



Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman

Scott Goodman, owner of Sewing Machine Warehouse & Kneedle.com has been servicing the sewing public since 1976.

Inspiration

We are designers, inventors and problem solvers. We re-purpose, re-configure, make it trendier, make it chic-er, we are make-it-in-the-hoopers. We are givers, sharers, supporters and nurturers. We are embroiderers. Where do we get our inspiration from?

This may serve as a quick guide to tickle your creativity with ideas for design, and an answer to the question: What can I create today?

Art: A visit to the local museum or gallery can inspire you with color theory, palette and element. My Los Angeles lifestyle offers many choices for inspiration: MOCA, LACMA, The Broad, The Getty, and galleries galore. From ancient to modern, inspiration abounds. What can you find in your community?

Architecture: Volume, space, slabs, boxes, compression-decompression, solid/void, transparency/opacity, negative/positive, luminance, materials and textures. Be inspired by spaces that can be filled with your creative output.

Coming of age: Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Rumspringa, Quinceañera, Sweet Sixteen, Hamar Cow Jumping (Google that one).

Community: Check with your local dealership or guild for an embroidery club; a place where you can learn new techniques, share successful projects and epic fails with other Embroideristas. Inspire others by starting a Meet Up group in your neighborhood. MeetUp.com

Culture: My spirit animal is the unicorn. Starbucks turned it into a multi-colored, vividly hued beverage... inspirational! Now, it's PSL (pumpkin spice latte) season. Expect pumpkin spice flavored everything this fall. Memes abound. Cats with and without lasers beaming from their eyes. Just type any word into a Google image search. Be ready for anything.

Friends & Family: Life happens. Find inspiration in life events, like births, deaths, anniversaries, birthdays, reunions, holidays, school milestones, graduations. Many embroidery projects start with these inspirational events. Embroidery loves to be on everything related to education, like school logos and mascots. Kid art is amazing. Kids know no bounds, will not stay within the lines and break every rule, while producing amazing abstractions that reflect their unique world view. Digitize and embroider their art for memorable gifts.

Faith: Deck your home during the holidays. Look to religious places of worship and garments for iconic themes. Stain glass window-like art is easy for beginners to digitize. Celebrations like Baptisms, Christenings, confirmations and Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Inspirational quotes and passages can be timely gifts for those going through tough times. Truetype cultural and international computer fonts can be auto-digitized with almost any brand of embroidery software.

"Be ready for anything."

Hobbies & Pastimes: In no particular order: boats, cars, motorcycles, planes, trains, woodworking, painting, horticulture, floriculture, building, brewing, beading, music, travel, so many inspirational things! Consider personalizing the upholstery or mats on the multitude of recreational vehicles. I have seen amazing embroidery on motorcycle saddles, and factory logos on restored cars.

Interior Decorating: Wall hangings, framed art, throw pillows, draperies, covers, duvets...Don't get me started. There are so many items for inspiration, things that are begging to be embellished and embroidered.

Internet: Fall into the rabbit hole that is Pinterest and Etsy. There you will find endless creative inspiration. Tap any word or phrase into a Google Image search and prepare yourself for a flood of ideas and immediate inspiration gratification.

Mall: Ready to wear. From haute couture, like Chanel and Christian Dior to ready-to-wear at Tar-jay (Target) or Forever 21. A recent trip to the mall is a quick lesson on all that is current and fashionable. Currently on trend: Boho chic, stickers, emoji, tone-on-tone, eroded fabrics.

Nature: Fibonacci sequences and Golden Ratio repeat throughout Mother Nature in plants and animals. The golden ratio is 1:1.618 and is seen in bugs, plants, and shelled creatures, the ratios are apparent in humans and human behavior, too. How about the birds and the bees, the flowers and the trees? Be sparked by Bonsai plants, redwood forests, shorelines, mammals, fish, amphibians and those confusing platypus things. How about pets, farm animals, zoo species, and game? Look at our incredible array of geology. While every state has their inspiration, I am amazed by the colors and naturally eroded architecture found in Arizona: The Grand Canyon, Sedona, Monument Valley.

Professions: Military, police, medical, trades, retail, conventions. Garments and accessories with identifying names and numbers are profitable. Think embroidered, name tape, polo shirts, and baseball caps.

Sports - All of the Balls: football, baseball, soccer (make an AYSO banner), surfing, diving (personalized duffles) climbing, hiking, darts, skateboarding, archery, martial arts (Gi and belts), birdwatching, baton twirling, cheer, team gear. Jersey numbers, mascots, and names on everything that identifies players and boosters.

I write this article about inspiration while learning about Nancy Zieman's retirement. Nancy has had a profound effect on our pastime through Sewing With Nancy, Nancy's Notions, her books, projects and personal appearances. Nancy's wisdom, generosity and humor have inspired me to be a better human. Best memory? Her self-deprecating 'blonde' jokes, and Nancy's ability to put all at ease with her humor. Very special thanks to Nancy for inspiring me.

Let me know what inspires you!

GreatScott@kneedle.com

www.Facebook.com/GreatScottSews

Instagram: Kneedle9999