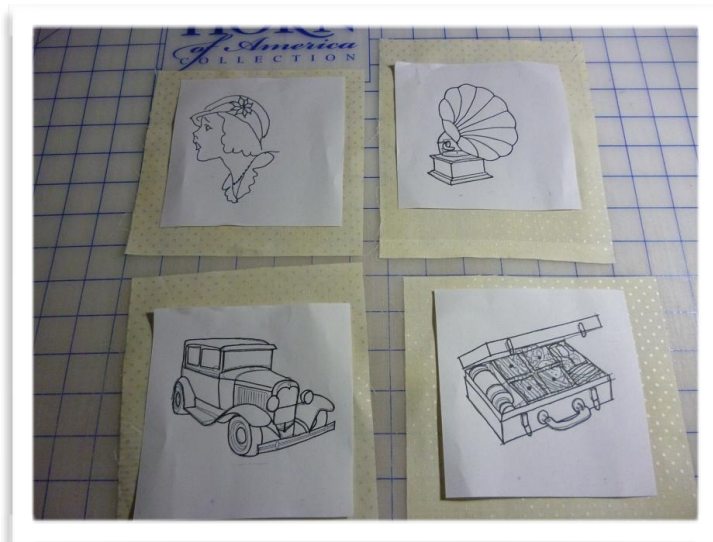




How to Stitch a line Cameo drawing by Machine

I am sure there are lots of ways to do this kind of thing, but here's how I did it. This is much easier than you might think.

Cut your background fabric a little larger than you need for you project, remembering to add in your quarter inch seam allowance. I like to use spray starch and press it before I begin to make sure everything is smooth and firm.



Choose or draw a simple design to use.

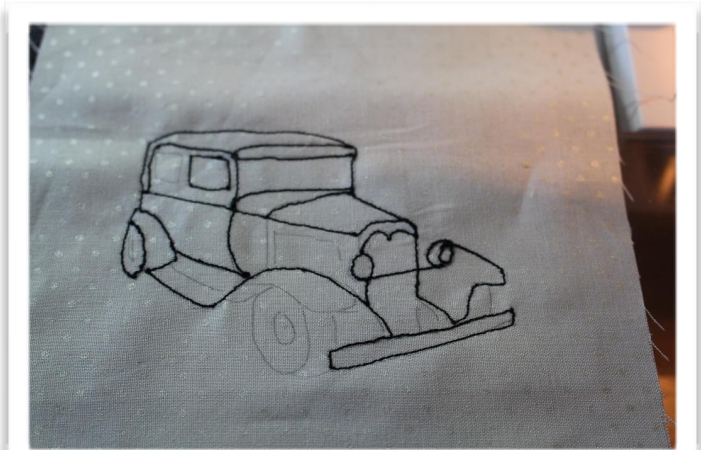
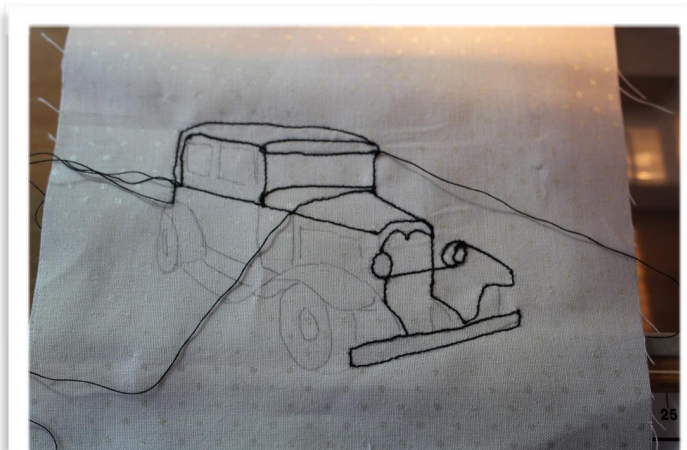


Sometimes I draw my own designs, but I also often use Google Images and search for 'line drawings of...'. In this instance I searched for 'vintage cars'. Print it off and enlarge or reduce to a size to fit your block. Go over the outline with a thicker pen as this makes it easier to see through your fabric. Sometimes you can leave off

some of the details in the drawing as you don't want to make the stitching too complicated. (for example, here I left off the grill on the side of the car bonnet.)

Pin the design to the back of your fabric in the correct position and trace with a marking pencil lightly on to your fabric. Use a light box if you have one, but if not, you can simply tape it the window so that you can see the outline more clearly.

Cut a piece of 'stitch & tear' stabiliser to the side of your design and pin it to the back of your fabric underneath your pencil outline. This stops puckering and helps with the stitch tension. Once you have started to stitch and your fabric and stabiliser are fixed, you can remove the pins.



Use your free motion quilting foot and make sure your feed dogs are down and start to stitch. Look for a starting place where you can stitch as much as possible in a continuous line. Of course sometimes you have to break thread. When this happens, leave enough thread to fasten off on the back. (This is important, as you don't want the design to come undone and with free motion quilting, the tension isn't always perfect).

Work your design slowly - there is no need to rush. Maybe turn down the speed on your machine to pace yourself. As it is only a small piece of fabric, it is easy to manoeuvre in the sewing machine. If you have a 'needle down' option on your machine, use it so that you can quickly swivel the material around each time you stop, without losing line continuity. Build your design up gradually and take your time.

Fasten off the ends by taking a needle and thread and passing the thread ends to the back to tie off. I often stop half way through my design, so that I don't get a tangle of threads on the back.

Once your design is finished, Press and then tear away the stabiliser. I use tweezers to get rid of the tiny bits of stabiliser paper in between areas with a lot of stitching. Spray starch and press again and trim to size. Now you are ready to stitch your cameo block into your quilt.



REMEMBER - take your time and don't worry if it is not perfect - once it is in your quilt or whatever else you are making and is surrounded by lots of beautiful colours, it will look fab!



I made these little bags for my friends in Stockholm, before we left to come home to England. It is a quick and fun idea and you can use it to make special gifts for your family & friends.

HAPPY STITCHING.....Ruby x

