

SNIPPETS

Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



A Word From Our Chairwoman

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Charu Patel

In our quest this year to meet our quilting goals, we are going to talk to our KQG vice president, Charu Patel. Charu spent the first eighteen of her years in Tanzania and because of the Nyerere socialism, her family returned to India. She met her future husband there, who was a citizen of Kenya and within a few weeks they were married and returned to Kenya. She now considers Kenya her home.

Charu began sewing at the young age of 8 to 10 years, but it wasn't until she was working in her husband's shop in Nairobi that she discovered quilting. The shop had a selection of handicraft books and one day she was reading a book about quilting when a customer asked if she quilted. Charu stated that she was interested and the customer gave her the name of Ann Mains, who gathered with other quilters on a weekly basis. Charu saw how it was

done and began designing her own. Several years later she brought her first design into the Woman's Shop and Kundan encouraged her to join the guild, quilt her first design and enter it into the show. The rest is history!

Charu's favorite part of quilting is the designing process. Her least favorite? Making the label!

As most of us, there are times that Charu gets stuck and for her it is at the beginning. She loves fabrics and it sometimes just hurts to begin to cut it up. "What if I find later that there is a better place to use this fabric?" is a thought that haunts her. She confesses that consequently she is some what of a fabric hoarder. Her creations are beautiful and we encourage to cut away for there is always more fabric to be quilted!

*In Stitches,
Patty Arensen*

Meetings

Thursday 19th June —

Three groups of ladies will participate in the 1-meter challenge this month. If you have joined one of the three groups (black and whites, browns, and blues), please make sure you bring your 1-metre piece of 100% cotton fabric to the meeting. Please also bring a small pair of scissors to help you clip the fabric to make tearing easier. After the 1-metre challenge, we will have a video presentation from LeahDay.com. Leah is teaching her husband, Josh, to quilt and his efforts will encourage you in your own adventures in quilting.

Thursday 17th July —

Suzanne Waithaka will be speaking about Modern Quilting and how what's "Modern" has changed over the past 100 years or so.

If Modern quilting isn't your thing, that's ok, she'll be talking about crazy quilts, Baltimore Album quilts, Depression Era quilts, the Kansas City Star quilt patterns and the resurgence of quilting in the US in the mid 1970's, as well as the current Modern Quilting movement.

August—We do not have a meeting in August.

Thursday 18th September —

In preparation for the Exhibition in October, please bring your quilts to turn in for the show. Patty Arensen will be presenting White Glove training and we will also have a presentation on how to make a hanging sleeve for your quilt. The previously planned Sampler Quilt Game will be postponed.

2015 Calendar

In May we voted on the quilts we want to submit for consideration for inclusion in the 2015 Quilting and Embroidery Calendar. Congratulations to the following ladies whose quilts received the highest number of votes:

Corinne Talbot, Neelah Shah (Zebra), April Webb, Kundan Pattni (2 quilts), Gill Rebelo, Thank you,

Patty Arensen (2 quilts) Jasvinder Phull KQG Exhibition Committee (face), and Ludmilla Bogecho.

If your quilt was selected by the KQG members, please bring it to the June meeting so that we can have it professionally photographed for the calendar. The photographer will make the final choices with regard to which quilts are included in the calendar.

Block of The Month

Hey Hey I Won the BOM

By Sheryl Fowler

Never having won the BOM and having participated in it over the years, I was delighted to be one of the two members who were lucky winners.

I cannot stand having UFO projects laying around the house and I was immediately itching to get started on the planning of the quilt. What to do?

There were twelve blocks, so I decided to put the quilt together traditionally, using 2 ½" sashing and cornerstones. With such a variety of fabrics in the blocks, a neutral sashing and cornerstones was a must.

After squaring up the blocks, I pieced the main body of the quilt together using the usual ¼" seam allowance. The quilt was a bit smaller than I would have liked, so I chose to add a 3 ½" border around the main piece. Again, I thought that the length was too short, so I dug around in my 'scrap' drawer and constructed a 3 ½" pieced panel for each end, then I added another 3 ½" border strip to the pieced panels.

Good, now it was a better size. I stitched in the ditch around the sashing and cornerstones, then stippled the border. I always find that this stabilizes the quilt and I also have the opportunity of removing quite a lot of pins in the process.

Next decision: How to quilt the blocks? I have recently purchased a wide variety of quilting stencils from a great website: quiltingstencils.com. They have a huge inventory of stencils, many designs and many sizes. After mooching through them, I came to the conclusion that an all over pattern for each block would be the best.

I marked the patterns with my Frixion gel pen (love this as it irons off so easily) and went to town free quilting these blocks.

Next, I squared up the quilt, attached the binding by machine and then hand stitched the binding onto the edges.

Now, what to do with the quilt, what a decision? Last year we raffled a 1600 quilt for EyeGo Game Spotting which is held in the Lobo Game Conservancy in October in aid of Kwale Eye Hospital. We raised Shs. 25,000.00. Our family will be competing again this year, so we will again, raffle the quilt off for the same charity. The Director of Studies at Peponi House School won the quilt last year.

I won't be in Nairobi for the June meeting, but I have already made the BOM. Good luck to all members who participate for the next draw.

TOGETHER, WE QUILT

Don't run off after the meeting! UFO Day has a new name. Everyone is invited to bring their questions, ideas, and projects each month. After the morning meeting we will meet in the class room to socialize and work on our projects. You should bring a lunch or you can get snacks from the Simba Union. We always have fun chatting and quilting. When we have an afternoon program, you can choose to attend the program or join the stitchers in the class room.

WHAT NEEDLE DO I USE?

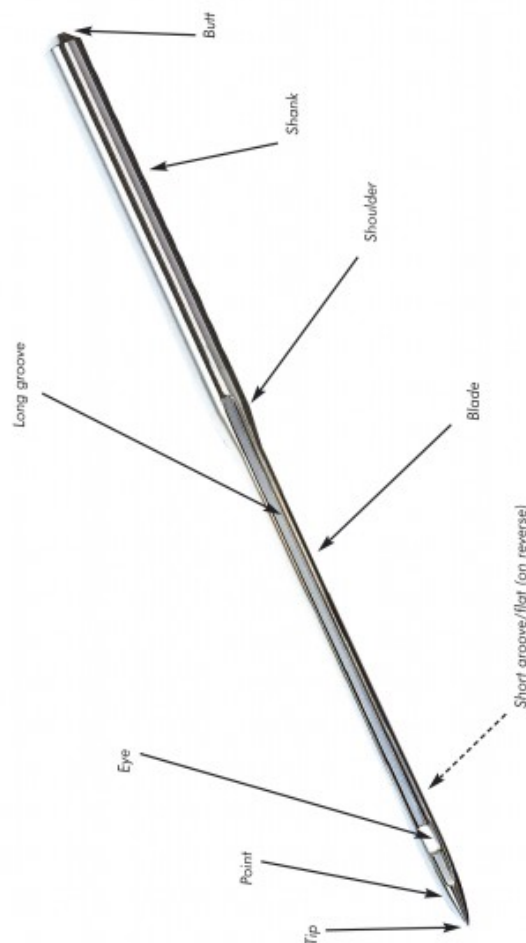
By Suzanne Waithaka

Working at The Woman Shop, I answer a lot of questions for our customers. One of the most frequent questions I'm asked is, "What needle do I need for my project?" It doesn't seem to matter how long you've been sewing, confusion about which needle is the right choice for a particular project is common to all of us. So this month, I thought I'd scour the internet for a really good explanation of what needle to use when and then use the sources to write my article.

First, quilters use both machine needles and hand needles. So we'll cover both. Second, we have to talk a little about thread and fabric too, because your needle choice depends a great deal on what thread and fabric you are using for your project. Finally, any discussion of what needle to use must be recognized and guidelines and not hard and fast rules. Some people are just more comfortable with some certain needles than others. You can always use the needle you like the best (or have on hand), just be aware that you may experience more challenges, like broken needles, broken thread, holes and runs in your fabric, etc.

Machine Needles

The first thing to look for when choosing a needle for your machine is in the shape of the shank. Commercial machines generally use a needle with a round shank, while most domestic machines use a needle with a shank that is flat on one side. Always



make sure you purchase needles with the right type of shank, because they won't fit in your machine if they don't.

Second, let's consider your fabric. You should choose your needles based on the fabric and thread you are going to be using. The goal is to use the thinnest needle with the smallest eye possible and still have enough strength in the needle to smoothly pierce the fabric and create a large enough hole

for the thread to pass through, without leaving a giant hole behind or damaging the fabric. You should also change needles after every 8 hours of sewing or at the beginning of each project to ensure that your needle is sharp enough and not bent or otherwise damaged from previous use.

Needle packages contain some important information about the needle, and you should be able to use that information to decide which needle you need to purchase. First, some brands will helpfully tell you what a particular needle is best suited for. Schmetz is one such company. They include the needle size and type, but they also put “quilting” or “top-stitch” or “jeans” on the package. The package should include both the imperial size and metric size of the needles in the package. Imperial sizes run from 9 to 18 and metric sizes run from 65-110. Needles are typically referred to with both numbers (i.e. 80/12, 90/14). As both numbers increase, the size of the needle increases. Use the smallest number needle possible for the fabric you have to avoid damaging the fabric or causing the needle to push the fabric into the bobbin area of the machine instead of going through the fabric.

The Schmetz website gives a really good explanation of the various types of needles. It includes what the needle is used for and what sizes it comes in. Rather than attempting to rewrite what they’ve put together, I’ll simply quote it below, although I have edited slightly for space.

Ball Point Needle

Made especially for sewing on knits. Its unique point does not damage or break knitted fibers. It comes in size 10/70 through 16/100 and in an assortment pack.

Denim/Jeans Needle

Made especially for sewing through densely woven materials such as denim or imitation leather. It is both strong and sharp. Some quilters use it when sewing through many layers of fabrics, especially high thread count batiks.

This needle comes in sizes 10/70 through 18/110.

Double Eye Needle

Used for embroidery and topstitching with decorative threads to produce decorative seams. They have two (2) eyes, one right above the other. Two different threads can be used for shading and texturing effects. These needles work in machines that use the 130/705H system needles.

Double Needle (Twin Needle)

Comes in a variety of needle types and sizes. Double needles are actually two needles mounted on one shaft and are used to create two rows of stitches at the same time.

Embroidery Needle

For use with rayon and other specialty machine embroidery threads including polyesters. The special scarf, long smooth groove, and large eye, of this needle protect these more fragile threads and guard against excess friction.

These needles come in size 75 and 90. The beautiful sheen of these threads results in outstanding embroidery work.

Hemstitch Needle

Sometimes called a Wing Needle. It is used to create decorative openwork or cut-work on tightly woven fabrics. This needle comes in sizes 100 and 120 and should be used with caution as it is very sharp and is made to actually cut the fabric. The user may want to use a stabilizer and experiment with decorative stitches when using this needle. Using a straight stitch plate will probably result in a broken needle.

Leather Needle

Has a slightly sharp cutting point for leather and other heavy non-woven synthetics including imitation leather. It comes in size 8/60 through 18/110 and in an assortment package.

Metallic Needle

A “must have” for sewing with metallic and other

specialty threads. It comes in sizes 80 and 90. The elongated eye prevents shredding and breaking of metallic threads.

Microtex Sharp

A very slim needle with a thin shaft that helps make very straight stitches. It was developed for the modern micro- fibers and polyesters and high thread count, high quality fabrics used today. The point is very sharp — thus the name — but because of this it is a bit more fragile and needs to be changed more regularly.

This is a great needle for piecing high thread count fabrics like Batiks, silks, and microfibers. It is also used for beautiful topstitching or edge stitching. It comes in sizes 60, 70, 80, and 90.

Quilting Needle

Made especially for piecing and machine quilting. The thin tapered design of these needles allows them to pass through many layers smoothly to help eliminate skipped stitches and keep stitches even. These needles come in size 75 which is fine for piecing with 50 weight threads or size 90 which works well with heavier plain or variegated 40 weight threads for quilting. This needle is also sold in an assortment pack containing both sizes 75 and 90.

Stretch Needle

Made especially for synthetic suede or highly elastic synthetic knit wear. This needle is constructed with a medium ball point to help prevent skipped stitches. It comes in sizes 11/75 and 14/90.

Topstitch Needle

Has an extra large eye and large grooves to accommodate topstitch thread. This needle helps stitch perfectly straight lines and even stitches.

Triple Needle

Triple needles are actually three needles mounted on one shaft and are used to create three rows of decorative stitching at the same time.

It comes in sizes 10/70, 12/80 and 14/90 and 16/100. It is helpful to use a straight stitch plate if you are expecting perfectly straight top stitching results.

Universal Needle

A general purpose needle that can be used on knit or woven fabrics. A casual sewer who might repair a

pair of jeans today, a child's t-shirt tomorrow, and some lingerie next month will probably use this needle most often. It will do a number of tasks sufficiently.

It has a long scarf that is great for zigzag stitching and it does not damage knits. It is sharp enough to go through a lot of fabrics but it does have a slight ball point which does not make it ideal for going through many layers or high thread count fabrics. This needle comes in a wide range of sizes from size 60 to size 120.

♦ See more at: <http://www.schmetzneedles.com/schmetz-needle-primer/#sthash.9zrHUnZy.dpuf>

Hand Needles

Hand needles come in as many varieties as machine, maybe more. I'll touch on the ones most commonly used by quilters, and provide a link to a website with a more complete explanation of all types of hand needles. I'll also include a couple of links for various types of crochet and knitting needles.

In general, quilters will need just a few types of needles for hand work. I would recommend a good selection of sharps for general sewing and piecing, embroidery needles if you want to use decorative embroidery stitches on your quilts, quilting needles (also called between), and beading needles if you plan to use beads or other embellishments on your quilts.

Hand needs are the opposite of machine needles in terms of sizing. While machine needles get larger as the size increases, hand sewing needles get smaller as the size increases. Hand needles come in sizes ranging from 2 to 28.

Sharps are the work horse of hand needles as they are akin to Universal sewing machine needles. They are sharp, as the name implies and come in various lengths for your piecing needs.

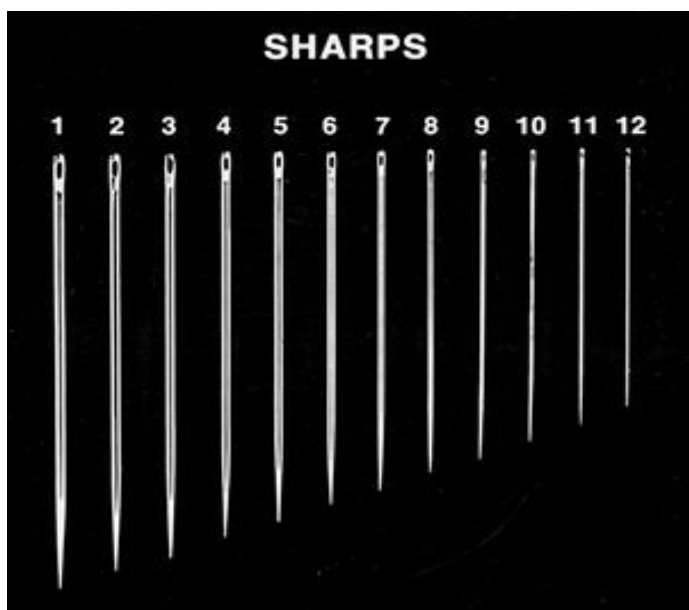
Size 2, 3 & 4 - suitable for medium to heavy fabrics

Size 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10— suitable for light to medium fabrics

Size 11 and 12 - suitable for fine fabrics or creating small delicate stitches

Embroidery needles have a long eye which makes threading the needle so much easier when using multiple strands of thread. The most popular sizes used to embroider are size 7 and 9.

Because of their large eye these needles are suitable for general sewing. They are ideal for people who have difficulty seeing the eye of a needle.



Quilting needles are also called “betweens”. These needles are very short and fine with a round eye. The shorter length allows the quilter to create quick and even stitching. Sizes range from 5 to 12, we recommend a beginner to use a size 7 or a size 8. Big Eye Quilting needles are designed with a big eye for the ease of threading.

Standard Beading needles are very fine and long,

with long eyes and are available in sizes 10 to 15.

These needles are suitable to use with beads, pearls and sequins and they are particularly useful in the art of threading and stringing pearls. Short Beading needles are ideal when attaching beads to fabric featuring additional embroidery

Information on hand sewing needles was taken from the John James Needle Company website www.jjneedles.com.

Using high quality hand needles is important and cheap needles may have burrs or incompletely punched eyes can damage your fabric. Change needles whenever they are bent or otherwise damaged to prevent damage to your fabric. I would also recommend washing your hands frequently as you sew, because dirt and oils on your hands can cause needles to rust or have protective coatings to be damaged causing damage to the needle which can damage your fabric.. If you don't have a lot of hand needles, invest in a good package of betweens and a good package of sharps. Then take good care of them. Now that you know what to use, good quilting.

FAT QUARTER OF THE MONTH

To participate in the Fat Quarter of the Month drawing, please bring a fat quarter (18" by 22") of 100% cotton fabric in the monthly theme. If your fabric is not 100% cotton, it will not be included in the drawing.

Please put your name on it, and turn it in to Dorothy when you sign-in.

June—Black & White fabrics

July—Dots

August—No Meeting

Classifieds

FOR SALE THE WOMAN SHOP

PO Box 39482

Parklands 00623

Email:

kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com

Website:

www.kenyaquiltguild.org

Meetings

Venue:

Simba Union Off

Forest Road

Time

9.30am– 1.00pm

Monthly meetings

June 19, 2014

July, 2014

August—no meeting

This month's

contributors

- ◆ Patty Arensen
- ◆ Suzanne Waithaka
- ◆ Sheryl Fowler
- ◆ Poley

Any KQG member may bring sewing related items to sell or give away in the classroom before the meeting, during tea time and after the meeting.

We ask that the items be priced fairly and marked honestly. If it is scrap fabric, mark it as scrap. If it is yardage, mark it as yardage. If you have old patterns, magazines, books, templates, fabric, tools, or even UFO's (unfinished objects), bring them and place them in the class room. You'll need to be on hand to collect money if you are selling the items.

LIBRARY

The library would like to report that one of the missing books has been returned to the library. We are now missing only one book:

327—Folded 3D Blocks by George Baron and Esther Vermeer

WANTED

If you have jeans or other denim that you don't need, please bring it to this

month meeting. Christine uses denim to make her beautiful embroidered scenes and she is in need of some denim.'

If you need fabric for the fat quarter of the month drawing or for the 1-metre challenge, The Woman Shop has a good selection of 100% cotton fabric, both imported and locally produced.

Also, like The Woman Shop on Facebook. We post tutorials on a variety of quilting and crafting topics weekly and we occasionally have specials that are only announced on-line.

MACHINE FOR SALE

Bernette sewing machine for sale. It cost 39710/- when new. Seller is asking for 25000/-. If you are interested in purchasing this machine, please send an email to Gretchen Sanders at kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com and she will introduce you to the seller.

Editor in Chief : Suzanne Waithaka (suziwaithaka@gmail.com) the Editor-in-Chief welcomes contributions from all members. Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition of SNIPPETS to her email by 10th monthly.