

# Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



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

## Idle Hands are the Devil's Tools

The quote, "Idle hands are the devil's tools", from Chaucer, raises a question. What are we doing while our machine embroiders?

Some of our machines need a little babysitting while others, like multi-needle models, need no supervision at all. Recently, I conducted an informal poll with a very unscientific sampling of eclectic embroiderers...

### *The Expected*

- Queue spools in order required.
- Trim jump stitches on last project.
- Cut away stabilizer from last project.
- Hoop next project.
- Digitize next project.
- Fold and bag finished projects.
- Pre-cut, re-roll or organize stabilizer with slap bands.

### **The Unexpected with titles for identification purposes, only:**

#### *Compulsive*

- Snip loose threads from spool collection.
- Tag and sort designs in database by species, color and sex.
- Collect trimmed threads for next fiber-arts project.
- Print out entire design stash catalog.
- Arrange colors by spectrum, ROYGBIV.
- Arrange colors by number.
- Arrange colors by brand.
- Arrange colors by fiber.
- Re-arrange colors by spectrum.

#### *Multi-tasker/Over Achiever*

- Run second project on other embroidery machine (yes, I know you have more than one).
- Post items on Etsy store.
- Balance checkbook.
- Organize coupons.
- Train for 5K run.

#### *I'm Feeling Social*

- Check Facebook, see what FB friends are embroidering.
- Check Eileen's Blog for the latest creative ideas.
- Look at cat pictures on Pinterest.
- Browse Match.com

#### *Altruistic*

- Embellish "Project Linus" quilt.
- Embellish "Quilts of Valor" quilt.
- Embroider "Susan G. Komen for the Cure" ribbon shirts.
- Note: If I missed your favorite cause, send me an email, I'll try to mention it in a future article.*

#### *I Had a Long Day*

- Watch the needle go up and down
- Watch the hoop go to and fro.
- Look at all the pretty colors.

#### *Let's Go Shopping*

- Browse gadgets & designs on:  
Dzgns.com  
Ibroidery.com  
UrbanThreads.com  
AdorableIdeas.com  
anitagoodesignonline.com/  
GoNutsGoCreative.com or better yet, shop for shoes at Zappos.com

#### *A Zen Moment*

- Om, in harmony with your machine.
- Downward dog pose, while visualizing a completed design.

#### *Playful*

- Tease cat with Perfect Alignment Laser.
- Post cat pictures on Pinterest.

It really doesn't matter how you occupy yourself while your machine toils away. This is a fun, productive and rewarding hobby that produces tangible results.

*Did you embroider something amazing this month? Send me a picture! GreatScott@kneedle.com*