. Lace
 - c. Buttons
 - d. Charms

3. Check that button box & lace collection- items you already have add a special touch & sentimental feature.

4. Keep samples with you- photo album.

B. Choose a pattern

1. Keep it simple, avoid darts, princess lines, etc.
2. See how it fits and hangs- are sleeves so big they hide your work?
3. Not just jackets and vests- jumpers, dresses & accessories

C. Review resources

1. Books & magazines
2. Photos of garments from quilt shows, etc.
3. Pictures you've gathered from ads, catalogs, etc.

D. Start to sketch

1. Begin with your inspiration piece, UFO, class project, favorite block, and start to build.
2. Each front, each sleeve and the back can all be different. You have five canvasses to work on. Even the collar can highlight a special technique or piece of lace.
3. For beginners, leave the back plain and just have fun on the fronts.
4. Remember the old real estate slogan: location, location, location.
5. Sections of blocks or horizontal lines don't have to be matched across the front. Make different lines on purpose.
6. Watch the shoulder seam and let color or print flow across.
7. Also- just because you sketched one way - may not turn out that way!

III. CONSTRUCTION

- A. Cut a muslin foundation to work on
- B. Position your starter piece and go from there
- C. Cover raw edges:
 1. Stitch and flip, allowing extra, then trim to fit muslin
 2. Cover with ribbon, braid, etc.
 3. Add applique over miscalculations
- D. Add embellishments before final construction (as much as possible) since linings will cover a lot of stitches from buttons, beadings, etc.
- E. Lining techniques:
 1. Line separately & turn
 2. Quilt through bating & lining & enclose raw edges
 - a. Purchase bias
 - b. Make your own bias out of matching fabric

IV. REMEMBER BASIC RULE: HAVE FUN!

EMBELLISHMENT SUGGESTIONS

1. LACE
2. APPLIQUES
3. BUTTONS- CAN BE LAYERED OR SEWN DECORATIVELY
4. BEADS
5. CHARMS
6. DOILIES
7. OLD LINENS- PILLOW CAS EDGES, COLLARS, DRESSER
SCARVES, ARM COVERS, ETC.
8. BREAD COVERS & FINGERTIP TOWELS
9. SMALL CROSS STITCH PROJECTS
10. JEWELRY- EARRING PARTS
11. CROCHET PROJECTS- BOOKMARK
12. DRAPERY TRIMS
13. PHOTO TRANSFERS
14. SEWING NOTIONS
15. PAINTED ITEMS- CHANGE THE COLOR OF YOUR TRIM, BEADS,
TEA DYE, ETC.
16. RUBBER STAMPS

