

Setting up Your Machine for Free Motion

Hello students!! Welcome to my studio.

Throughout the years as I have been teaching, I have noticed that many of my students do not know how to properly set up their machine for free motion no matter whether they are quilting or thread painting. Today I want to go over the steps necessary to successfully set up your machine – there is even a short section on how to adjust your bobbin case in order to balance the tension between the top and bobbin thread. In free motion the adjustment between the top and bobbin threads is critical and if your machine has been serviced lately and is in good working order, many times a simple adjustment to the top or bottom tension is all that is necessary. Today specialty threads abound so it is more important than ever to know how to adjust your machine to compensate for all the different thread weights. Knowing a few simple tips just might avoid an unnecessary trip to your machine shop for service.

Before we get started, check with your owner's manual if you don't know how to set up your machine for free-motion. Also, go ahead and print out the PDF instructions accompanying this workshop in case you want to make notes. You can start and stop the video anytime you need, rewind or fast forward - all at your convenience.

Now let's get started.

Supplies Needed:

- 80/12 Schmidt Microtex Sharp needle
- Pre-wound gray 60 weight bobbin fill
- Spool of 40 weight polyester or rayon thread (any color)
- Sewing machine
- Open toe free motion foot

This free workshop is not an interactive lesson. The supplies listed above are not going to be actually used today. However, the supplies are the correct ones for thread painting.