

SEPTEMBER, 2017: Trapunto

Trapunto quilting, also known as stuffed quilting, is a decorative method in which the small padded areas stand out in relief against a flat background. Two layers of fabric are first basted together, and then the motifs to be padded are enclosed with stitching so that they can be stuffed from the reverse side. The top fabric needs to be pliable to accommodate the stuffing. The backing fabric should be light weight but firm. Batting or polyester stuffing is usually used and inserted through a 1 to 2 inch slit in the backing fabric. The thread used to outline these padded areas can either be embroidery floss and sewn by hand or machine quilted.

A similar type of stuffed quilting is called Italian quilting. Like Trapunto this method starts with two layers of fabric, but in this case double lines of stitching are worked. Once the design is in place then wool thread in a large eyed blunt needle is inserted from the back of the work and run between the two layers of fabric and between the lines of stitching.

This month you have had a choice between two patterns. One is a cat and the other an owl. Having made your choice of which object to appliqué this month, you may use any of the last six techniques that we have learned to accomplish this. Please feel free to add any embellishments that suit you. You may or may not also want to use the trapunto technique.



