

Custom 3-D Pin-Woven Portraits

A Sulky Fuse 'n Stitch Project

Using Sulky Fuse 'n Stitch to stiffen and support a pin-woven portrait.



by Carol Ingram
*Designer for
Sulky of America*

Carol is an accomplished artist in the Fine Arts field. She designs many exclusive projects featuring her Cactus Punch Signature Series Embroidery Cards for PBS TV representing Sulky of America.

Carol has contributed projects in the following Sulky books: "Dimensional Concepts in Sulky", "Sulky Secrets to Successful Quilting", "Sulky Secrets to Successful Applique" (in which she wrote an extensive section on Color Theory), "Sulky Secrets to Successful Embroidery" and "Quick and Easy Weekend Quilting with Sulky".

Her 50 years of sewing experience has provided her with special insight into combining art and textiles.



3-D woven piece in sepia, featuring Carol Ingram's son-in-law, Guy Taylor, and Carol's granddaughter, Noelle.

Adapted from a technique by Andrea Williams, an award winning weaver representing Crystal River Weaving in Asheville, NC.



Image by Lonnie Shavelson

“And a Little Child Shall Lead Them”

Finished pieces by Andrea Williams © 2007



“After many months of working with the technique and observing various effects, I realized a simple fact: our brains register dimensionality by ‘reading’ shadows. The deeper the shadow, the deeper the dimension. When I weave the image, the shadows in the background are obscured and the unwoven areas, whose shadows are vivid, appear three-dimensional. I believe the key is to find a focal

image with good, high contrast shadows, and, if necessary, enhance those shadows with an imaging program. Then, be careful not to cover the background too much, just enough to reduce shadows but not eliminate them. I think, in most cases, the background yields important context clues.

Additionally, the images work better if there is a light focal image on a darker background, as light objects come toward the eye.” --- Andrea Williams

Andrea does commissioned work.
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Finished piece by Andrea Williams © 2007
Image by Lonnie Shavelson

“Smash Your Piano and Invoke the Glory Beaming Banjo.”



Here's what Carol used:

Colored photo changed to black & white or sepia photo:

- Be sure that it has high contrast. Use Photoshop on your computer to increase the contrast.
- It should be at least 4" x 6" and in sharp focus. Enlarge to 8" x 10" or 6" x 9".
- The image must be relatively "clean", without major creases or scratches (most important in the facial areas).
- The size of the focal point --- typically the face, should be no wider than two inches at any point after sizing for production.
- If there are more than 2 people in the photo, their heads should be sufficiently separated or above the other so they don't share the same horizontal plane, or they could be close enough together to make both as one unit without having to cut between them. Subject should have sufficient background around it for weaving.

Sulky Stabilizer:

- 20" Roll of Sulky Fuse 'n Stitch

Sulky Thread:

- Sulky 12 wt. Solid Color Cotton #1130 Dk. Brown or try a Sulky Blendables™ Cotton Thread
- Computer/ Printer/ Copier
- Quilter's Ruler
- Mini Rotary Cutter (1") with a new blade
- June Tailor™ Pin Board or Quilter's Square 'n Block Pressing Mat and Strong Steel Pins
- Steam Iron, Ironing Pad and Press Cloth
- Non-stick Pressing Sheet
- Printed Treasures™ Cotton Fabric Sheets size 8-1/2" x 11"
- Tweezers - 2 pair of Serger Tweezers are helpful
- Small straight-bladed, sharp-pointed Scissors
- Fabric strips for borders as desired
- Mat and Shadow Box Frame as desired
- General Sewing Supplies

Select the Photo and make Adjustments



Good contrast and good content.
Heads are together as one unit.

1. Select the photo that meets the requirements listed in the previous column.
2. Enhance (and optionally tint) the photograph. Begin with either a scanned print or digital image, and, where needed, use Adobe Photoshop or a photo-image machine at the photo lab area in a store to: remove obvious spots and scratches; adjust light and dark; and sharpen the focus. Size the photo no smaller than 6" wide x 9" high or 9" wide and 6" high. An 8" x 10" works best. Although a color photo may be used, to focus and clarify the image and allow flexibility in selecting colors for borders, we recommend removing the color and adding either a warming sepia tint or simple black and white.



Good contrast, content and shadows.

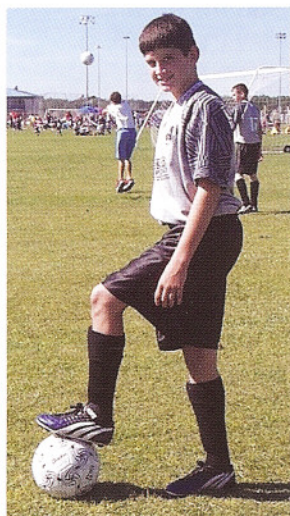


Transfer the Photo to Printer Fabric

1. Choose a suitable photo. If it is in your computer, you can insert an 8-1/2" x 11" cotton printer fabric sheet into the ink-jet printer and print the photo onto it. Or it can be done on a color copier.
2. Remove the printed fabric photo from the backing, following the manufacturer's directions.
3. Cut Fuse 'n Stitch Stabilizer 1/2" larger all around than the photo fabric size and iron it onto the back of the fabric (press, do not slide the iron). Make sure there are no bubbles. Press again until totally flat to keep the strips from raveling when weaving.
4. Trim the photo fabric so there is at least a 1/2" white border around the photo.
5. Cut another sheet of Fuse 'n Stitch 1/2" larger all around than the trimmed photo fabric. Set aside.



Not good content - too many separate heads.

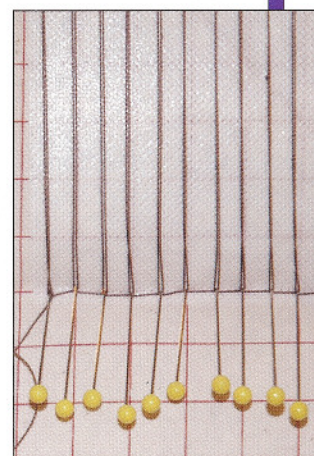


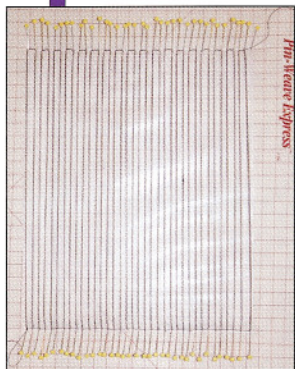
High contrast, but subject is too dark.

Prepare Photo Fabric for Weaving

1. Use a quilter's ruler, mat and mini-rotary cutter to slowly and carefully cut the stabilized photo fabric exactly horizontal in 1/4" strips; stop about 1/8" away from hands, faces and any other details you wish to emphasize. When you begin weaving, you will adjust these areas. **DO NOT CUT through the left vertical edge of the photo fabric.** The margin will be cut later with scissors in #4.
2. Using lines on the pinboard (or Quilter's Square and Block Pressing Board), square up the second piece of Fuse 'n Stitch and pin it, with the **fusible side up**, onto the board.

Place pins at a slight angle every 1/4" horizontally across the top and the bottom of the board.



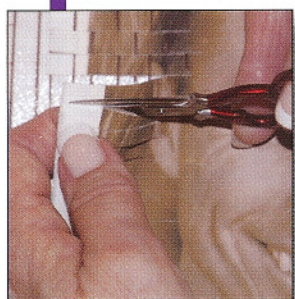


- Using Sulky 12 wt. Cotton Thread #1130 Dark Brown, tie a knot onto the bottom left corner pin.

String the thread tautly up to and across the top left corner pin from right to left, then back down to and under the same bottom pin from left to right (making it

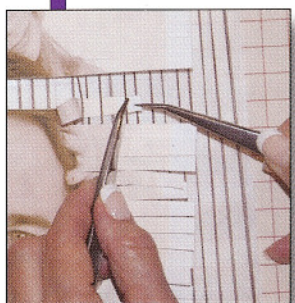
double), continuing over to and around the right side of the next bottom pin, then up to and around the second top pin.

Continue stringing down, over, up, down, over, etc., until all rows are strung. Then knot the thread on the last pin. *Don't over-think this - the object is to have two threads on each pin.*



- Lay the pre-cut photo fabric (from #1) over the Fuse 'n Stitch and strung thread. Use straight edged, sharp-pointed scissors to cut apart the first horizontal strip at the left margin. With tweezers, start in the center around the faces and weave the strip between the threads to the left and right of the faces. Lift the strip away from the threads and cut apart each succeeding strip at the margin, one at a time, and weave it between the threads, keeping each strip snug

up against the previously woven strip; leave no open spaces. Pin in place.



- When you have cut apart and woven all of the strips and snugged them together, check to see that all of the threads are straight and even.

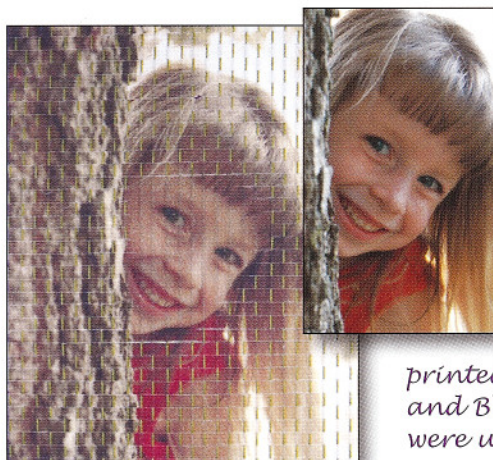
Cover the photo area with a non-stick pressing sheet. Use a steam iron at a cotton setting to press and fuse the threads and strips of photo fabric to the Fuse 'n Stitch.



- Remove the pins and press once again from the reverse side.

Square up and sew the framing fabric strips around the

finished piece as desired. Press. Iron a larger piece of Fuse 'n Stitch on the wrong side of the piece with borders. Bind or Frame as desired.



Here is another finished pin-weaving of Carol's beautiful granddaughter, Noelle;

printed in color and Blendables® were used.