

Bio: Susan Musselman

I have been sewing since I was twelve years old, partly by necessity being almost 6' tall in the sixth grade and partly due to the love of the craft. It has always amazed me that a flat piece of fabric can turn into a wonderful three dimensional creation with a few simple techniques and seams. Having said that, I also have a dang P.O. Box number in left field! I love to do it "differently" and have always encouraged my students (adults and teens alike) to get out of the box and change it to suit themselves.

Sewing machines are investments now, not the little thing you bought to run up a pair of kitchen curtains or hem those jeans. You bought it to make something in your fabric, your style or your vision. So, I teach and explore. I more often than not learn more from the process as I teach something than from the directions that usually remain neatly folded after I read them once. I am currently completing my Master at VCU in Painting and Mixed Media so my pension for embellishing is strong and I carry that over to my sewing as well. Everything from taking a pattern and adding pockets, changing a line, adding roving or other punched/felted materials to recycling jeans into one-of-a-kind bags, totes and even a laptop satchel.

I Quilt but I am really into.....Bags! Bags! And more.....Bags!

I make bags as they challenge me to complete the project in a minimal amount of time and I can embellish! I can use a heat tool and crystals recycle jeans, felt wool sweaters that got into the washer (totally by mistake of course) and I can BSR! My wardrobe may well be sorta' plain, but oh the bags I carry! So, I have become the resident Bag Lady at Bernina and love the whole idea of finding a great pattern and teaching it to others. Having a class come out with totally different bags from the same pattern is the best feeling a teacher can have.

My favorite things, my Berninas, I own several. Not to brag but I could not part with my twenty year old 1260, it still works great, (just ask Steve), when I bought my 730. My sergers (two of them) are all my favorites as well. Have a serger, sit it out on the sewing table and start using it. They are very user friendly and make your life so-o-o much easier with such speed and clean edges! Did you ever think of having those serged edges on the outside, where they can be seen?

Where to next? I am starting a small line of embellished/altered clothing! I feel the BSR coming out to work with the embroidery machine!

Hope to see you in a class soon!

Susan