

It's Sew Easy Series 2100 – It really is SO Easy!

**Show#2104-1 3-D Free Motion Fun for Home Décor and More!**

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Thread painting with feet used for free motion stitchery is super easy and adds color, depth, and dimension to pre-printed home décor fabrics. It's as easy as coloring with crayons, and the results are nothing short of spectacular! Master this technique and you'll look at fabric prints in a whole new way. I'll show you how you can use this idea to decorate a pillow. Feel free to use the technique to embellish other items such as bags, totes, and garments too!

**Are you ready? Let's go sew!**

## Special supplies featured in this show:

- The [Brother](#) Stellaire sewing and embroidery combination machine is featured in this project. Most any machine with straight and zig zag stitch capability are suitable for this project.
- Brother feet for free motion include [SA187](#), [SA129](#), or an open toe free motion quilting foot.
- [SA145](#) Brother clear view foot for stitching appliqués.
- [SA5810](#) Medium weight tear-away stabilizer.
- [Brother Embroidery threads and Bobbin thread](#)
- [SAEMB7511](#) Embroidery needles size 75/11 for thread painting.
- Fusible interfacing, I prefer fusible weft insertion style interfacing. It is flexible and bonds well to fabric.
- Poly stuffing for creating trapunto style appliqué. I prefer cluster stuffing.
- Tool for pushing poly into fabric.
- Optional: Spray adhesive for holding fabric pieces in place.

## Basic Steps for thread painting printed fabric:

Select a home décor fabric print with motifs you can cut apart and separate. Feel free to trim away areas as needed. Pay attention to care instructions for fabric if you intend to wash it. To create appliqués, cut motifs with a margin of extra fabric around the edge and fuse interfacing to wrong side.

Set up machine for free motion stitchery using a standard straight stitch. **Note:** The Brother free motion foot may also be called a **darning foot** since it can be used to apply thread over areas that need mending. It is also a popular foot for quilting as it is used for stippling and other free motion quilting techniques. Lower your feed dogs or cover them with a special plate if your machine requires. Now, you can freely control the movement of the fabric. The presser foot only goes down when the needle goes down. It is important to make sure the manual presser foot lever is set to the down position before you begin stitching. See photo below for examples of free motion feet:



Choose thread to accent your motif. Note that threads can match or be slightly different. You want the threads to show so feel free to choose threads that are brighter or darker than your fabric print. I like to prepare an extra piece to use for practice stitching.

Cut a piece of tear-away stabilizer for backing on each piece. See Figure #1.

**Fig.1**



Hold the fabric with your hands and slide the fabric under the needle. Begin free form stitching as follows: Stitch over each area moving the fabric back and forth to fill in and cover areas of the fabric print. Remember, stitch length setting is not important. You are controlling the length of the stitch with your movement. Feel free to change direction to add interest and a more realistic look. Change colors as desired and continue to fill in space and add shading. Tie off and cut threads before moving to new areas on fabric.

Try not to stay in one place for too long and avoid build-up of thread in one small spot. Sketch over various sections of the motif until you are happy with the results. You can always add more stitching, filling in space a little at a time. See Figure #2.

**Fig.2**



When finished, carefully tear away excess stabilizer and trim close to appliqué. Margin will vary depending on the motif. If you're concerned about raveling, treat raw edges with seam sealant, testing first to make sure sealant does not stain fabric.

Next, set up machine for stitching with a narrow zig zag stitch, raising the feed dogs and attaching clear view foot. I used a setting of 2.0 for both width and length. Thread machine with thread that blends in with motif or consider using a monofilament thread. Place appliqué piece on your base fabric and begin to zig zag over raw edges, stopping to leave areas open where you want to add stuffing. Push stuffing into place to lightly puff out the appliqué piece. Be careful not to overstuff the appliqué or it will be difficult to stitch the rest of the piece. See Figure #3.

**Fig. 3**



To finish, resume stitching to close openings and cover remaining raw edges. Interested in complete instructions for making the featured pillow? Look for the It's Sew Easy TV Series 2100 tab on my website for more information.

For more projects and future tutorials, be sure to visit [www.letsgosew.com](http://www.letsgosew.com).



**Additional Resources:**

- I invite you to visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website [www.letsgosew.com](http://www.letsgosew.com). You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, plus lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!
- Sign-up for letsgosew.com news [HERE](#).
- Find me on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).
- Be sure to visit the [Stitching Sewcial](#), the Brother blog, to read my posts on a wide variety of sewing and embroidery topics.

Happy Sewing!

*Joanne*