

NOODLING - by Jen Funk Weber

In Australia, "noodling" refers to hunting for gems and rocks on the ground or in miners' piles of rejects. Mike noodled for opals while I took a pick and shovel to the earth.

In Italy, Japan, and perhaps in your house, "noodles," refer to pasta. In the Funk & Weber house, a "noodle" is a needlework doodle, and "noodling" is doodling with needle and thread.

I like to keep a piece of embroidery fabric set up on a frame and sitting out so that I can sit down in a spare moment and noodle. No searching through stash or planning—I just sit down and pick up a pre-loaded needle and take a few pokes through the fabric. I also save my fabric and fiber scraps in bags—even the tiny ones—for noodling. I can grab a bag and noodle anywhere, anytime.

The results are often surprising and sometimes exciting, and I encourage you to pick up a needle and take a stab at it. Since it's summer and gardens (and weeds) are blooming, why not try noodling a flower? Not a flower person? Then go with Mayflower, and noodle a boat. Not feeling nautical? Fine. Try your hand at something flour-y instead: a cupcake, pie, cookie. Don't tell me you're not a cupcake, pie, or cookie person.

Make up a stitch, or try something geometric. It's a noodle, it doesn't have to be good. The materials started as garbage; they can end as garbage. But what if it's not garbage? We don't want to waste it. What do we do with a good noodle? Where do we put it? Good noodles, of course, belong on the fridge, so we turn them into magnets.

You can purchase magnet sheets, strips, and buttons from a craft store, or re-cover a magnet that's already on your fridge. (Why do I have a magnet advertising a dentist I've never visited, anyway?)

- Trim around your noodle.
- Cut a magnet the same size, or slightly smaller than your noodle.
- Glue the magnet to the backside of the noodle.

Almost any glue will do; the white PVA glues, including Elmer's, work well. I'm partial to Beacon Adhesives GEM-TAC Embellishing Glue. I apply it to the magnet then gently press the noodle on.

You can finish the edges around your noodle if you want, but you don't have to since they will be glued. You can fringe the edges, and allow the fringe to extend beyond the magnet.

I unofficially call these magne-doodles. Since Fisher Price probably wouldn't be happy if we tried to make that an official name, we might need to come up with something new. We could call them magne-needoodles (needle doodles), magne-embroodles (embroidered doodles), magne-dootches (doodle stitches), or something else.

Stick with your noodles and let creativity happen. They're a great way to try new stitches, colors, fibers, techniques; they look great on the fridge, in the car, in the office; they make great gifts; they're fun, fast, easy, and inexpensive.

Life's an adventure—your stitching should be, too. Happy noodling!



Funk & Weber design rejects turned into magne-embroodles. They lived on our fridge for a time then were adopted into good homes.

JUNE COMPETITION WINNER!

Congratulations go to
Lynne Lester

who correctly answered all the
20 questions set by

Gary of Bushmountain Framing

**Lynne wins custom framing from
Bushmountain Framing valued @ \$125**

Well done Lynne
and thank you to everyone who entered.

JULY COMPETITION

Follow the instructions of the word search on Page 3, and email your answer to Janie on editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com by end of day on Thursday 30th July, 2009.

The prize this month is a joint effort between Janie of The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio and Jo Mason of Dinky Dyes Threads. Janie is donating a set of her current 2009 new releases, plus her two previous Lounge Chair series designs, and Jo is donating the thread and ribbon packs for those designs that use Dinky Dye Threads. This prize is valued at well over \$300!

EILEEN BENNETT OF THE SAMPLER HOUSE WILL BE TEACHING IN BRANSON, MISSOURI IN AUGUST!

Eileen Bennett of The Sampler House will be in Branson on August 28th-29th, 2009 teaching at Cecilia's Samplers. The two day class includes:

Crown of Pearls Sampler. The ultimate lace gallery! Eighty-one stitches and patterns showcase your skill and provide a lasting, heirloom-quality needlework reference. If you ever need a delicate filigree, you are sure to find it here. And once you take this class, you will truly be adept at creating openwork patterns, expertly and fearlessly!

The centerpiece of this 4½ inch by 13 inch design is an ancient crown pattern embellished with luminous pearl beads. Around the crown are blocks with eight categories of pulled work stitches, except for one block that is set aside for a graceful initial - yours! Variations of the pulled-thread stitches include backstitch, double backstitch, buttonhole, cross, eyelet, four-sided, satin and straight.

As you master the techniques, Eileen will share with you both the history of pulled work and an extensive bibliography that she has developed through years of studying this elegant technique. There are 82 pulled thread stitches on this piece.

Students need to bring to class: A 4 or 5 inch hoop (if used), scissors, pencil, extra light and magnification, if needed. This is an intermediate/advanced class. Students must know cross stitch, be capable of following diagrams and have had experience working on linen fabric.

Going For The Blue Ribbon. In needlework competition, even minor flaws make a difference between a first place ribbon and no ribbon. Correct thread manipulations can eliminate the common problems of twisted threads, split stitches, crowded stitches, uneven tension, shadowed threads, obvious starting and stopping points in a thread length and 'fuzzy' cross stitches. Needle worker and judge, Eileen Bennett, will discuss problem areas such as how to handle isolated or single stitches, working over one thread of linen, using hoops or frames, thread ply and correct needle size. Information covering framing hints, conservation tips, and fabric hygiene are additional points in the 'pursuit of excellence!'

This is a 'hands on' as well as a discussion class to eliminate improper working habits and an opportunity to explore your needlework through a judge's eye. Many stitching tips and techniques for winning 'blue ribbons' will be shared and students will have one piece of needlework critiqued.

Bring a 4-inch or 5-inch hoop (if used), a scrap piece of linen of your favorite thread count, a skein of thread, needle, scissors, a pencil, and one piece of needlework. Handout sheets will be provided for note taking.

Class fee of \$300.00 includes 2 nights lodging, all meals and project.

For more details please go to Cecilia's Samplers shop in The Village and follow the links.

TSV Stores

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

SERUSAERTHCTITSSSORCTSALTYYARNSSOP
 SSTIORESWEICREATIVEECORNERTEHGREAD
 TPDRNOBDUCGTSCGANBSEFOUNDLATTHEAS
 TTIATSCUHERASVINLLAEGEDPDBXRSPELN
 HKGTEDPKSTMCTJXXIYTTLYMDMTFTMRLKV
 ETPNTRKIVHBSVTNDTRVZGBEWRKIYHWNYN
 NHCFFHGHVRRMMVRLOJKYTTKPBAVTNTJZVZW
 EFLATVLTQEMOHECTCKLMSRDOCYANBLSHL
 EBKISVPMDYDQUHLHTDAETIFHFYQBHDJZG
 DLBPTTTTKFNRFNRPZNRZTUENBGTRAFFJNK
 LSFOIPHJMMATEGTFMAIIYSOGNHNEXTWCT
 EUTCTOWEAMJSJEDAEOONDNBELRVXMAYA
 PLLUCHGFNC DHNRDPINSTPIACAHXZVTVRL
 OPHNHSYJIEBLKRSLANHS GEOITLZKSCWEW
 ISCREKEYBDTEVKEOLEISNATLDSVLYRZWHA
 NITOSRFXIJKDKDSCNJATTINDXYAADXJSY
 THICFORZDJCALTVGAHCAIALCEHYVFXXAS
 BTTCRWDQOKHLIESFCQGNSTQIAERGVQRDI
 OESIOSXZNSNTTVWLKEBERXCNCWNMJMZR
 URCTMRTYNNCFGMROLWRJLVHKEDEMDMQES
 TUBLTELLAHNNLNWARBPDVELGEYCMBLPBT
 ITAEHMMWECHGGFNBKJGLXRVRBRBHGMAI
 QCJCECFSWZTFKETFWXSDBRLKRYQGTBHT
 UIYSHNTMMQHNRDICEELEDLEWCDKTMNYDC
 EPNEELBLGNTJRRGNEDHLKKGKJCLHKP3LH
 HDRATKGGKXRVTKLGNDRNMBKLBWNSTLE
 CBMARSBUSHMOUNTA INFRAMINGGBZTXZKS
 WQLLTMGPKQFTMTMYZZTZKXYLNLJIHTWTK
 HRDCVSTFARCELDEENS DNAHLUFHTUOYRKX
 VGHMZHLRRLQDWASATCHNEEDLECRAFTSTK
 MUIRALOIVCVWTRMCLZXZBHNHXRJPKHNL
 DYEINGTOSTITCHNPQRNDTNGEBJKLTRNNL
 YREHCTITSSLERUALMNJNWZSLRJJKLRHHL

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