

Sisters in Christ for the Needy  
August 10, 2009



For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor and to the needy in the land. Deut. 15:11

# Journal of the Royal Society



The Royal Society is a learned society for the advancement of natural philosophy, astronomy, and natural history. It was founded in 1660 and is one of the oldest scientific organizations in the world. The society's motto is 'Nullius in verba', which translates to 'No man's word'.



## Tips 'N Tricks

**Name: Sage-Subject: Reading & Crocheting**

**Comment:** I am an 11 year old crocheter, reader, and violinist. This has come to be very useful, since I found out that if you take a normal music stand (just the top part, where the music actually goes) and put a book in it, you can read and crochet at the same time, since you don't need to hold the book.

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**Name: Abby - Subject: Cheap but good quality yarn**

**Comment:** To get cheap but good quality yarn go to a thrift store. Buy a cheap hand-crocheted or knit sweater and UNRAVEL it! Just make sure you know what type of yarn it is by looking for a tag...i.e. Cotton, Wool, Acrylic, etc.

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**Name: Susan - Subject: Pulling from the center of a ball of yarn**

**Comment:** When you wind a ball of yarn, begin by threading 6-12 inches through a plastic drinking straw. Start winding the ball around the end of the straw. When it gets big enough, pull the ball off of the straw and keep winding. This will keep the inside end accessible. It takes a little extra effort to wind around the inside "tail", but it's worth it to be able to pull the yarn from the center instead of dealing with a frantically rolling ball of yarn.

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**Name: Princess G Subject: Books**

**Comment:** I was searching on e-bay for a book when I came across a whole stack of crochet books. I got about 75 books for \$5! What a bargain.

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**Name: Crochet Babe Subject: Hook storage**

**Comment:** I received a package with a big Styrofoam block. I covered it in felt and then poked small holes in it and wham! A super cute hook holder.

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**Name: Tracy B Subject: Hooks**

**Comment:** I use clay that you can bake in the oven to put around my hooks to make them easier to handle. Put it on any way that fits your hand and bake according to manufacture's directions.



KNITTERS IN ISTANBUL

## The Hunt for Knitters

I have this theory that knitters and crocheters are special people. Maybe that's just romanticism on my part but how can

any human who connects things together rather than pulling them apart be anything but? We're creating, meditating, building, designing, envisioning, all while caught up in the act of knitting or crocheting. That makes us special, right?

So, everywhere I go, in every country to which I travel, I look for my kindred spirits but we're not obvious. Globally, knitting is just not that 'out there', even in countries with a rich knitting tradition. In Britain, for instance, it's rare to find people doing random acts of knitting in public places since such activities are usually kept to shops or market stalls and, of course, the privacy of the home.

But try finding a knitter in exotic, far-flung, places where few yarn stores exist and knitting may not be part of a tradition. Knitters may be there thriving but out of sight.. But outside in the open market areas, women with weathered faces sit in the dust selling heaps of hats worked in Tunisian crochet. Even in Turkey, with its rich textile history, knitting isn't obviously part of the picture and yet, just outside the Grand Bazaar, I found women selling knitted leather. Imagine the ingenuity needed to knit strips of leather and suede into vests and bags? And in Zimbabwe, it's crochet intricately worked into amazing tablecloths, throws, and tops, sometimes using simple string, often sold by women sitting on blankets by roadsides. These countries don't have a knitting culture and yet somehow knitting and crochet have erupted with much the same passion, determination, and need we all experience. I have always believed that there's more to knitting than what meets the hand. Knitting happens in surprising places and unexpected ways, even among those who lack resources but who come armed with hanks of will. No needles? No problem: what are they but pointy sticks, anyway? And if yarn's unavailable, there's a world of fiber out there – leather, straw, string, hemp. Millions of us knitters must be linking the world together behind the scenes every day so now all we have to do is get out there and do it public more. Why wait for a Knit in Public fest? Just do it. in the street, the bus, the sidewalk, while waiting in long lines, just do it in the name of global connectivity so we can knit the world together one stitch at a time.

Once an idealist, always an idealist.

Heaps of knitting in Morocco

(Anonymous)



### A Quilting Forum Discussion

I have used thrift shop clothes for quilting material, batik shirts and such but I worry about using worn clothes. My mother has only made 2-3 quilts and one was made out of old clothes from when I was a child, there were holes in the quilt within 7-8 years because of the wear.

Katherine

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Back when I began quilting 20+ years ago, I would use the lesser-worn parts of shirts and house-dresses...



I would go to garage sales and shop for those 50-cent clothes - maybe there's a stain on the front but the back is good; or a frayed collar and cuffs... I would especially hit the ones advertising "large women's clothes" - always a lot of cotton blouses - like hitting the jackpot! :) I also picked up a lot of cotton "peasant" dresses - do you remember the Gunne Sax dresses from the late '70s? Lots of fabric in those....

My favorite find was oxford-cloth shirts and men's plaid cotton dress shirts. When combined with other fabrics, they added a little "pizazz" to the quilts. Don't forget, you can fill a jar up with the buttons cut off those shirts - great for primitive quilts, or just building up a button stash.

I made a beautiful log cabin quilt using shirt fabrics for the lights, mixed in with some light cotton quilting prints, and the darks are pink, purple, med-dk blue, and blacks - my DH calls it the bruise quilt but it is really pretty. It's on my bed now, and I made it 12 years ago. Another quilt is a really scrappy Jacob's ladder made from pinks and blues, and shirt fabrics for the backgrounds. I made it 15 years ago and it won a ribbon in the museum quilt show a couple years later. Both these quilts are machine quilted and get used a lot.

I think if you especially want a soft, "grandma" quilt, the shirt fabrics really add to the "look". Just toss away any part that is see-through thin, frayed, or has little pills or nubs on it from excessive wear.

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Jeri in Texas

I am using the best of my late DH clothing to make memory quilts



for his grandkids now. I believe our grandmothers made quilts out of old clothing as I have one my first late DH grandmother made that had parts of his dads clothing in it. As long as the fabric is still good, not stained, faded or worn it should work as well as new and colors sure won't bleed any more. This is a good way to get some designs that aren't in the fabric stores.

The biggest problem I have encountered with quilting with clothing is that there really isn't much fabric in each item, so you end up with a quilt with a rather "scrappy look" -- lots of different fabrics. What could be a problem for a beginner is that most quilt patterns list yardage - they don't say "you need 12 shirts, 2 skirts and a pair of pants." So it could be difficult to figure out how many old clothes you actually need. I gather up a bunch of things I think will work together and just start. Sometimes I run out in the middle of a project, but usually that just means finding more clothes to work with and maybe changing directions just a little bit.

Barb

=== I made a quilt for my youngest DD three years ago from her outgrown baby clothes. She keeps it on her bed and occasionally drags it around and I have found no problem with it whatsoever. Of course, baby clothes don't get too much wear anyway. I say, Go for it!

Ruth



I have been quilting for years! I taught myself to quilt....tho' I do remember mom and her mom putting together quilts. I have made a lot of quilts from clothing. Learned by trial and error what to use and what not to use!!! I love to recycle! I just made my 1st 'CRAZY' quilt top out of clothes..... THAT WAS REALLY FUN! Quilting doesn't have to cost you an arm and a leg!!!! Just my 2 cents worth!

Pat===



I've made many, many quilts out of clothing that has been outgrown or never gets worn anymore. And I just love the term "scrappy" -- that's what quilts were, back when: we'd make quilts out of scraps and old clothes -- going out to purchase fabrics just to make a quilt was reserved for special occasions such as wedding quilts -- there was no such thing as a quilting shop.

Joan



I used a bunch of DH's worn out jeans to make a raggy quilt for my car backseat. I used just the good parts, back of legs, back pockets, only the good stuff. I sewed wrong sides together with 5/8ths inch seams and then washed and dried it. Then I had to trim off the strings but after that when I wash it it's ok. It's a good weight and if I that I have a flat or whatever I won't feel bad about putting it on the ground. I also have to watch that the G'Kids don't put it in their car. Wish I could show a picture. It did turn out neat. But with no batting or backing. (PJ)

I also made a quilt from my DDs baby dresses. Being the first Granddaughter after 7 Grandsons, my DM bought her many beautiful dresses. When my DD was about 8 we cut the 100% cotton dresses in 4" squares and made a quilt. I purchased a calico that she liked and used it for some squares in the quilt and in the border to tie everything together. That quilt was always used, sometimes as a bed cover, sometimes as a snuggle quilt. It went to college with her and today her little children are using it.

The only place it is showing the wear is in the one polyester blend block that I used.

Anna

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I haunt thrift shops etc. for old tablecloths for quilts. They usually haven't gotten a lot of wear-and they're cheap! I pick up ones with stains on them for 25-50 cents each. I then simply discard the bit with the stain. I bought a gorgeous unstained red batik for \$1.25 the other day, got it home, and discovered it looks grand on the table in my entranceway-its not getting cut!

Sherry

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My grandmother (now 102) made a quilt using the dresses my mother (now 82) wore to first grade in 1926. The dresses made up the appliquéd flowers. It's wonderful to have and think about. The pattern came out in the Oregonian newspaper and many women made it. Since, someone has collected the history of that newspaper article and the quilts that came of it and Grandma's quilt has been registered as part of the group.

The quilt has never been used, just occasionally displayed. It's wrapped in a cotton pillowcase and is refolded every so often so as to not get worn. (JM)

## KNIT TIPS



**Color Skewer:** I am currently using up small balls of leftover yarn to knit stocking caps in the round. These caps, when finished, are given to a charitable organization. Once I decide the color order that I wish to use the small balls, I "skewer" them onto a straight knitting needle so that they are kept in the order I want. I just slip off the next small ball and keep knitting.



## A Funny Summer Crochet Story

Donna writes: "I'm the type of needle crafter that, if I'm sitting, my hands have to be doing something. I crochet anytime I have a moment, no matter where that might be. While attending car races in Fort Worth, Texas, I had bagged up a few projects to work on while at the motel or in the grandstands between events.

"Our motel had a pool and my husband wanted to take a morning swim. While he was in the pool, I resumed crocheting a tote bag I was making which was worked in loose, open chain stitches. I had it about three-quarters finished.

"While I was working on it, one of the other guests was walking up the sidewalk by the pool, followed by two preschool children. The little boy paused and watched what I was doing, then glanced at my husband in the pool. He looked at me and said, 'If he can't swim, there's a donut hangin' on the fence. You don't hafta make a net!'"



### CROCHET/KNIT TIP

The plastic hanging bags designed to hold shoes, sweaters or purses in a closet are a great place to store yarn. You can put different weights or colors together so by looking you can see what you have available. Since they are in pockets, they usually stay dust free.



## **More Quilting Tools From Common Household Items**

### **From the variety or discount store**

Vinyl string envelopes available in the scrap booking department for less than \$2 are great for storing quilt blocks -- the packaging says 12" x 12" but they really are 13" x 13" plus they have a pleat so they would contain a thickness of an inch or more. The string will keep them closed while they are stored.

Plant mister spray bottle -- Use one by the iron to spray before pressing as needed or spray cotton batting before placing it in the dryer on air fluff to remove wrinkles from being in the package.

Plastic wrap -- if you like to eat when working on your computer -- cover the keyboard with clear plastic food wrap -- it will keep the crumbs out of the cracks between the keys of the keyboard and you can still punch the keys through the plastic wrap.

Chalk Line -- like construction workers use -- a little case with string that pulls out and a little handle that winds the strings back into the case -- buy a new one and fill it with powdered sewing chalk or cornstarch and "snap" a line to make a straight line across the quilt. Don't use construction workers chalk supplied with the tool as it may not wash out of the quilt. Using the chalk line tool is a two person job so you'll need someone to help you hold the other end of the string.

Emery board -- when you need to draw a diagonal line on fabric to piece binding strips or for half square triangles -- use an emery board -- it will grip the fabric and not slip as you are drawing a straight line.

Wallpaper seam roller -- buy an inexpensive wallpaper seam roller. This tool is really great for pressing seams rather than finger pressing. Simply place piecing on a hard surface and roll the wallpaper seam roller over the seam. Also works for curved seams and saves fingernails.

Stack of mini sticky notes -- A small stack of sticky notes can be placed 1/4" away from the needle to use as a guide for piecing exactly a 1/4" seam allowance.

Extra bobbins -- keep extra bobbins on hand and fill them with the thread colors you usually use for piecing -- when you run out of bobbin you simply have to change and keep sewing rather than stopping to wind a bobbin and re-thread. Extra bobbins are also great for winding different color of threads to carry with for hand appliqué or other hand work.



### TIP #1

#### Seam Alignment Secret!

When two seams will be joined together, press the seam allowances in opposite directions. This helps distribute the bulk and ensures the seams will align.



### TIP #2

#### Fool Your Feed Dogs Trick!

If your machine doesn't allow you to drop the feed dogs for free-motion quilting, tape a business card over them to prevent them from grabbing the fabric beneath the presser foot.



### TIP #3

#### Press & Rest Works Best!

Once fabric pieces have been pressed, let them cool in place. It prevents distortion of bias edges.



### TIP #4

#### Glue Stick Secret!

Store your glue sticks used for appliqué in the refrigerator. This keeps them firmer, making them easier to use and longer lasting.



### TIP #5

#### Windows Work Wonders

To see what a medium- or large-print fabric will look like when it's cut into smaller pieces, make a template window to carry with you when you're fabric shopping.



### TIP #6

#### Straight & Square Borders

For border strips, measure the quilt center in both directions through the center to ensure straight sides and square corners. Measuring along the edges is less accurate because they may have stretched during assembly.



### TIP #7

#### Confused by Contrast?

To see if you have enough contrast between the fabrics you've chosen for a quilt, make a black and white photocopy. This eliminates color and shows only the contrast between and within pieces of fabric.



### TIP #8

#### See Before You Sew

Experiment with your arrangement of blocks by positioning them on a bedsheet until you're satisfied. Once you're pleased, pin them to the sheet before carrying them to your sewing machine.

### TIP #9

#### See It To Believe It!

To decide if your quilting thread contrasts or blends the way you wish, practice your quilting designs on quilt sandwiches made from the same fabrics used in your quilt. If the color is not right, experiment with thread a shade darker or lighter.



### TIP #10

#### Mistake-proof Trimming Method

When you want to trim the batting, but not the backing, on a quilted piece, slip the edge of your rotary cutting mat between the backing and batting before you begin. This will prevent you from inadvertently cutting into the backing fabric.

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From The Editors Of Quilting Arts

# Deuteronomy 15

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