

Welcome and Happy Autumn!



I have been looking forward to taking you on a tour of the new Janome Memory Craft 9400 QCP for some time and today is finally the day! My goal is to inspire you to make sewing your own, free from the constraints of rules, to kickstart your creativity and help you transform your spaces. This brand new machine gave me the push I needed to give appliqué a whirl!

The Janome 9400 QCP is packed with features for every sewing skill, from the automatic presser foot lifter to the professional quarter inch foot and oh so much light! The project I bring you today includes no traditional binding or Y-seams that you would expect from sewing with hexagons, making it the ideal afternoon project and completely family friendly. I might be obsessed with hexies, just look at the blue planter above.

Project Supply List:

- Janome 9400 QCP
- Applique foot (F or F2)
- Iron/seam ripper/scissors
- Aurifil thread, variegated 50wt cotton
- Canvas Batik Fabric - 1/2 yard by WOF (width of the fabric)
- Assorted batik scraps (5-6 prints)
- Warm Company - Steam A Seam 2 (double sided fusible web)
- Pencil
- Hexagon template (draw on card-stock)

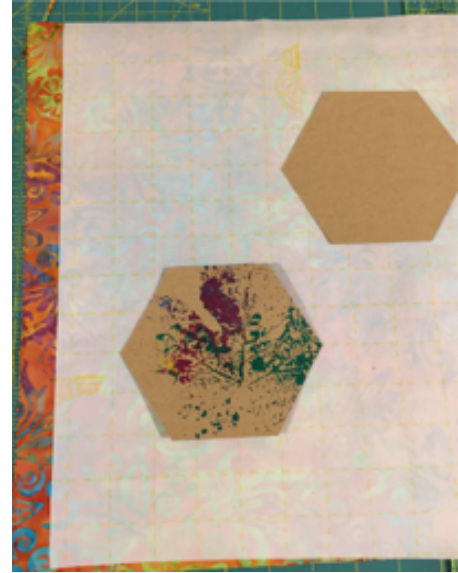
About the Project:

My daughter and I love to craft with perler beads and we were lucky enough to have an hexagon at hand. I simply created a card-stock template from the perler beads' base and traced the shapes on the grid side of the steam a seam 2 (fusible web).

Here I share my contemporary Hexie-Hack. I appliquéd instead of piecing to create a "pieced" look after the shapes were fused; the stitching becomes the decoration. You can also opt to fuse the shapes onto your background fabric without adding any stitching, making it a quick "no sew" project for low traffic areas in your home or to frame!



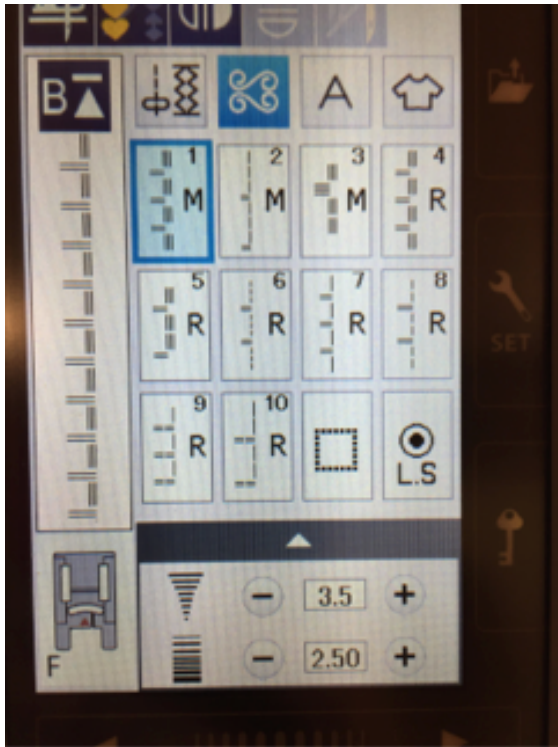
1. Start by choosing fabric scraps that blend well with the background fabric, prepare the hexagons' fabrics by peeling the Steam a Seam 2 fusible webbing paper, non-grid side, iron lightly to the back of the fabric. Trace as many hexagons as you can fit and cut. Note: Remove the 2nd paper backing when you are ready to attach the hexies to the table runner fabric.



2. Position the hexagons randomly until you are satisfied with the layout and fuse by ironing in circular motion. Hint: protect your iron by using a pressing cloth.



3. Choose from a variety of appliqué stitches on your machine to sew around the edges of each hexie. The Janome 9400 makes it super easy to navigate between modes and the built-in B button (begin again), made me feel like a pro; it acts like a reset button when going around the corners for a more professional look. I always start my appliqué with the needle in the down position and as a “night time” sewer, I’m especially grateful for the large, well lit touch screen.



4. Using the F foot (closed toe foot) appliqué around the edges by aligning the edge of the hexie with the built-in foot guide, to the right of the red triangle on the sewing foot. Slow down the machine speed until you are comfortable with your progress. For the table runner I fused and appliquéd 24 hexies, adjust that number depending on the look you wish to achieve. Continue appliquéing around all the edges.



To follow through on my free spirited table runner design, I used my trusted seam ripper to create a fringed border. Most importantly I gave myself the crucial task of trying something new. I seldom work with batiks and this project presented the perfect excuse!



My goal is always to showcase how fun and achievable contemporary sewing techniques can be and my Janome machines can keep up with all of my non-traditional sewing ideas.

Using the new Janome 9400 QCP was thoroughly enjoyable and I leave you with somewhat of a visual guide showing you what I love most about it (just in time for holiday dreams).

Things I love about the 9400 QCP, A visual Guide



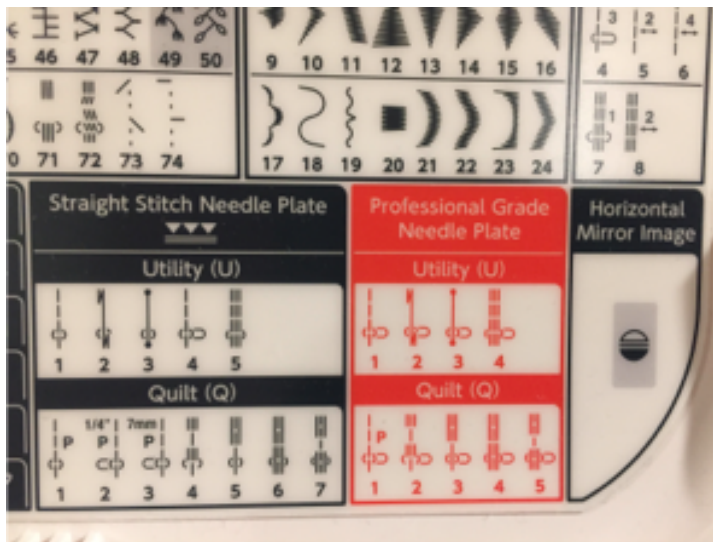
A mirror image option for decorative stitches; this means that we can flip a selection of stitches vertically and horizontally, as seen above with the half circle symbols.



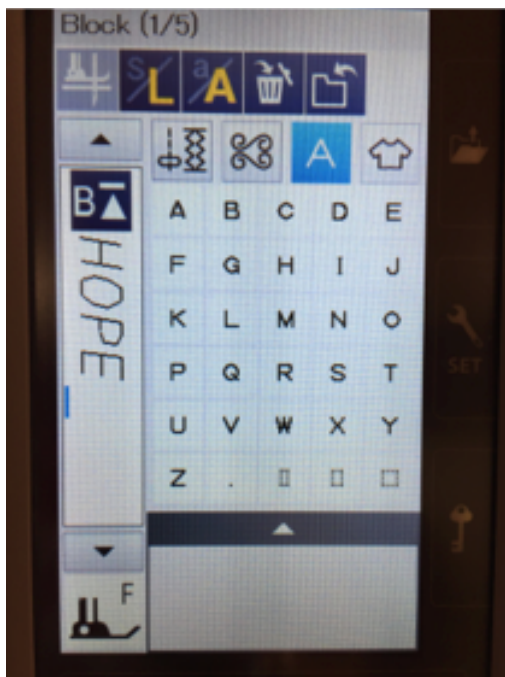
We have extra light where sewers need it the most, above the needle plate area.



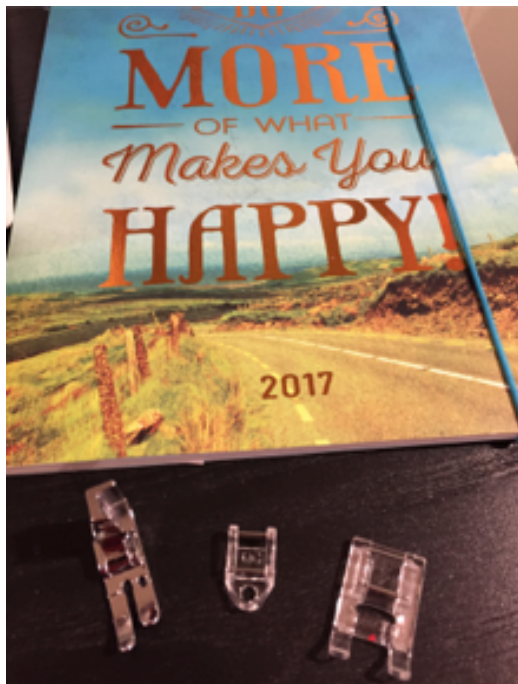
A reliable and super fast needle threader. Just amazing!



Not 2 but 3 needle plates to choose from to simplify and remove the guesswork on the type of stitching and the results we wish to achieve. These also prevent accidental needle breakage in the event that we would choose a stitch not supported by a specific needle plate, as is bound to happen with other machines. The needle plates for the 9400 QCP help us sew better and achieve greater results.



We can finally monogram without committing the letters to memory. We simply select the letters and sew! This made me jump for joy the first time I used it.



And finally, the 9mm Janome 9400 feet I can't live without!

From left to right above: professional 1/4 inch foot without a guide, tiny free motion quilting foot (I can't believe it is that size) and the appliqué foot I used on my Zen Table Runner. When it comes to free motion quilting, Janome has the best foot! No bulky feet to install and/or screw.



I hope you have a great sewing time and do more of what makes you happy. We don't need a new year to tell us that. Let's get a headstart on the new year by enjoying and doing the things we love best!

Happy Autumn.
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