

CRAZY STITCHING

This exercise has been included as an introduction to the sewing machine. It is done when the machine is not threaded. Have a diagram of the sewing machine with all the basic parts labeled on a poster in the machine area. The stitching designs need to be transferred onto heavy muslin, pellon, or a similar fabric with a felt-tip marker or a permanent transfer pencil so they can be used repeatedly. (This eliminates paper stitching and gives students the true feel of how fabric works with the machine.) You need to prepare practice fabrics before class to help this activity run smoothly.

Demonstrate sewing the crazy stitching pattern for the students.

Post the instructions for sewing Crazy Stitching near the students' machines.

CRAZY STITCHING

Some helpful ideas

1. When beginning, sew slowly
2. Don't hold the fabric back; let it go through as fast as the machine takes it.
3. Guide the fabric lightly with the tips of your fingers.
4. Sew in the following order:
 1. Longest straight lines
 2. Curved lines
 3. Spirals
 4. Square corners

STARTING

1. Turn the sewing machine on.
2. Put your right hand on the handwheel. Turn the wheel TOWARD YOU until the take-up lever is as high as it can be at the top of the machine.
3. Place the fabric between the presser foot and the needle, directly over the line of stitching.
4. Lower the needle into the fabric.
5. Put the presser foot lever down.
6. Press the foot or knee control very carefully and begin sewing.

STOPPING

1. When you come to the end of a pattern, stop the machine by taking your knee or foot off the power control. Make certain that the needle is up out of the fabric. If it is still in the fabric, turn the handwheel until the needle comes up and the take-up lever is at the top.
2. Lift the presser foot lever. Move the fabric to the next position.

BACKSTITCHING

1. Put the edge of the fabric under the needle and lower the presser foot.
2. Sew three (3) stitches forward and stop.
3. Put sewing machine in reverse and sew backward for three (3) stitches.
4. Put sewing machine in forward and continue sewing on the line of stitching.
5. At the end of the line of stitching, put the sewing machine in reverse and sew backward for three (3) stitches.
6. Put sewing machine in forward and stitch to edge of fabric and stop.

CURVED, SPIRAL, AND PIVOTING

Curved and Spiral

Stop the machine every fourth or fifth stitch to adjust the fabric so that you stay on the curved line. **BE SURE THE NEEDLE IS DOWN IN THE FABRIC WHEN YOU STOP.** Lift the presser foot lever and turn the fabric so that the machine will sew in the direction of the line.

Pivoting

Stitch to the first corner of the design and stop. With the needle still down in the fabric, lift the presser foot lever and turn the fabric so that the machine will sew in the new direction. Lower the presser foot lever and continue.

CRAZY STITCHING PATTERNS

