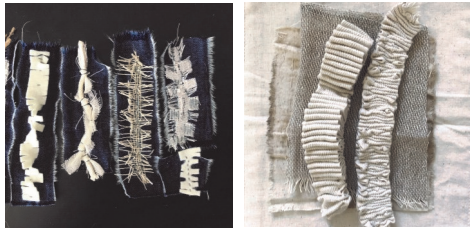


SAMPLE 2

Borders and Edges

When you want to frame a piece of textile work, why not think about framing it with more textiles! Use any offcuts, threads, ribbons, tapes or scraps that you have to hand or from your 'stash'.

Decorate the border using gathered, pleated or texturally stitched pieces. Slow-stitch the quilted centre to your own design.

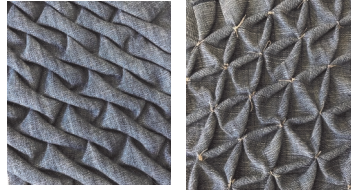


- Fold your piece of denim in half, and cut an aperture from the middle to form the frame for your quilted centre.
- With the denim right side down, place the woven fabric over the aperture, place the felt piece on top of that, and then sandwich the whole thing together with calico.
- Pin all 4 layers into place and stitch around the aperture. (this allows any puckering created by your slow stitching, to be retained in the central quilted panel).
- Work this sample as one whole constructed piece.
- Stitch your finished work onto a page in your Stitchbook.



SAMPLE 3

3D Fabric Manipulation *



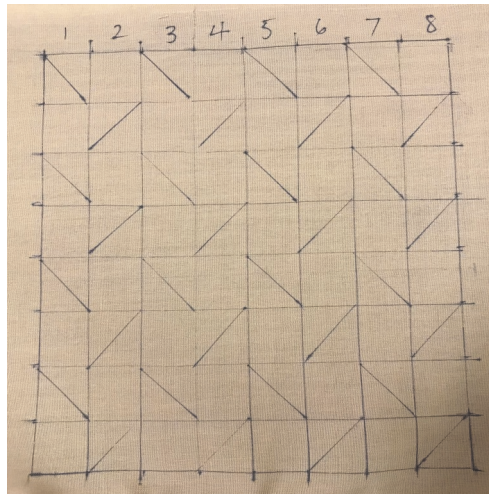
The results of this technique can be quite astounding. If you haven't come across this technique before you

will be amazed at how easily you can make a really impressive 3D surface. Popular for cushion covers, but really exciting for textile art, it is sometimes called 'Canadian Smocking' and the example we will work is called Lattice Smocking. It is MUCH easier to demonstrate this on the video, but you can prepare your piece of fabric beforehand ...

Draw a grid of 2cm squares onto the WRONG side of your fabric. (I've done mine with Sharpie so that you can see it! Use pencil or removable fabric marker.)

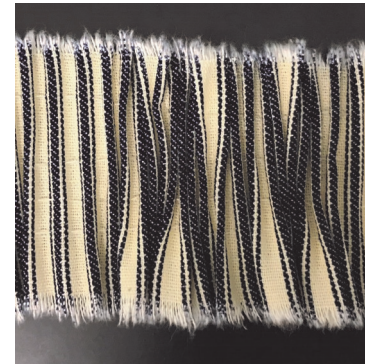


Mark the diagonals as shown in the photograph. Get a needle and thread and I'll see you on the video you could tuck the finished sample into your Stitchbook page/pocket.



I really hope that you enjoy this month's workshop, and as always, I am really excited to see what you create. Don't forget to email or post your images.

Email: untangledthreads@aol.com



Pleats & Edges

VIDEO PASSWORD: PLEAT

Where sections in the text are marked with * it means the technique is explained in greater detail on the accompanying video.

You can access the video via the website www.untangledthreads.co.uk
The video is password protected and is only available to individuals who have purchased the kit. Please do NOT share the password.

With this Kit you will:

- Work samples to investigate the differences between pleats, gathers, pin-tucks and smocking.
- Work samples to create a 3D tactile border as a frame for a slow stitch sample.
- Experiment with 3D fabric manipulation.

Remember to read ALL of the instructions before starting.



www.untangledthreads.co.uk

VIDEO PASSWORD: PLEAT

Contents: Please check that you have all of the items (Email: untangledthreads@aol.com if you have any items missing).

Pleats/Pin-tucks/Smocking/Gathers Pack

- 2 calico (12cm x 18cm)
- 1 lightweight denim (12cm x 18cm)
- 1 cotton ticking (7cm x 55cm)
- 25cm of 5cm cotton tape
- 25cm of 1cm cotton tape
- 8m DMC Stranded Thread (Col 924)
- 1cm felt ball

Border/Edge Pack

- 1 calico backing (12cm x 18cm)
- 1 lightweight denim (12cm x 18cm)
- 1 acrylic felt (10cm x 16cm)
- 1 woven fabric (10cm x 16cm)
- 1 light cotton fabric (20cm x 20cm)

Pleats, Pin-ticks, Smocking and Gathers

We will hand-stitch all of these samples. You do not need a sewing machine.



PLEATS

A fold or series of folds which are held in place by stitching at the top or the side



PIN-TUCKS

A decorative fold or series of folds, which can be stitched or ironed into place.



SMOCKING (Traditional)

Embroidery stitches placed on the surface of regularly gathered or pin-tucked fabric.

(We will look briefly at fabric manipulation and contemporary smocking in Sample 3)*

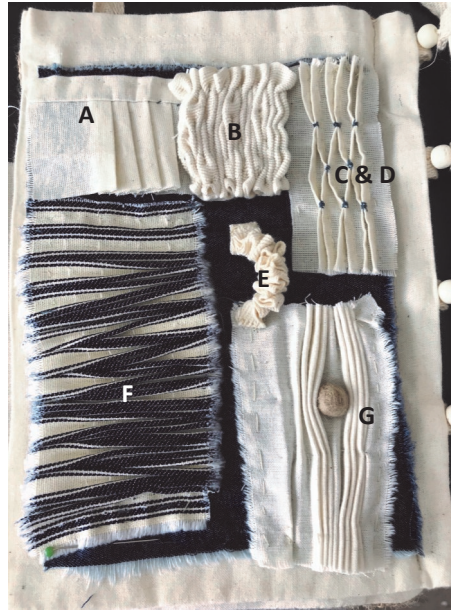


GATHERS

Lines of running stitches are pulled or 'drawn up' to form small folds.

Instructions

SAMPLE 1: Pleats/pin-tucks/smocking/gathers

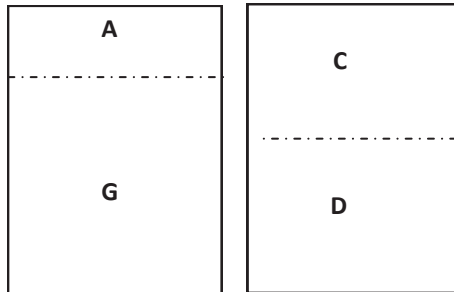


Cut your 2 calico sheets so that you have the following pieces: (Roughly!)

B = 5cm cotton tape

E = 1cm cotton tape

F = cotton ticking



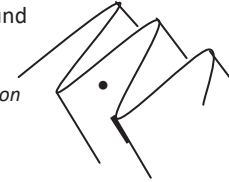
When you have worked all of the samples, attach them to the denim backing BEFORE sewing into your Stitchbook. You will find positioning and manipulating the pleats and gathers easier if you are not trying to work with the acrylic sheet in place.

A Knife Pleats *

There are almost endless patterns for pleating online. This is probably the simplest - the knife pleat. Mark your fabric every 1cm along the top edge. Each pleat will require 3cm. Mark every 1st cm with a dot and every 3rd cm with a line.



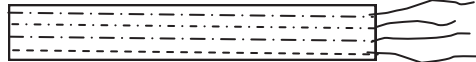
The fabric should be folded on each line. The fold is then then matched up to the previous dot. Either stitch each pleat in place, or add a bound edge (like a waistband).



(This will become a lot clearer on the accompanying video!)

B Gathering 5cm cotton tape*

Using ordinary sewing thread, stitch 4 rows of running stitch, along the whole length of the tape.



Make sure that the thread is fastened SECURELY at one end and left loose at the other. Make the length of your stitches as random as you like. Slowly draw the tape up into small folds. When you are happy with the effect, fasten off the loose ends of thread. The gather can be manipulated along the length of the tape.

C Pin-tucks*

Mark the longer edge of your fabric every 2cm. Work each pin-tuck in turn. Fold the fabric at the mark, and stitch a neat line of backstitch 0.5cm from the crease. Repeat at each mark. This will form a series of tucks, which you can leave standing upright, or you can iron flat. Which direction you iron them is up to you.



Why not experiment with ironing or stitching half of each tuck one way, and the other half the other. You can achieve some wonderful patterns.

D Smocking *



Traditional English smocking is embroidery which is added to the surface of fabric which has been gathered using smocking dots, (see G) and whilst this intricate craft is a little beyond the intention of this workshop, the same principle can be used to good effect over pin-tucks.

Try stitching the tops of two pin-tucks together in a controlled or random design.

E Gathering 1cm cotton tape *

Try using just one row of running stitch along the whole length of the tape, then pull tight. The thin width of the tape will make the gathers appear twisted and uneven along the length.



F Regular gathering on striped fabric*

As in B, run 4 rows of gathering thread along the length of your striped fabric., but this time make sure that your stitches follow the pattern of the stripes. When you draw up the gathers you will see the amazing but simple effects that can be achieved.



G Regular gathering with inserts *

Mark up the reverse of your fabric with a grid of dots 1.5cm apart. Add rows of running stitch (using the dots as markers for stitches*) This will give you a very regular series of gathers. Try drawing up the lines of stitches to different tensions. Try manipulating the gathers into curving patterns. Insert the felt ball between lines of gathers, or push it up from underneath.

