

Pretty Spool

inspired by NQM Collection Artist Laura Wasilowski

Quilt by: Becky Glasby



Featured Artist: Laura Wasilowski

Laura Wasilowski



Laura Wasilowski is a textile artist, creator of hand-dyed fabrics and threads, and owner of the dye shop, Artfabrik. She combines vivid fabrics and whimsical stories to make pictorial art quilts using fused fabrics, hand embroidery, and/or machine quilting.

Wasilowski's free-form hand embroideries share a similar style with her narrative quilts. Improvised and whimsical, they both express her joy and love of creating art.

Laura is the author of *Fusing Fun*, *Fuse-and-Tell*, *Fanciful Stitches*, *Colorful Quilts*, *Joyful Stitching: Transform Fabric with Improvisational Embroidery* and her latest book, *Playful Free-Form Embroidery*. Her works are collected and exhibited internationally.

Tilty Town #4 by Laura Wasilowski



Website: <https://www.artfabrik.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Artfabrik/>

Instagram: @laurawasilowski



Sample Block



Sample by: Laura Wasilowski



Supplies

Fused Fabric Cutting

Note: 100% cotton hand-dyed and batik fabrics work best for raw edge fusing because the color goes through the fabric. Fused elements from commercially printed fabrics with a white back will show a white edge when cut. Fabrics with a higher thread count fray less when cut. Wash your fabric to remove any starch or sizing before fusing and do not use fabric softener.

- 4" x 4" for spool
- 4" x 6" for spool top edge, top slope, base slope, and base
- 2" x 5" for spool top
- 6" x 6" for thread
- 1 ½" x 7" for needle

Do not add fusible to the following fabric pieces:

- 9" x 10" for background
- 9" x 4" for top and bottom borders (2 pcs.)
- 15" x 4" for side borders (2 pcs.)
- 15" x 15" backing fabric
- 15" x 15" batting

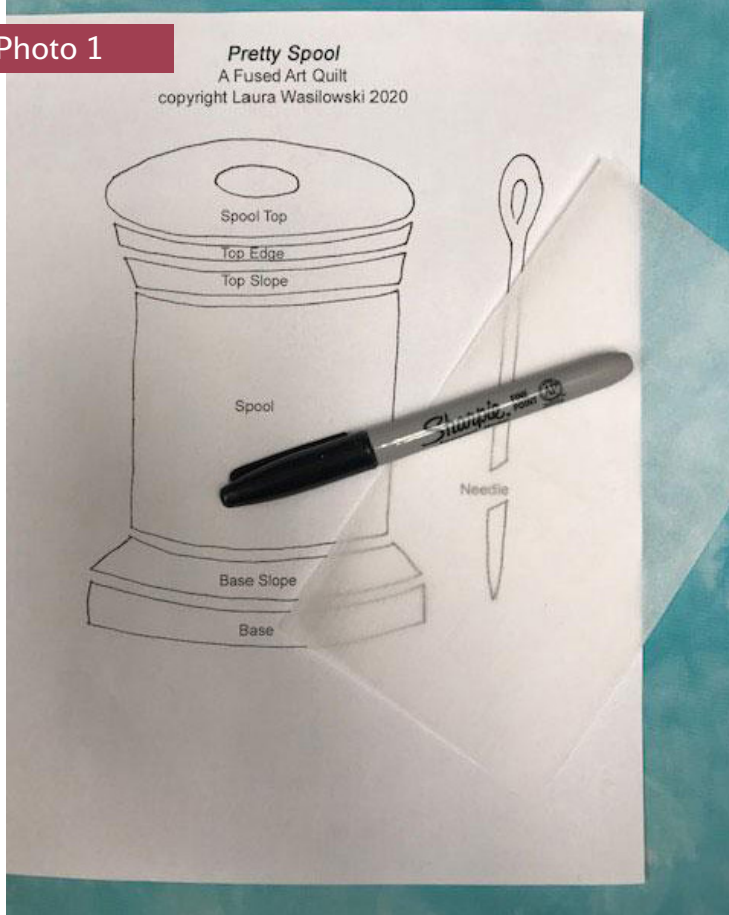
Other

- 1 yard of fusible web (Pellon Wonder Under paper backed #805, Soft Fuse, or Misty Fuse used with parchment paper are recommended)
- 1 yard of parchment paper (optional but recommended)
- Size 12 pearl cotton embroidery thread
- Size 4 or 5 hand embroidery needle
- Threads for machine quilting
- Black Sharpie Fine Point marker or lead pencil
- Tweezers



Instructions

Photo 1



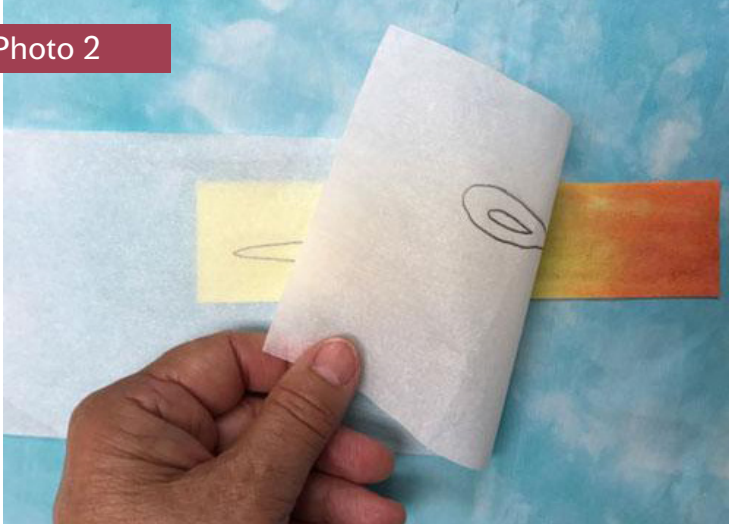
Note: The backing paper is called silicone release paper. It has a silicone coating and will be used to transfer the pattern shapes to the fused fabrics. It can also be used as a cover sheet to protect your iron when pressing fused pieces in place. Parchment (or baking) paper is similar to release paper and can be used in place of release paper.

1. Print out Pretty Spool template on **page 18**.
2. Starting with the needle shape, cut a piece of fusible web slightly smaller than the fabric size indicated and fuse to the wrong side of the needle fabric. (If using Misty Fuse, place the web on the wrong side of the fabric and cover the web with parchment paper before ironing).
3. Let the fabric and fusible web cool 5 - 20 minutes before trimming away any non-fused fabric by following the paper's edge.
4. Separate the fabric from the backing paper at one corner and carefully peel the paper off in one piece. Save this paper for the next step.
5. Place the release paper (the paper you've just removed from the fabric piece for the needle) or parchment paper on top of the needle outline. Trace the outline with black Sharpie or lead pencil. (Photo 1).



Instructions

Photo 2



6. Place the marker or pencil side of the release paper onto the glue or fused side of the needle fabric (Photo 2). Iron in place for about 4 - 5 seconds with a hot dry iron to transfer the ink to the glue. Allow paper to cool before removing (Photo 3).

7. Cut out the needle pieces just inside the black line with scissors and set aside (Photo 4).

8. Repeat Steps 2-7 with the other pattern parts and release paper.

Photo 3

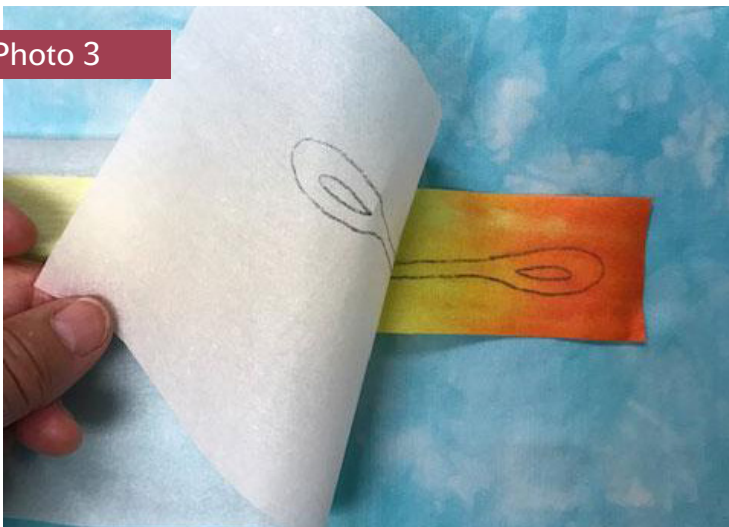


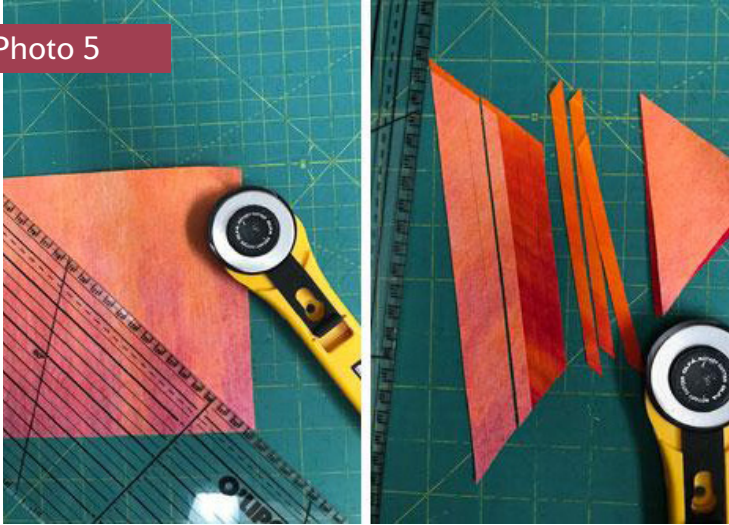
Photo 4





Instructions

Photo 5

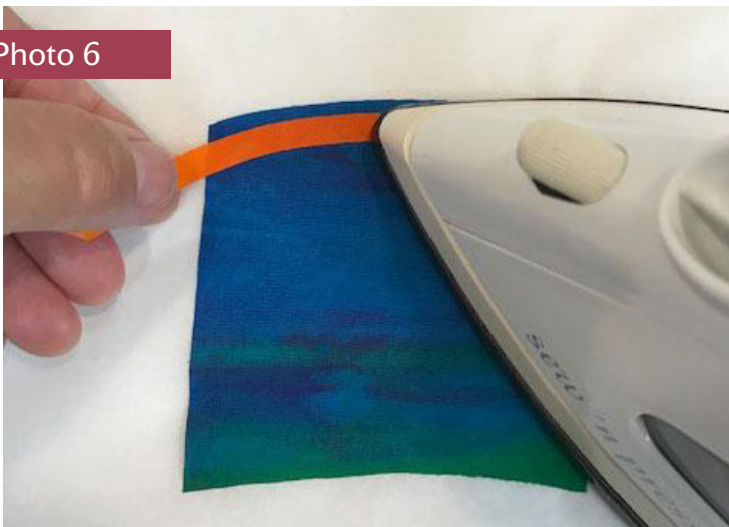


9. After fusing, cut the thread fabric piece diagonally in half to form 2 triangles. Then cut approx. 7 strips from each half, measuring a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide starting from the long bias sides (Photo 5).

10. Place the spool piece right side up on top of a large piece of release paper or parchment paper and fuse-tack it in place.

Note: Fuse tacking is holding the hot iron in place on the fabric for about 3 seconds. Make sure your iron is clean as you will be ironing directly on the fabric.

Photo 6

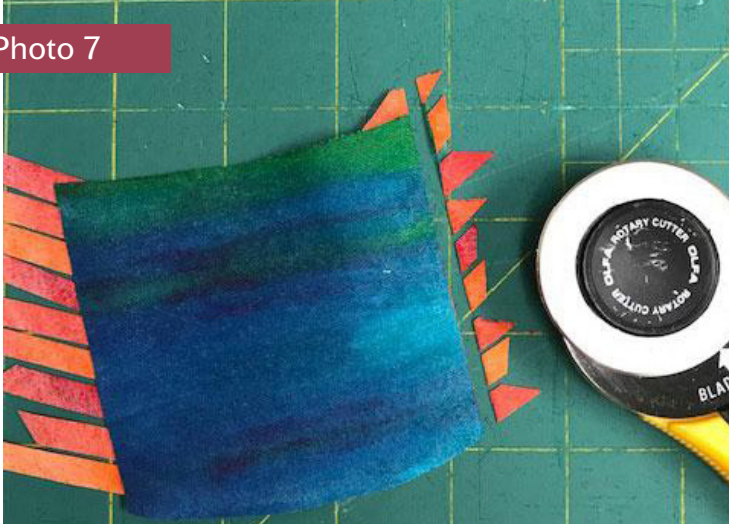


11. Starting at the bottom of the spool body, fuse-tack a thread strip across the spool from side to side, allowing a little bit of the thread strip to overhang the starting edge. Since these strips were cut on the bias, you can follow the curve of the bottom edge of the spool as you fuse (Photo 6).



Instructions

Photo 7



12. Continue adding thread strips about $\frac{1}{16}$ " to $\frac{1}{8}$ " apart to cover the entire spool body. Save remaining thread strips for use later.

13. After the fabric cools, remove the spool from the parchment paper. From the back side trim the edges to remove the thread strip ends (photo 7).

14. Center the spool body about 3" up from the bottom edge of the background fabric and fuse-tack in place (Photo 8).

Photo 8





Instructions

Photo 9



15. Space the remaining spool parts in order about $\frac{1}{16}$ " apart, above and below the spool body. Use the pattern printout or photo as a guide. Once they are arranged, fuse-tack them in place (Photo 9).

16. Position the needle parts on top of the spool at an angle and fuse-tack in place (Photo 10).

Photo 10





Instructions

Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Add top and bottom borders to the block first.

17. Place top border strip along the top edge of the block, overlapping each other along the long side by about 1". Both fabrics should be right side UP (Photo 11).
18. Carefully cut a gentle wavy line with the rotary cutter through both pieces where they overlap. Remove the cut off bits from both pieces.
19. Flip the border strip Right Sides Together with the block. Pin the centers of the peaks first, then pull the valleys up to match and pin in place. Add more pins as needed (Photo 12).
20. Carefully stitch the pieces together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Be sure to keep the raw edges together as much as possible for a smooth seam. Once it's sewn, press the seam towards the border strip (Photo 13).



Instructions

Photo 14



21. Repeat Steps 17-20 with the bottom border strip (Photo 14).
22. Trim side edges even to the background fabric if needed.
23. Add side borders one at a time by repeating Steps 17-20 (Photo 15).

Photo 15





Instructions

Photo 16



Note: In Steps 24-26, keep in mind that that the block will be trimmed down to 12 ½" square at the end. Keep the thread strips inside a 12" square so that they are not cut off accidentally.

24. Place a thread strip entering the eye of the needle, snipping the end to match the angle of the needle opening. Fuse-tack the end of the strip in place and continue to fuse and curve the strip up around the top of the spool (Photo 16).

Photo 17



25. Place a thread strip on the other side of the eye of the needle, snipping the end to match the angle. Fuse-tack the end of the strip in place and continue to fuse and curve the strip around the entire spool (Photo 17).

26. When one thread strip ends, add the next by overlapping the ends or snipping the ends to match the angles before continuing to fuse-tack the thread strips in place (Photo 18).

27. Go back over each piece with the iron to ensure everything is fused firmly in place.

Photo 18





Quilting

Photo 19

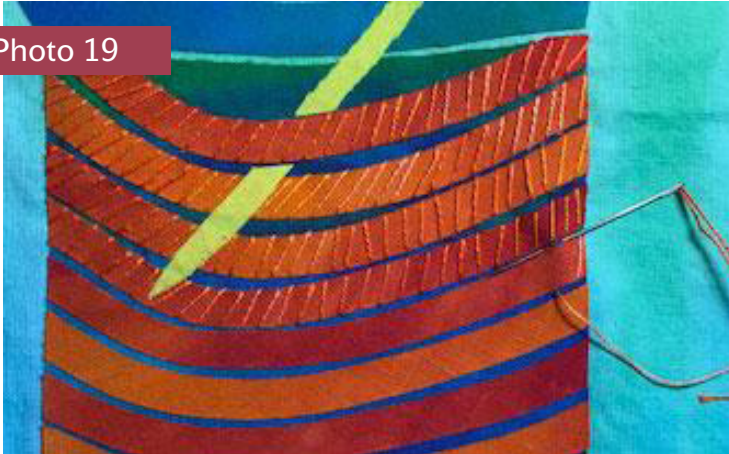
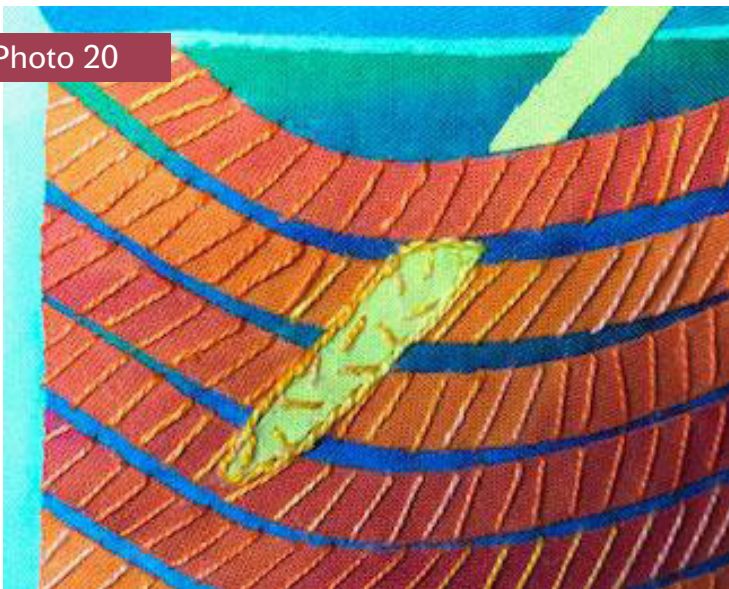


Photo 20



1. Layer the block with batting and backing fabric and baste together.
2. Add hand stitching using a size 12 pearl cotton thread or 2 strands of embroidery floss in a coordinating color and a size 5 hand embroidery needle.
3. Stitch straight stitches across the thread strips on the spool (Photo 19).
4. Outline the needle with stem stitches, then add scattered seed stitches across the needle pieces (Photo 20). Stitch stem stitches around the edge of the lower and upper part of the needle.



Quilting

Photo 21



5. Stitch scattered seed stitches across all of the spool parts except for the spool top (Photo 21).

6. Stitch blanket stitches around the edges of the spool top. (Photo 22).

Photo 22





Quilting

Photo 23



7. Stitch French Knots around the outside edges of the spool top next to the blanket stitches (Photo 23).
8. Stitch straight stitches across the remaining thread strips passing through the needle and surrounding the spool (Photo 24).

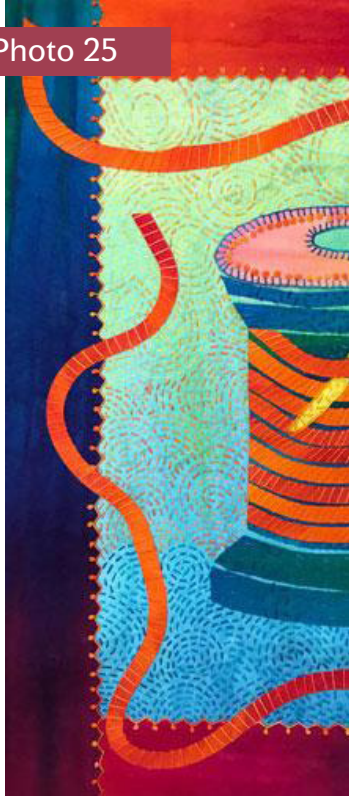
Photo 24





Quilting

Photo 25



9. Stitch running stitches in curves, arcs, and spirals on the background fabric surrounding the spool (Photo 25) OR add machine quilting to the background and border pieces.

Photo 26





Quilting

Photo 27



10. Once all the hand stitching and quilting is complete, trim the block down to $12 \frac{1}{2}$ " x $12 \frac{1}{2}$ " (Photo 27 & 28).

Finished?
Fantastic!

Photo 28





Pretty Spool
A Fused Art Quilt
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