Cathedral Windows in Autumn

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What's Inside?

SPECIAL *artista* 200 issue!

artista 200
BERNINA

We Are...

GAYLE HILLERT
BERNINA® News & The Making of the artista 200

An avid sewer since she was a young girl, Gayle has managed to combine her vocation and her avocation. As Vice President of the Education Department for BERNINA® of America, Inc. she is responsible for training, education and testing functions relating to all BERNINA® products.

SUSAN BECK
artista on the Web

With a background in Art and Home Economics, Susan is interested in all types of sewing and crafts and has written several sewing books. She loves to be creative on paper as well as in fabric and is the Director of Web and Education Communications for BERNINA® of America, Inc.
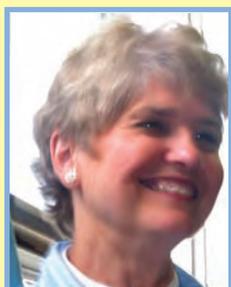
JO LEICHTE
Around the World with BERNINA®

Currently in a garment and small quilt phase, Jo is constantly on the lookout for quick, simple projects to share with beginning seamsters. As Editor for BERNINA® of America, Jo is instrumental in the production of *Through the Needle*.

SUSAN FEARS
Around the World with BERNINA®

Susan enjoys all types of sewing, especially garment making. She got hooked on quilting while making a quilted jacket, and now enjoys quilts throughout her home. She finds inspiration everywhere, especially through her travels as an Educator for BERNINA® of America.

FAITH REYNOLDS
Mega Hoop Tips & Tricks

Faith, a former BERNINA® dealer, has also developed and marketed her own line of clothing patterns. As an Educator for BERNINA® of America, Faith travels around the country instructing dealers and their employees on BERNINA® products, especially the *artista* embroidery software.

MARLIS BENNETT
Cathedral Windows in Autumn

Marlis creates unique interpretations of classic and heirloom sewn garments, incorporating decorative stitching techniques and embroidery in imaginative projects. As an Education Consultant for BERNINA® of America, Marlis puts her own stamp of creativity on machine sewn projects.

CHRSITY BURCHAM
Expert Embroidery Tips

Christy began her sewing career at sixteen as a cashier for her local BERNINA® dealer. Her high school job grew into a career: after completing her degree in education, she went to work for Oklahoma Embroidery Supply and Design in the design card department, and now works in education.

VICKI TRACY
Snowman Marching Band

Vicki's unique sense of style and her obvious love of sewing and machine embroidery serves her well as the owner of BERNINA® Sewing Studio in Lubbock, TX. Her free-wheeling approach to sewing is evident in her personal motto – "Lighten Up. Be Fearless. Have Fun."

PAT JENNINGS
Connections

A teacher at national conferences as well as BERNINA® University, Pat was part of the original *artista* team. She worked at the BERNINA® factory in Steckborn, Switzerland on the development of BERNINA®'s *artista* sewing/embroidery computer and software programs.

JILL DANKLEFSEN
Stitch Recipe

As an Education Consultant for BERNINA® of America, Jill is the resident master of stitch manipulation. She loves playing with them, changing them, and using them to create textured fabrics for garment and craft projects.

MARLENE BRYANT
Software Skill Builders

Finding time to sew recently, Marlene has been creating whimsical and eclectic machine-embroidered stitchery using the *artista* Designer software. As an Education Consultant for BERNINA® of America, Marlene focuses much of her time on teaching dealers how to use the *artista* embroidery software.

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BERNINA® News

BY GAYLE HILLERT

We're so excited to bring you this issue of ***Through the Needle***, featuring the newest addition to the BERNINA® line of sewing and embroidery systems. "Open Your World of Imagination" with the ***artista*** 200, the most advanced and easy-to-use creative sewing system in the industry.

BERNINA® has partnered with Microsoft® to produce a machine that combines BERNINA® tradition of quality with the best of computer technology. The ***artista*** 200 has a Microsoft® Windows® Powered operating system, creating a familiar environment – many of the icons resemble those on your PC, and there are pop-up menus and file folders. The ergonomic, centered, eye-level touch screen allows you to keep your eyes and hands where they need to be – on your fabric and your stitching.

For sewing, the ***artista*** 200 has features such as a Security Program which prevents breakage of Double and Wing needles, and a Stitch Counter which records and repeats a programmed number of stitches for perfect piecing and exact buttonholes. On-screen Help identifies and explains the ***artista*** 200 icons, while the Tutorial contains video clips which visually demonstrate how to set up the machine and accomplish selected sewing techniques. In addition, the Creative Consultant will become your best sewing friend as you scurry to finish a project in the wee hours of the morning. It answers questions about correct stitches, presser feet, stabilizers, and more. Stitch alterations are shown on the color screen, so you know exactly what will stitch before you sew, stitch combinations are easily stored in "file drawers" for easy access, and customizable functions and features lead to success and fun with your stitching.

For embroidery, any design can be enlarged or reduced as desired. The ***artista*** 200E is YOUR machine – *you tell it what to do and it does it*. Three high-quality hoops are included with the machine – small (for free-arm embroidery and small designs),

medium, and a new large oval hoop. An extra-long Mega Hoop is also available. Increased embroidery speed, combined with the accuracy of the module and hoop system, deliver sublime stitch results. Lettering options include vertical and arched base lines that can be combined with embroidery motifs to make this the machine of your dreams. All creating is done in front of your eyes on the intuitive touch screen; you can even assign your choice of thread brands and colors to designs. *You are in charge and the **artista** 200E responds to your requests*.

As an ***artista*** 200 owner, you not only receive the support of your dealer, but have the **my*artista*** 200 section of the www.bernin-ausa.com web site. In addition, you have access to the **my*artista*** Portal via an *optional* modem; here you can download stitch and accessory information as well as embroidery motifs.

Every time we've shown the ***artista*** 200 Creative Sewing System to sewers, their response has been "Everything I imagined has come true with this machine!" Explore the pages of this special issue of *Through the Needle* and discover the machine of your dreams. We are proud to present it to you, and we hope you love it as much as we do.
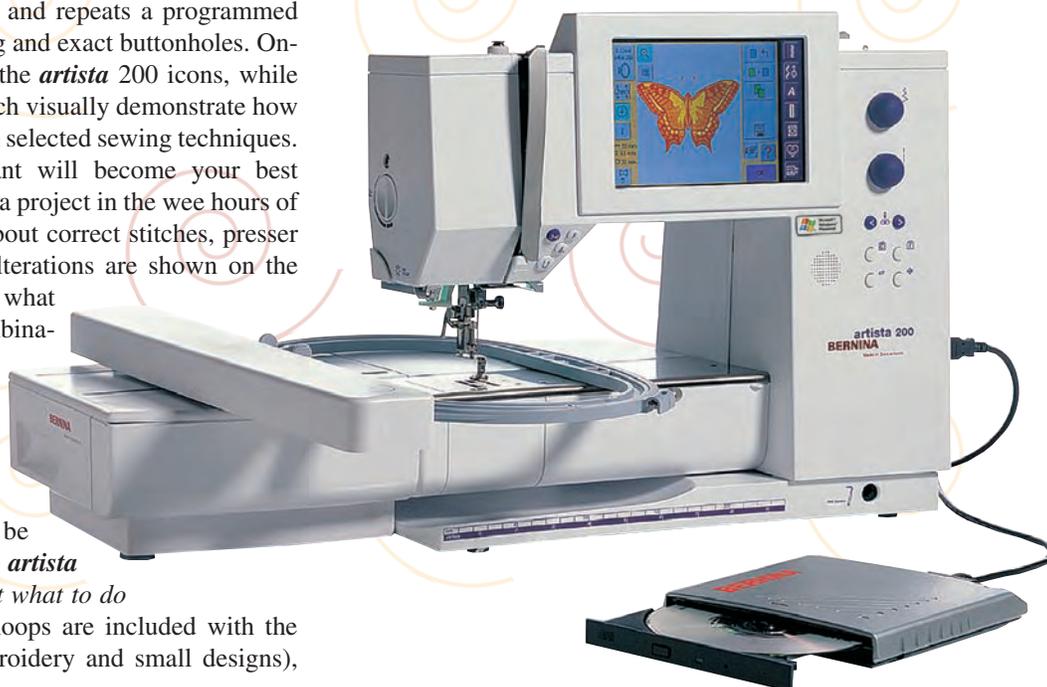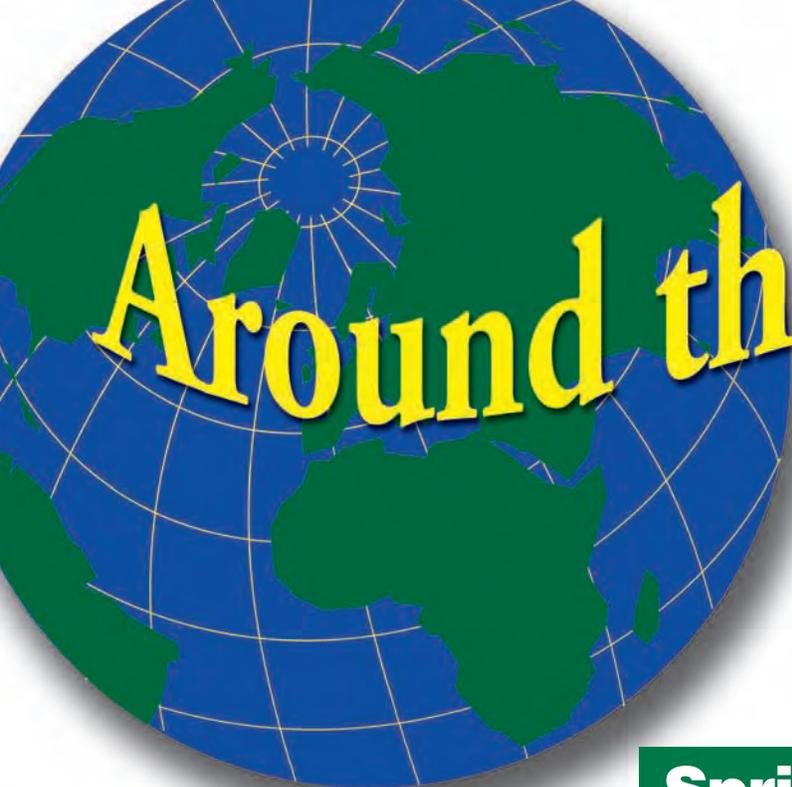
Around the WORLD with BERNINA®

BY SUSAN FEARS & JO LEICHTE

An exciting project and technique book included with every *artista* 200, *Seasons of Artistry* is a magnificent collection of works created by BERNINA® education staff from around the world. Designers from the USA, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, and Croatia contributed some of their best work to provide inspiration for all sewers. Because sewing is a year-round activity, the book is divided into "seasonal" chapters and covers a wide range of sewing types: quilting, home decorating, garment sewing, crafting, and embroidery. The photos shown here include only a few of the 30+ projects featured in *Seasons of Artistry*.

Spring/Frühling

- **VINES AND SCALLOPS TABLECLOTH** by Faith Reynolds, USA
- **PERIWINKLE JACKET** by Marlis Bennett, USA

Welcome spring by creating fresh, floral linens for your home, and a breezy linen top for yourself! The *artista* 200's optional Mega Hoop makes stitching continuous borders a simple project – the *artista* 200E Art Engine even splits the design into sections for you! Other projects in this chapter include hemstitched cushions, children's outfits, a baby quilt, and two suits – one linen, one wool, depending on what "springtime" means in your part of the globe.

Summer/Sommer

LANDSCAPE OF IMAGINATION by Marlis Bennett, USA

Express all the joy and splendor of summer by creating your own "Landscape of Imagination." Featured on the opening screen of the *artista* 200E. this quilted wallhanging incorporates a multitude of creative techniques - decorative buttonholes, dimensional embroidery, couching, stippling, and much more. Other projects in this chapter include several casual and formal women's garments, an elegant silk evening bag, and home decorating projects featuring embroidered roses.
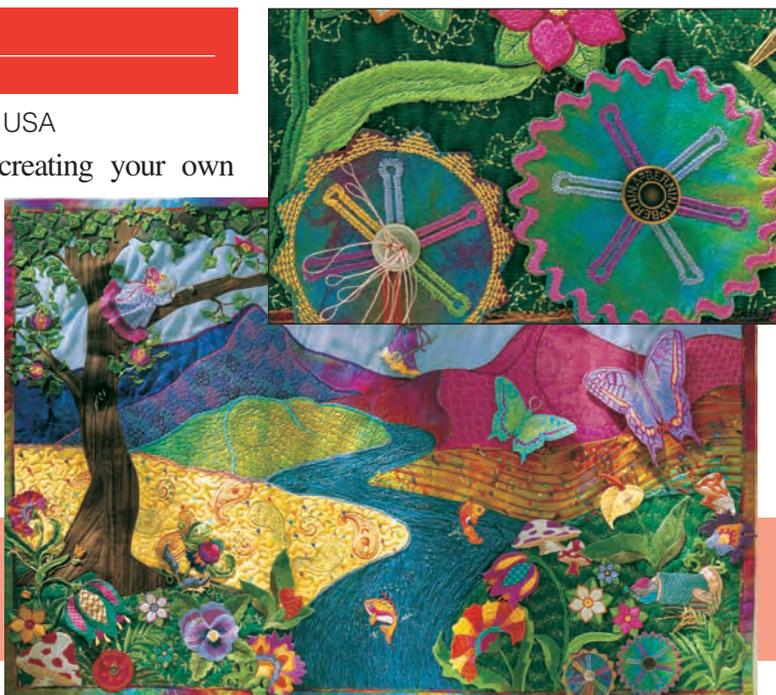
Fall/Herbst

STARBURST SPORTS JACKET & FLYING GOOSE DENIM SHIRT
by Madeleine Fuellemann, Switzerland

There's a nip in the air, and an extra layer or two – such as the sportswear shown here – is welcome when the weather turns colder. Decorative stitches – like those in this starburst – are easy to access using the *artista*'s 0-9 and pattern repeat functions. Other fall projects include bath accessories, a crazy patch pillow, and a three-dimensional floral wallhanging.

Winter/Winter

STARS IN THE CABIN by Susan Fears, USA

What could be nicer than snuggling under a warm quilt, protected from wind and snow? This beautiful quilt starts with a traditional patchwork pattern, but features outline quilting using the *artista* embroidery module as well as freemotion quilting. Need help? The *artista*'s Tutorial includes instructions for many sewing techniques, as well as tips and tricks for needles, thread, stabilizers, stitches, and more. Other winter projects include men's and women's formalwear, samplers, decorative container covers, and a chic business suit and totebag.

The Making of the *artista 200E* Creative Sewing System

BY GAYLE HILLERT

The development of the *artista* 200E began in earnest about three years ago when a group of BERNINA® International educators and product trainers known as National Sewing Promoters met at the BERNINA® Factory in Switzerland for an annual meeting. One half day was spent brainstorming the features and appearance that this "ideal sewing system" might have. The results of that meeting were documented, and when BERNINA® hired Gerard Durville as new Director of Research and Development in March of 2000, he was given the "wish list" of the ideas compiled by the National Sewing Promoters. In addition, BERNINA® solicited the ideas of consumers and BERNINA® dealers in its largest market for top-of-the-line machines, the United States. As a result, BERNINA® of America became directly involved in the development of the *artista* 200E.

Two educators from BERNINA® of America, along with Gayle Hillert, Vice President of Education, traveled to Switzerland in August of 2000 to meet with FGAG (BERNINA® factory) staff and discuss marketing ideas from the United States. Mr. Zoran Despot was designated to listen to all the ideas and compile them into a working format to begin the development of the *artista* 200E.

Once all the ideas were gathered, documents were written to describe the way the ideal sewing system should work, targets were set for developing an intuitive user interface, and improvements in speed and accuracy of embroidery were designated. A plan to use Windows® CE as the operating system was made and a partnership with Microsoft® was finalized; the machine was well on its way to reality.

Companies in Switzerland, Australia and the United States – including OESD, represented by Phil Newton, President – were solicited to help in software development of both sewing and embroidery. Education, training and communication concepts were begun so that the *artista* 200 would be presented in one consistent concept all over the world.

Project leaders were chosen to head the various areas of development for the *artista* 200E. They reported to Claude Dreyer from FGAG, the BERNINA® factory in Steckborn, Switzerland.
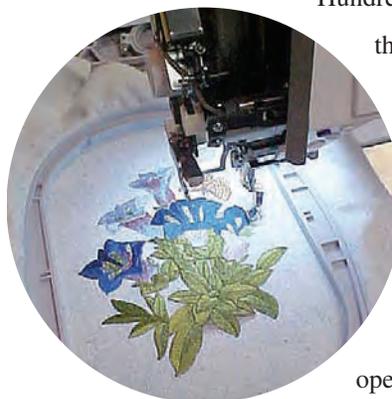
Hundreds of people from all over the world worked diligently for two years to develop the *artista* 200E sewing system. New hoops were designed, new software was implemented, educational supports were developed and written – including an

CLAUDE DREYER (Team Leader, Switzerland)

GERARD DURVILLE (Director of Research and Development, Switzerland)

GAYLE HILLERT (User Interface, Market Input, Testing, Portal, Education, and Manual Development, USA)

ALEX MAEGERLI (Parts Sourcing and Procurement, Switzerland)

MAX KUNZ (Software, Switzerland)

Instructional Presentation CD-ROM which interactively leads the user through sewing and embroidery lessons on using the machine. The CD-ROM also has a sewing screen simulator which gives the user an experience very similar to sitting in front of the screen of the machine and navigating through the entire sewing system. A suitcase system with integrated wheels for carrying the machine was developed, a new thread cutter was designed, as well as an improved needle threader. Hour after hour was spent testing the new machine by coordinated teams in both Switzerland and the United States. All the peripherals were sourced and tested – such as the CD-ROM Drive and the optional Modem for the **my***artista* Portal. The color manual was written and proofed and rewritten and reproofed and proofed again. Projects from all over the world were sewn and embroidered for the inspirational **Seasons of Artistry** book that is included with the *artista* 200E. Email, secured web sites, transatlantic phone calls, jpeg pictures, and travel back and forth from the USA to Switzerland all aided the tremendous communication effort that the development of the *artista* 200E Creative Sewing System required.

Along with the testing, trainings on the machine were held for BERNINA® educators, trainers, technical staff and district representatives. A group of 400 BERNINA® of America dealers were given a special introduction to the machine when they traveled to Switzerland in June on an incentive trip.

The *artista* 200E Creative Sewing System has many mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles - many ordinary people working together for one common purpose - to make an extraordinary product.

As you sit and sew on your *artista* 200, as you grow to love it and respect it – pause and think of the hundreds of people who worked long hours with much commitment to bring you the best creative system on the planet.

DESIGNING AND BUILDING THE THREAD CUTTER

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

USA AND SWISS TESTERS IN STECKBORN, SWITZERLAND

HAPPY DEALERS!

Cathedral Windows IN Autumn

BY MARLIS BENNETT

Materials & Supplies:

- *artista* 200E Creative Sewing System
- Studio BERNINA® Outline Quilting by Holice Turnbow embroidery card
- Edgestitch Foot #10/10C
- Embroidery Foot #15
- Clear Appliqué Foot #23
- Clear Foot #34/34C
- Patchwork Foot #37
- Pattern: "Picture This Vest" by Rachel Kincy Clark (omit collar)
- Fabric as required by pattern *(use a variety of fabric types to create an interesting backdrop* including Ultrasuede®, Ultraleather™ and velveteen)
- Lining fabric as required by pattern
- Muslin for one side of the vest
- 1 pkg Oliver Twist "Two of a Kind" thread and yarn collection
- Assorted ribbons and trims
- 1 pkg Confetti yarn
- Monofilament *("invisible")* thread
- Bobbin thread
- 606 fusible spray adhesive
- 505 temporary spray adhesive
- Poly Mesh Stabilizer
- 3 buttons and 3 clear, large snaps
- Assorted trims as desired
- Rotary cutter, ruler and cutting mat
- Roxanne's Glue Baste It

Patchwork Squared

Inspired by techniques from Elegant Machine Appliqué *by Ina Georgeta.*

Using a permanent fabric marker, draw a grid of 1" squares on a rectangle of muslin large enough to accommodate one front side panel of the vest.

Select various fabric types and colors and cut into small sections (approximately 8" squares). If fabrics are thin or unstable, back with preshrunk fusible knit interfacing. Cut into $1\frac{1}{4}$" squares.

Spray wrong sides of fabric squares with 606 adhesive. Several thin coats are more desirable than one heavy coat. *Note: It does make a difference which fabric is sprayed; if the adhesive is applied to the muslin instead of the fabric squares, there will be edges that don't adhere when the little squares are overlapped.*

Use rotary cutter, mat and quilter's ruler to cut fabric squares into $1\frac{1}{4}$" squares. Hint: Place cut squares in a divided storage box as shown in the photos.

Starting with the top row, place pieces so that they overlap $\frac{1}{4}$", but with the unlapped edges aligned with the drawn squares. Working from the top down, fill the strip with fabric squares, pressing as you go. *Tip: Instead of a full size iron, use a Mini Iron to fuse squares in place.*

Once muslin is filled with squares and all the squares are fused in place, attach Clear Foot #34 to the machine. Thread needle with Monofilament thread. Set the machine for a zigzag with a width of 3mm and length of 1.5mm. Zigzag over all raw edges, attaching fabric squares securely to muslin base.

Select a variety of yarns and cords from the Oliver Twist "Two of a Kind" package. Attach Clear Applique Foot #23 to the sewing machine. Couch yarns over all of the raw/zigzagged edges, reducing the width of the zigzag as needed to just cover the yarns/cords.

Your patchwork panel is ready to be incorporated into the vest front right.

Ribbon Embellishment
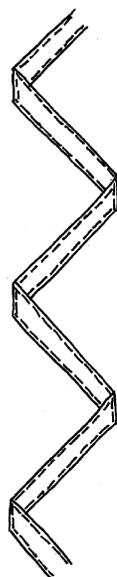
Cut Ultrasuede® large enough to accommodate one side panel of the vest. Position folded ribbon through the center of the piece. Using Edgestitch Foot #10, stitch sides of ribbon as shown in illustration.

Seam ribbon embellished panel to patchwork panel, inserting a length of piping or other trim between sections.

Cut a piece of Ultraleather™ large enough to accomodate the pattern piece. Attach two pieces of ribbon to Ultraleather™ using narrow zigzag and monofilament thread.

Seam the Ultraleather™ panel to other side of patchwork piece. Couch decorative yarn or trim over the seam between the two pieces.

Cathedral Windows

Select three ribbons; place side by side. The combined width of the ribbons should be approximately 1³/₄". Cut lengths of ribbon long enough to accomodate the left front pattern piece. Attach Edgestitch Foot #10 to the sewing machine and thread needle with monofilament. Use a narrow zigzag to sew ribbons together, aligning ribbon edges with the guide in the center of the foot.

Cut two lengths of fabric on the bias, 5" wide by length of left front. Place right sides together and seam down center with a basting stitch (#21 on the *artista*). Fold fabric back on itself so that the center seam is visible. Press.

Insert quilter's ruler into one fold. Center ribbon strip, wrong side up, over the basted seam. Pin in place, one side at a time, taking care to only pin into upper most fabric. *Note: The ruler helps prevent pinning through the additional layer of fabric.* Repeat for second side. Remove ruler and unfold fabric.

Use Edgestitch Foot #10 and a straight stitch to sew ribbon in place, taking care to sew only through the top layer of fabric, as pinned. *Tip: Touch the Stitch Length Bar in the Stitch Alteration Area to return the stitch length to normal.* Repeat for second side.

On the right side (ribbon is on the bottom, facing up), mark along the basted seam every 4". Select a button sew-on stitch (#60 on the *artista*) and adjust the width to 2.5mm. Attach Clear Foot #34 to the sewing machine and drop the feed dog. Stitch at each mark.

Remove basting stitch. Place small dots of fabric basting glue along the folded fabric edges between the button sew-on stitches. Open the edges of the cathedral windows by pressing the fabric over itself to form the curved openings.

Select an invisible applique stitch (#331 on the *artista*, found in the Quilting menu); adjust the width to 1.3mm or less. Use monofilament thread or a thread that exactly matches the fabric and Clear Foot #34 to stitch cathedral windows open. Align the outer edge of the fold with the guide center of the foot, then follow the curved precisely. The straight portion of the stitch should fall off the edge of the cathedral window, and the bite onto the folded edge of the window. When finished, the edges will have the appearance of handstitching.

Two decorative satin stitches are sewn between the cathedral windows for a finishing touch. Starting in the center, sew one stitch #407 on the *artista*, (a width of 3mm) outward on each side of the cathedral window. *Tip: Engage the Pattern Repeat 1x function and the Securing function.* The Cathedral Windows panel is now ready to be inserted into the left front fabric collage.

Cut a piece of velveteen large enough to accommodate the pattern piece. Embellish with decorative stitches using Oliver Twists variegated thread and Clear Foot #34. The stitches used in the sample are #113 and #352 on the *artista* 200.

Cut the remaining left front panel from Ultrasuede®. Couch a length of Confetti down the length in a wavy motion using monofilament thread, a small zigzag stitch, and Clear Applique Foot #23.

Vest Back

Attach the embroidery module to the *artista*. Spray a layer of Poly Mesh stabilizer with 505, then adhere to the wrong side of the fabric. Hoop stabilized fabric, then embellish with embroidered leaf designs in various sizes, rotating as desired.
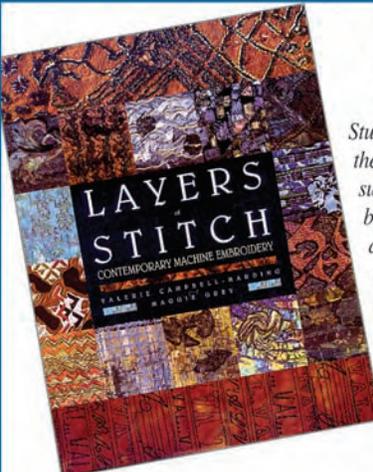
Randomly fuse small squares of Ultrasuede® to vest back between leaves. Couch decorative cords/yarns from the Oliver Twist "Two of a Kind" collection around the squares.

Strip piece a length of fabric for the lower portion of the vest back (peplum), then couch all seams with decorative yarns and cords. Stitch to upper back piece, inserting a decorative trim between the two pieces

Construct vest according to pattern instructions, omitting the collar.

Resources:

• **"Picture This Vest"**
  by Rachel Kincy Clark
  Jukebox Patterns
  14128 Cameron Lane
  Santa Ana, CA 92705-3212
  704.731.2563

• *Elegant Machine Appliqué*
  by Ina Georgeta Statescu
  Distributed by Quilter's Resource Inc.
  Available at your local quilt shop

• **Mini Iron**
  Distributed by Quilters' Resource, Inc.
  Also available at www.embroideryonline.com

• **Designer Threads, Oliver Twist, Confetti Yarn**
  & Roxanne's Glue Baste It
  Distributed by Quilters' Resource, Inc.
  Available at your local quilt shop

artista ON THE WEB
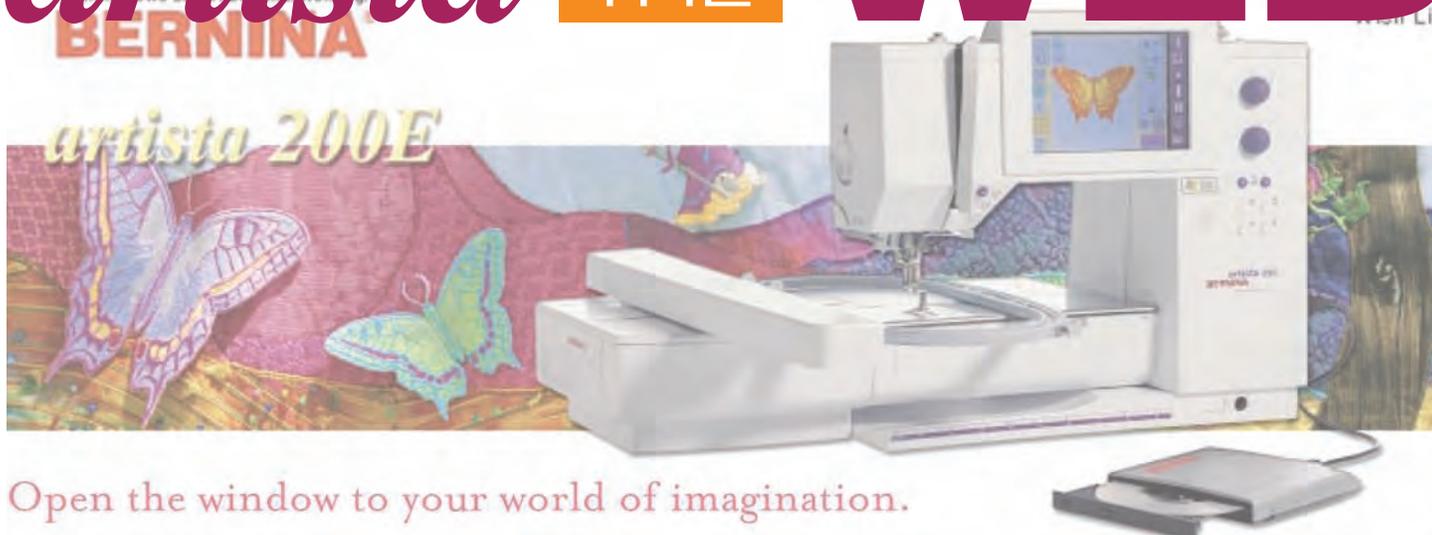
Open the window to your world of imagination.

BY SUSAN BECK

Visitors to the BERNINA® USA website will find something new and exciting created especially for owners of the new *artista* 200 Creative Sewing System. Click on the tab located on the main navigation bar, and you'll discover a variety of projects, informative articles, and special features dedicated to the *artista* 200. This special venue is where *artista* 200 owners can go for a bit of extra help and inspiration.

The **my***artista* 200 section has a variety of choices chock-full of information. These sections are:

- **Sewing With Your *artista* 200** – sewing articles and projects designed exclusively for you and your *artista* 200 Creative Sewing System.

- **Embroidering With Your *artista* 200E** – embroidery articles and projects designed exclusively for you and your *artista* 200E.

- **Exploring Your *artista* 200** – expand your sewing and embroidery knowledge as you participate in on-line BERNINA® Classroom Courses.

- **Message Board** – share ideas and information with other *artista* 200 owners.

- **Accessories** – explore additional accessories available to simplify and enhance your creative experience.

- **FAQ's** – find answers and ask questions in a Frequently Asked Questions section devoted to the *artista* 200.

- **Ask *artista*** – get answers to your specific questions about the *artista* 200 Creative Sewing System.

My***artista*** 200 is also a great place for other machine owners to find out more about the *artista* 200 and be inspired by the creative possibilities presented there, while *artista* 200 owners will find lots of great ideas and fun projects in other parts of the BERNINA® website.

TWICE AS NICE

The BERNINA® Website is not the only place on the Internet to go for *artista* 200 information. If you have the optional *artista* modem and an Internet service account, you can access the **my***artista* Portal. Log on to this special site by connecting your *artista* 200 machine/modem to your telephone line. Once you dial in and log on, you'll find sewing tips, embroidery articles, news from BERNINA®, and great embroidery designs to download. So, don't be confused…there are two places to access *artista* 200 information -- the BERNINA® website (for anyone) and the **my***artista* Portal (for *artista* 200 owners who have the optional modem and Internet service).

Open to a world of imagination.

Introducing the Bernina artista 200E.
The only sewing & embroidery system that's Microsoft® Windows® Powered.

Visit your Bernina Dealer or www.bernina.com to discover all the "world's first" features on the new artista 200E.

Mega Hoop

TIPS & TRICKS

BY FAITH REYNOLDS

The Mega Hoop makes stitching large designs, continuous borders, and over-sized quilt blocks easy to accomplish with little or no re-hooping. *artista* 200 accepts the entire design even if it fills the entire embroidery area. The Art Engine automatically splits the design for the user. This extra large, sturdy, 3-position hoop slides into position with a minimum of effort – the *artista* 200E displays messages indicating when to move the hoop and when it is in the correct position. The stitching area of the Mega Hoop is 150mm x 400mm or approximately $5^7/_8$" x $15^3/_4$" – great for jacket and shirt yoke designs, quilting projects, and bordered linens.

Design Sources

- Mega designs are found in the Motif Folder on the *artista* 200E.
- The Design CD included with the *artista* 200E includes 50 designs that can be stitched within the small, medium and large (oval) hoops; it also has 16 designs for the Mega Hoop.
- Most future embroidery collections will include Mega Hoop designs.
- Mega Hoop designs can be digitized using the *artista* software: Auto-Digitizer, Designer, or Designer Plus.
- Designs can also be found on the **my***artista* Portal (available with *optional* modem and Internet service).

Splitting Designs

- The ART Engine of the *artista* 200E automatically splits designs for the Mega Hoop into appropriate sections.
- While stitching, the *artista* 200E displays messages on the screen, prompting the user to move to the correct hoop position for each part of the design.
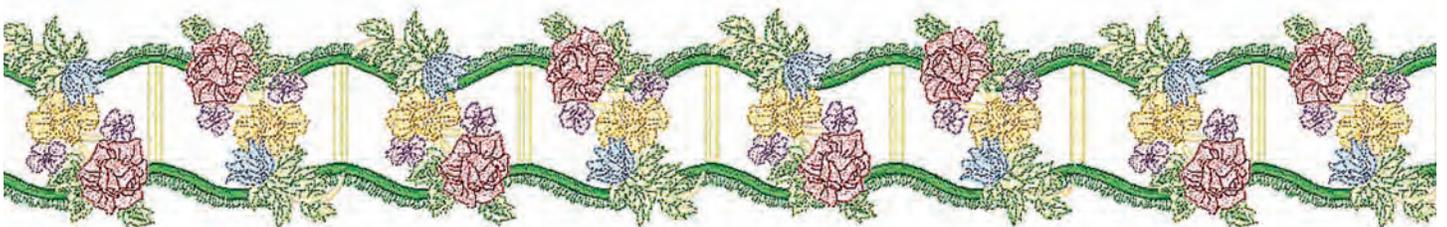
Stitching Designs

- The *artista* 200E reads the entire Mega design.

- The *artista* 200E displays a prompt indicating the correct hoop position.

- Parts of a Mega Hoop design stitch in the order in which they were digitized.

Rehooping Designs

- The new "Move Hoop" function positions the hoop so that it is aligned with the last stitch of the previously embroidered motif, making continuous borders easy to accomplish.

- Oversized designs and continuous line designs can be stitched in multiple hoopings.

Tips and Tricks

- For best results, fabric and stabilizer should be at least 2" larger than the Mega Hoop on all sides.

- Use the special hoop clamps– included with the *artista* 200E – to secure the fabric/stabilizer after hooping.

- Use a cabinet insert or freestanding acrylic table to surround the *artista* 200E embroidery module and provide optimum support for the Mega Hoop as it moves through the embroidery process.

Designs shown are from the *artista* 200 Design CD.
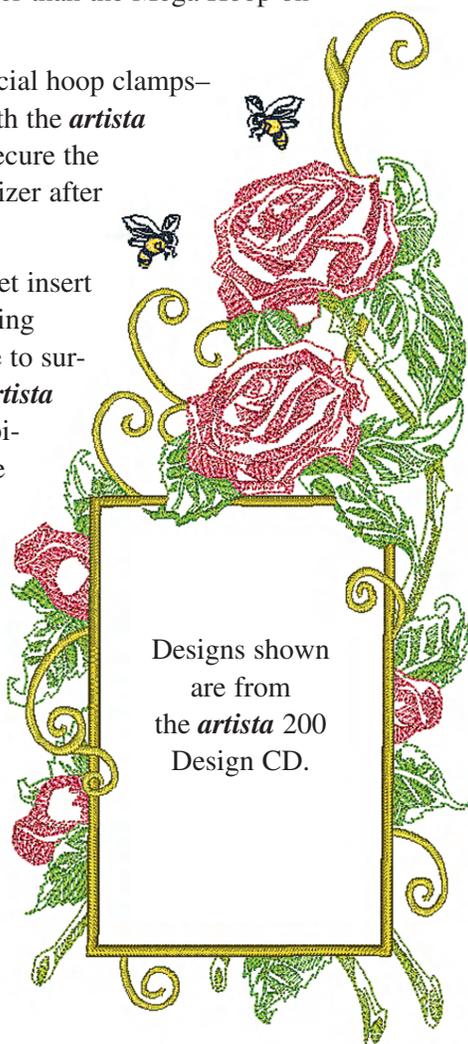
It's always a good idea to stitch a sample before embroidering on project fabric. But what happens to all those samples? One way to "recycle" large stitch samples is to make them into beautiful dresser scarves.

Materials

- Large, stitched embroidery design
- Coordinating lace
- Clear quilter's ruler
- Disappearing fabric marker
- Cup or circle template (optional)

Instructions

1. Trim excess stabilizer approximately $1/4$" from the outer edges of the completed embroidery.

2. Mark the desired outer edges of the dresser scarf using the ruler and marker. Round edges if desired using a cup to mark the curves.

3. Pin lace in place, positioning header over the marked line. Begin and end lace along one straight edge. If lace does not ravel, simply overlap ends; if it ravels, turn under the top layer $1/4$", then pin in place over the other end.

4. Select a zigzag stitch; set stitch length and width at 1.5mm. Stitch lace in place over the marked line. Depending on the lace selected, use Edgestitch Foot #10/10C (for laces with a distinct header) or Open Embroidery Foot #20/20C (for heavy laces).

5. After stitching lace in place, carefully trim excess fabric from under the lace.

EXPERT *Embroidery* TIPS

BY CHRISTY BURCHAM

When embroidering, several variables affect the outcome of the completed project. If a design does not stitch perfectly, there are many factors to evaluate when looking for the reason. Become familiar with these so you can evaluate your embroidery and strive for perfect results. Your BERNINA® dealer is a great source for additional embroidery information. If you find that you cannot identify or correct a problem, take the stitched sample, along with specific information on the needle used, thread type, design source, etc. to the store for further evaluation.

NEEDLES: The use of needles appropriate to the fabric being stitched is as important in embroidery as it is in sewing. Ballpoint needles should be used on knits, Sharps on woven fabric, and wedge points on leather. Needles should be changed often; the needle takes many more stitches in embroidery than in regular sewing, so the points show signs of wear much sooner.

FABRIC: Just as in regular sewing, it is important to choose quality fabric for your embroidery projects. Also, the type of fabric must be considered when choosing stabilizers, needles, and designs. For instance, a 4" x 4" embroidery design with 40,000 stitches is too dense to be supported by a lightweight batiste.

HOOPING: This is one of the most important and yet most elusive aspects of embroidering. One rule of thumb: hoop the fabric and the stabilizer together. This may seem like a lot of work at first, but it guarantees better results. One misconception about embroidery is that the fabric must be drum-tight in the hoop; this is not the case. The screw should be tight, but the fabric should be "at rest." In other words, the fabric should be relaxed in the hoop, with the grainlines of the fabric in the same positions as they will be when the garment is worn. The fabric should be smooth and the screw should be tight enough to keep the fabric from moving out of position, but the fibers of the fabric should not be pulled so tight as to distort the fabric. This is easy to see when hooping knits, which stretch out of shape easily, but woven fabrics can be stretched too tight also. *Tip: If the fabric will be stretched when worn, such as in a sports top or biker shorts, the fabric should also be stretched when sewn. Put the garment on, spray 505 to a piece of stabilizer, and attach it to the back of the garment. This will hold the "stretch" in place as you hoop and embroider the garment.*

ADVANTAGES OF USING ISACORD POLYESTER EMBROIDERY THREAD:

- **Colorfastness:** Isacord thread does not bleed, nor does it accept color. It is UV -resistant and bleachable. Rayon has none of these qualities.

- **Strength:** Isacord thread is polyester (a man-made fiber). Rayon is a natural fiber (made from cellulose). Isacord thread is stronger and more appropriate for high sewing speeds. You will have fewer thread breaks with polyester.

- **Cost:** Polyester, a manufactured fiber, is less expensive than rayon.

- **Wearability:** Because of its strength, Isacord will look better longer than rayon.

- **Consistent color:** No dye lots with Isacord. Every cone of 1902 will be true red, every time. Also, there is no over-dye-ing, a process which breaks down the fibers of the thread.

DESIGN: It is very difficult to get good embroidery results if you do not start with a quality design. Signs of a quality design are:

• **Adequate Underlay Stitching:** This is the pre-stitching that is sewn before the design is stitched. The underlay stitching tacks the stabilizer to the fabric and provides a base for the fill stitches.

• **Accurate Outlines:** Quality designs are stitch and tested to make sure all the components align properly. *Note: User error is often the cause when outlines stitch incorrectly, so be cautious when making this assessment.*

• **Few Jump Stitches:** Professional digitizers know how to create a design so that it will stitch without "jumping" all over the design. This not only makes less work for the embroider, but also reduces machine movement, improving the accuracy of the design.

• **Shading and Highlighting:** These are artistic attributes which the digitizer uses to keep designs from looking "flat".

STABILIZER: Choosing an appropriate stabilizer is another tricky aspect of embroidery, due in part to the large variety of stabilizers available. Some key factors to consider:

• Stabilizer should have NO stretch in any direction; this includes the diagonal as well as crosswise and lengthwise grainlines.

• *Do not use interfacing for stabilizer!* Always choose a high-quality stabilizer designed specifically for embroidery, such as products available from OESD.
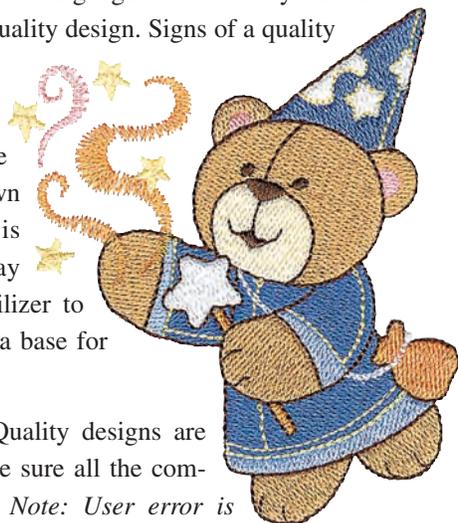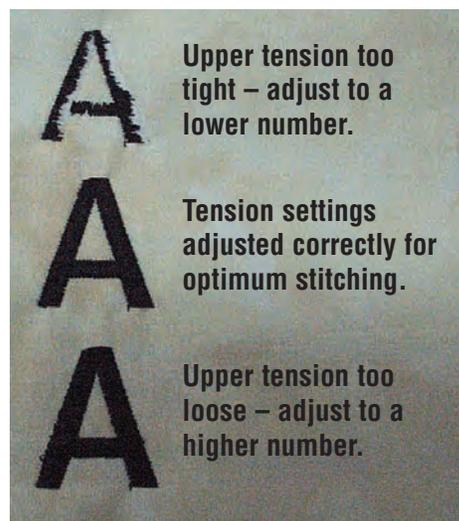
• Always use cut-away stabilizer for knits or stretch fabrics. The stabilizer supports the fabric and helps keep the stitches in place even after the embroidery is completed. Tear-away and/or cut-away stabilizers can be used on woven fabrics. *Note: Denim is one exception to this rule; it is woven, but acts like a knit because it does stretch. Always use cut-away stabilizers with denim.*

• The weight and number of layers of stabilizer should be determined by the fabric and the density of the design. The denser the design, the larger the number of stabilizer layers.

• Aqua Film is a specialty stabilizer frequently used as a topping to hold down the nap of terry, velvet, fleece and other napped fabrics during embroidery. A layer of topping greatly increases the quality of the stitched design by preventing the yarns of the fabric from showing through the embroidery. Aqua Film can also be used for embroidering specialty fabrics such as organza, tulle, or screening.

TENSION: The tension on the embroidery machine should be adjusted to balance the needle and bobbin threads, eliminating thread loops and preventing the bobbin thread showing on the front of the design. The photo below shows examples of correct tension as well as tension that is too tight and too loose.

Upper tension too tight – adjust to a lower number.

Tension settings adjusted correctly for optimum stitching.

Upper tension too loose – adjust to a higher number.

THREAD:
Choosing the appropriate thread for embroidery is very important. Most quality embroidery designs are created to be sewn using 40-weight polyester embroidery thread (Isacord) and a 60-weight polyester bobbin thread.

If using other types and weights of thread, sew a test sample to determine if the design stitches as you want. If using a heavier weight thread (lower number), you may need to adjust the density of the design so the thread does not "pile up", causing the stitching to slow and possibly breaking the needle. If using a lighter weight thread (higher number), the density may need to be increased so there is full coverage of the stitching area without gaps in the design. On the *artista* 200, the stitch density (satin, step, fill, and outline) can be altered by accessing the Edit screen.

Connections

artista 200 SIDE PANEL

1. Card Slot
2. Headphone Connector
3. USB Host Port
4. USB Client Port
5. Embroidery Module Socket
6. Foot Control Socket

BY PAT JENNINGS

BERNINA®'s use of the Microsoft® CE.NET operating system provides your *artista* 200 with the ability to connect to a variety of devices commonly referred to as peripherals. Each of these peripherals expands how you use your *artista* 200 sewing and embroidery system.

The embroidery card slot has dual functionality. Use it as a card reader to load designs directly onto the embroidery screen. Studio BERNINA® embroidery cards and OESD *artista* cards for BERNINA® models 165 to 185 can be used with your *artista* 200E. This card slot also accommodates the *optional* BERNINA® modem. Drivers are pre-installed and internal settings are pre-configured. All you need to do is plug in the

modem and type in your dial up access number, user name, and password.

BERNINA® has utilized the Microsoft® Internet Explorer to provide you with an Internet gateway – the **my*artista*** Portal. This is a special site designed for and accessible by *artista* 200 owners only.

If the Portal is accessed from a sewing screen, a sewing Tutorial or the Creative Consultant, the modem will take you to the information area of the **my*artista*** Portal. Here you may access three different areas containing articles designed to provide you with tips to help with your sewing and embroidery questions. New information will be posted weekly, so visit often. The three areas are:

• News Flashes provide advance notice of upcoming products, and events of interest to you as an *artista* 200 owner are announced first on the **my*artista*** Portal.

• Stitch Memos offer informative articles to help you maximize the use of many unique features available on your *artista* 200.

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• Foot Notes - Details on the use of various presser feet and accessories for your sewing and embroidery projects.

Select the Portal from the Embroidery Menu or an Embroidery Tutorial and you will be able to select and download .ART embroidery designs. Each of the 50 designs is selected from a www.embroideryonline.com design pack, and new designs will be added on a monthly basis.

A headphone connector has been factory installed in the *artista* 200 for future development. This pre-planning means that your *artista* will not need a face lift (new front panel) or internal surgery (technician installing new boards or hardware) to accommodate this future development.

Microsoft® CE.NET gives BERNINA® the ability to have both a USB client port and a USB host port on the *artista* 200. When the client port is used, the sewing machine is taking direction from another piece of equipment -- in this case, your personal computer and the *artista* Embroidery software. The host port allows the sewing system to give direction to a peripheral such as the CD-R drive that allows you to access .art embroidery motifs from BERNINA CDs.

Plug the BERNINA® CD reader into the USB host port to read BERNINA® *artista* 200 Design CDs and OESD

Enhanced for artista Design CDs directly into your embroidery system. You can also use the CD reader to view the BERNINA® *artista* 200 Tutorial CDs on your embroidery and sewing system's screen.

If you are using BERNINA® Embroidery Software or ArtLink software, your PC connected to the USB client port on your *artista* 200 and you will be using Microsoft® ActiveSync® to communicate with the embroidery system. Microsoft® ActiveSync® is on the Setup CD that is included in the packaging of your *artista* 200.

The remaining two sockets are used for the foot control and the optional embroidery module. The Plug and Play feature of Microsoft® CE.NET enables you to plug in or remove the module without turning off your *artista* 200.

Snowman MARCHING BAND

SUPPLIES:

- BERNINA® *artista* 200E
- *artista* Mega Hoop with clamps
- Studio BERNINA® Ingrid's Christmas Embroidery Collection *(snowmen)*
- Studio BERNINA® Fanciful Frogs Embroidery Collection *(music notes & stars)*
- Open Embroidery Foot #20/20C
- Freehand Quilting Foot #20/29C
- Assorted Isacord embroidery threads including green for appliqué & stippling
- OESD Tear-away stabilizer
- BERNINA® Ironing System
- 8" x 16" frame *(plus 8" x 16" cardboard and glazier points)*
- 20" x 20" rectangle of green moiré taffeta
- 4" x 20" dark green fabric
- 8" x 16" rectangle of Warm & Natural batting plus scraps for snowman "trapunto"
- 404 spray adhesive
- 505 temporary spray adhesive
- 606 fusible spray adhesive

BY VICKI TRACY

Create this framed snowman marching band to hang over a door for the holidays. Make more than one to give as gifts – snowmen are so collectible and these will warm anyone's heart. Using the Mega Hoop and the on-screen editing features of the

***artista** 200E*

makes it easy to create this cheerful, musical marching troupe.

DIRECTIONS:

1 Select the Mega Hoop and grid options on the *artista* 200E.

2 From the Ingrid's Christmas Embroidery Collection, select each of the four snowmen shown in the sample. Using the Rotate and Move functions, place them as shown or as desired, staying within the design area of the Mega Hoop.

3 From the Fanciful Frogs Embroidery Collection, select the musical notes and stars. Using the Move and Rotate functions, position them as shown or as desired.

4 Spray tear-away stabilizer with 505 spray; smooth it onto the wrong side of the taffeta. Hoop both layers in the Mega Hoop, securing them with the clamps.

5 Attach the Mega Hoop to the *artista* 200E and position the needle to stitch the design about 3"-5" above the lower edge of the fabric.

6 Stitch the complete design, changing threads and adjusting the position of the hoop as directed on the screen of the *artista* 200E.

7 After stitching is complete, remove the hoop from the machine. Take the fabric from the hoop and tear away the stabilizer as completely as possible.

8 To give dimension to the snowmen, layer three graduated pieces of batting behind each one (small, medium, and large, extending slightly beyond the motif). Bond the batting pieces with 505 spray and freemotion stitch an outline around each snowman. Trim the batting to the outline stitching. Using the BERNINA® Ironing System, steam the project from the back *without touching* the fabric. Turn the project right side up and steam, again *not touching* the fabric. The steam and heat will shrink the batting slightly, creating texture and dimension.

9 Cut the upper edge (along one of the 20" sides) of the dark green fabric into rolling curves similar to the sample. Position this under the snowmen so it appears they are marching along the upper curved edge. Using 606 fusible spray adhesive and the BERNINA® Ironing system, bond this fabric to the taffeta.

10 Appliqué the edge of the green fabric using Blanket Stitch #330 or #353. Use the Triple Straight Stitch (#6) to randomly stitch detail lines on the dark fabric.

11 Trim the embroidered fabric to 8" x 16". Spray the batting with 505 spray and adhere it to the back of the embroidered fabric. Lower the feed dog and stipple stitch the taffeta fabric around the embroidered motifs using Freemotion Quilting Foot #29/29C.

12 To frame the finished design, spray the back of the finished design with 404 spray adhesive and adhere to the cardboard. Insert it into the frame and secure it with glazier points. Hang the framed snowmen over a door during the holiday season—or leave them up and enjoy them all year long!

Stitch Recipe

Cook up a new recipe for embellishment using the decorative stitches of your BERNINA® sewing machine. Try new combinations, different directions, overlapping patterns, and unusual thread choices to get beautiful embroidery looks using decorative stitches.

Sew many stitches, sew little time...

"Chic" Chambray

This combination is nothing more than a "Stacked Stitches" exercise – sewing rows of stitches next to each other. Sew the rows on a light-weight chambray to dress up the denim look and add style to casual clothing.

Stitching Tips

- Use Clear Foot #34C for the best visibility.

- Use the Pattern End button on the head frame to finish a pattern completely. With the needle in the fabric, pivot and sew back, matching pattern.

- Sew at a consistent speed.

- Add a finishing touch to stitches by sewing beads in place.

Supplies:

- *artista* 200

- Embroidery Needle

- Assorted Threads (YLI Quilting Threads & Mettler 30/2 Machine Embroidery thread #889 used in sample)

"Chic" Chambray

10th	8th	6th	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	5th	7th	9th
Stitch 660	Stitch 353	Stitch 148	Stitch 353	Stitch 451	Stitch 451	Stitch 353	Stitch 148	Stitch 353	Stitch 660
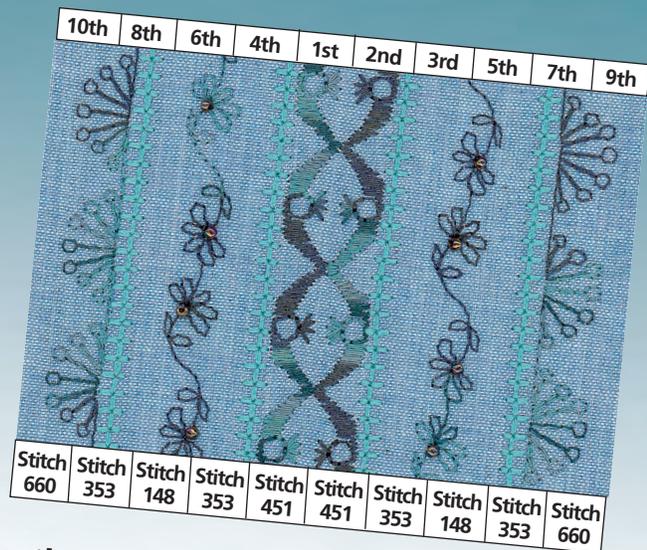
The stitch combination is sewn starting from the center and working out to the edges. Stitch as shown above using preprogrammed settings and engaging Mirror Image as needed.

Want to learn more?

Check out the artista 200 link on our website: www.berninausa.com for more stitch recipes!

artista Data Exchange

BY MARLENE BRYANT

As sewing machine technology advances, it isn't always possible for pre-existing products to remain compatible with newly developed ones. But, thanks to the communication software, *artista* Data Exchange (ADX), the *artista* embroidery software v3.0 work swith the *artista* 200E as well as models 165-185. This versatile piece of software is included on the setup CD packed with every *artista* 200.

SENDING A DESIGN

Using the USB cable packed with the *artista*, connect the machine to the computer. The Active Sync® program will launch a dialog box indicating that the *artista* and PC are "connected." Open the *artista* embroidery software; select the desired design.

Click on File, then choose Card/Machine Write. A Device Selection dialog box appears; note that the *artista* 200 is already selected. Click OK. Another dialog box appears (it may take a few seconds), with the selected design in the preview window. Send to Folder sends designs to the selected folder; Embroider sends the design directly to the layout screen of the *artista* 200, ready to stitch.

RETRIEVING A DESIGN

Retrieving a design is just as easy as sending one. Click on File, then select Care/Machine Read. The Device Selection dialog box appears, again with the *artista* 200 already selected. Click OK. Another dialog box appears, with the butterfly design selected. Notice that the Embroidery

Module icon is active. In this dialog box designs can be opened from an embroidery card, a Personal Design Card, or an *artista* 200 design CD. To select a design, double click. The design may be sent to any folder on the computer, as the Designs on Desktop area provides access to all of the folders on the PC's hard drive. Double click to select the desired folder, then left click on the Send icon.
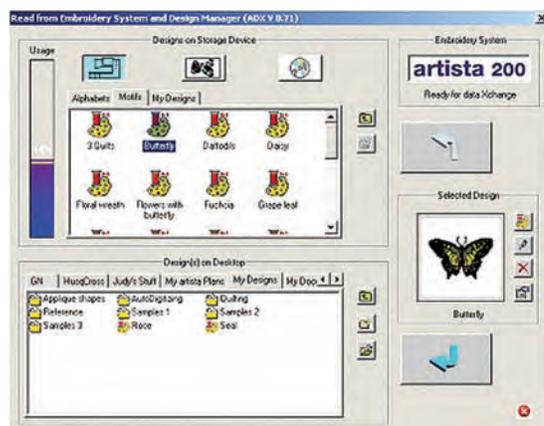
Note the four icons to the left of the Selected Design preview box:

- **EDIT** sends the selected design directly to the Design screen of the *artista* embroidery software, where it can be customized and sent to the *artista* to stitch immediately or at another time. *Note: This is the only option available when selecting a design from the CD-R.*
- **RENAME** allows the name of the selected design to be changed.
- **DELETE** removes a design. A friendly dialog box appears on the screen to ask "There is no Undo, are you sure you want to delete this?
- **PROPERTIES** displays the design properties of the selected design.

ADX is very intuitive and easy to use. Its familiar icons and commands make it simple for even a beginner computer user to successfully send and retrieve designs, while all users will enjoy this enhancement for the excellent *artista* embroidery software and *artista* 200 creative sewing system.

Professional Profile

GAYLE HILLERT
Vice President of Education, BERNINA of America, Inc.

Not everyone who works in the sewing industry is a full-time seamstress.

From pattern designers to embroidery digitizers to notions buyers, it takes a multitude of skills to keep the industry moving.

Meet people with interesting jobs and find out how they got there.

WHAT IS YOUR JOB?

My job encompasses many different elements – no two days are ever the same and that is one of the reasons I enjoy it. BERNINA® of America's Education Department is involved in Sales and Marketing as well as Education and Product Development. Consumer and Trade Shows, National Trainings, Public Relations and the Consumer Web Site all fall under the umbrella of Education, and it is my responsibility to coordinate these efforts. I also am involved in our Embroidery Design Collection selection as well as company strategy meetings, dealer focus groups and product development.

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE *artista* 200E CREATIVE SEWING SYSTEM?

With the *artista* 200, I was a project leader responsible for input from the market, the User Interface – making sure it was user friendly and easily navigated and that the icons made sense, the manual, the content for the **my***artista* Portal, for the testing procedures – BERNINA® employees from the United States and Switzerland tested the *artista* 200E every day for almost six months, and for developing the world wide educational and training concepts. The project was intensely interesting. To be involved in the beginning of the process, developing ideas and concepts, and to see those concepts realized was immensely satisfying. There were so many things I enjoyed about the *artista* 200 project. I enjoyed the people – the software programmers' minds are amazing! I enjoyed the perfection that they strive for – we were all striving for excellence on this machine. I enjoyed being involved in everything from planning the Suitcase System, to where the logo should be on the machine, to planning and proofing the Instructional Presentation CD, to watching the manual develop and proofing it. Seeing the *artista* 200E connect to the Internet and download information and embroidery designs through the **my***artista* Portal and embroidering with *artista* 200 were very memorable experiences.

To watch the machine grow and become more functional was very satisfying. To be a part of the enormously talented team who developed the *artista* 200 system was an honor. And to show the machine for the first time to the public and to see the amazement and joy on their faces was very gratifying.

DO YOU SEW? IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO STITCH?

I have sewn since I was a little girl. My favorite things to sew are for my family. I love to sew children's clothing because creativity comes so easily. And I love heirloom sewing because I love the tactile pleasure of touching fine laces and fabrics. Sewing, embroidering and quilting are very satisfying to me.

ANY LAST THOUGHTS?

The development of the *artista* 200 came from ideas of our loyal customers and dealers. The best thing our customers and dealers can do is to let us know how they feel about the BERNINA® product, what we did right and how we can improve. We very much want to give our customers the products they need to be successful.
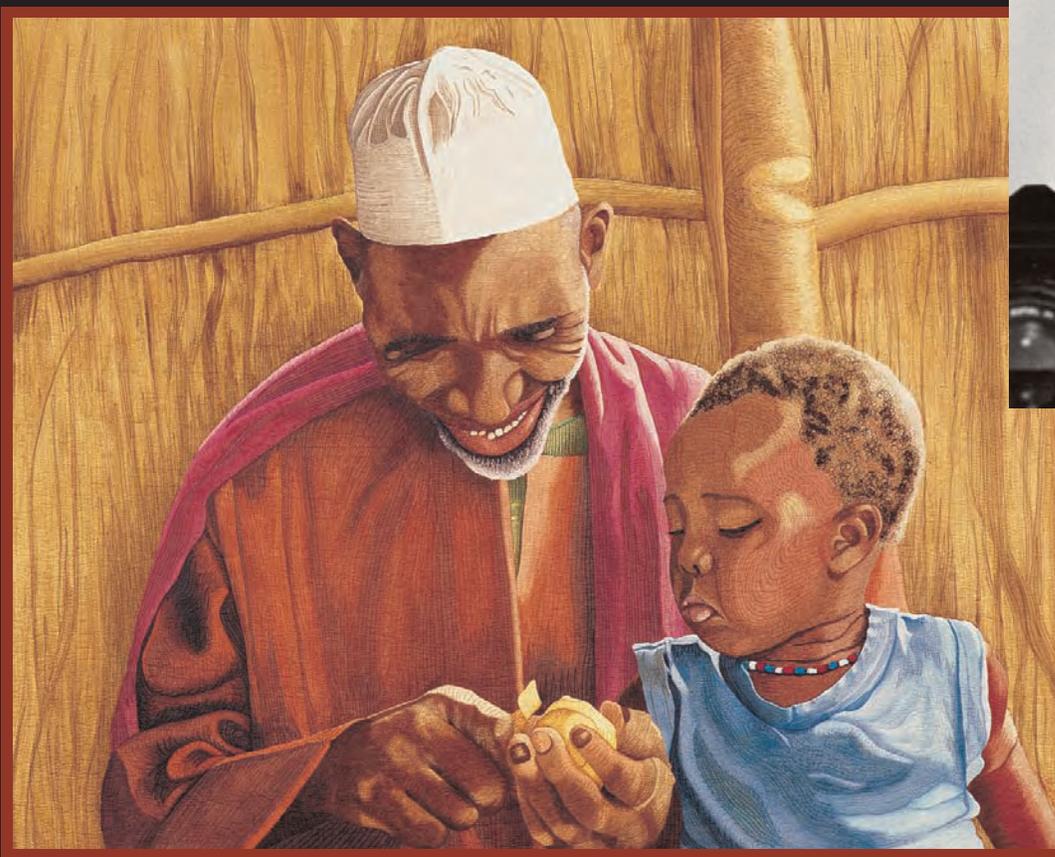
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