

patterns.com e-news

recycle my socks...

While the title of this month's newsletter seems silly, the meaning in it is deep: deep in the sense of wishing I had saved my dad's and grandfather's socks and used them to develop a new memory-memorial quilt idea. This newsletter is all about remembering and memorializing using the fragments of lives gone and time gone, whether its cross stitch, stained glass, quilting or scrapbooking. And, while the emphasis of this idea is for remembering the loved and the lovely, in fact the example of a memorial sock quilt I have created, is made from left overs from one I would not have considered lovely at all. That is a little confusing I know. My father and grandfather were special people in my life. They both wore socks (ROFLOL), but I didn't save them. The socks I have belonged to the 32 year old male (..should I mention his name) who enticed by too willing daughter of 17 out of my house and into his den) but managed to leave behind mementos of himself (socks), some 10 years ago.

I was dumping out all the miss-matched and single socks this morning (instead of doing the after-christmas shopping thing) and it popped into my head that I could have made a really neat sofa quilt out of my father's and grandfather's socks (which unfortunately are no longer around)(Figure 1). Using the only "male" socks I had, I cut the toes off, and slit the socks up the heel, trimmed off the cuffs, ironed stabilizer on the backside, and cut them into nice rectangles (all the same size). I made a 2 inch strip border for each and within a few hours I had a sampler of a type of quilt easily made from dad's, grandad's, husband's, brother's or son's old socks. The ones used here are old style argyle, but

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Figure 1

COUPON a product review
gets a free pattern

I think little girl's socks, baby's socks, white tube socks with their different knit patterns, might just work well also... turning the blocks sometimes at right angles when cutting them to give more variation.

In making up this sampler, I did a little healing, "talked to my dad, and grandpa" in the figurative sense of the word, and "released" some deep-seated issues related to my daughter early boyfriend (well he was an old man and not really her friend).

Separate note here, **I hope you all celebrated your holidays with peace and joy in spite of disaster that falls on all sides continually. Best wishes for a wonderful 2010.**

tips 'n FAQs

from Carol Boyette

GLASS CUTTERS

Want to know more about stained glass cutters? Here are the basic types and a little information about them.

The simplest and least expensive cutter you can buy in hardware stores and is just a metal rod with a cutting wheel usually made of steel or carbide. It has a ball at the opposite end for tapping and grozier teeth above the cutting wheel for grozing. This cutter is great to use when replacing a broken piece in a panel. You can score the piece in several places, begin knocking it out with the ball and then pull out the pieces with the grozing teeth and needle nose pliers. Since this cutter is inexpensive it can take abuse and if damaged can be replaced easily.

Pencil style cutters are popular. They could have a ball on the end for tapping but not necessarily. Most of them have a well inside for oil so that they can be self-oiling. These are great for trace cutting.

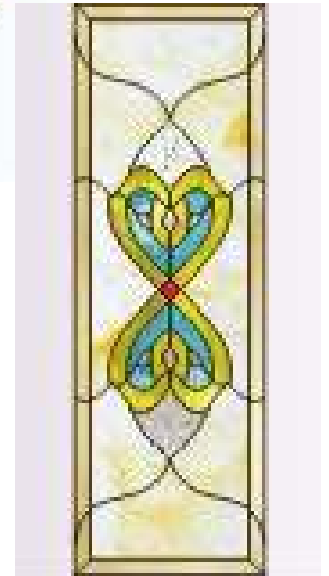
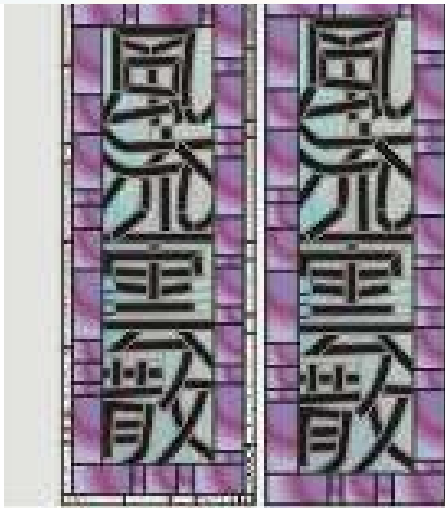
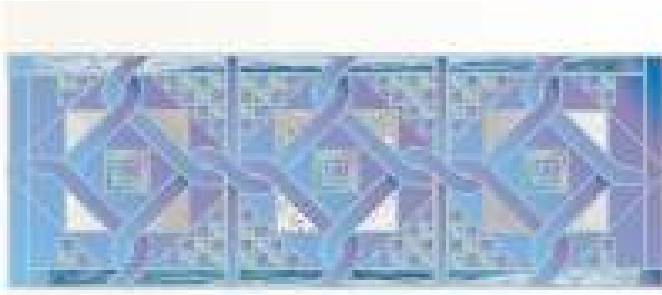
Pistol Grip cutters are also very popular and comfortable in your hand. They usually have a place to put oil so that you have a constant supply and are great for beginners as well as experienced glass cutters. If you are doing a lot of cutting the pistol grip cutter may be best because your hand doesn't tend to get cramped as much.

A mechanical Arm cutter gives vertical control and consistent pressure. It is very helpful for those who suffer from arthritis in hands or arms because the pressure comes from the arm itself.

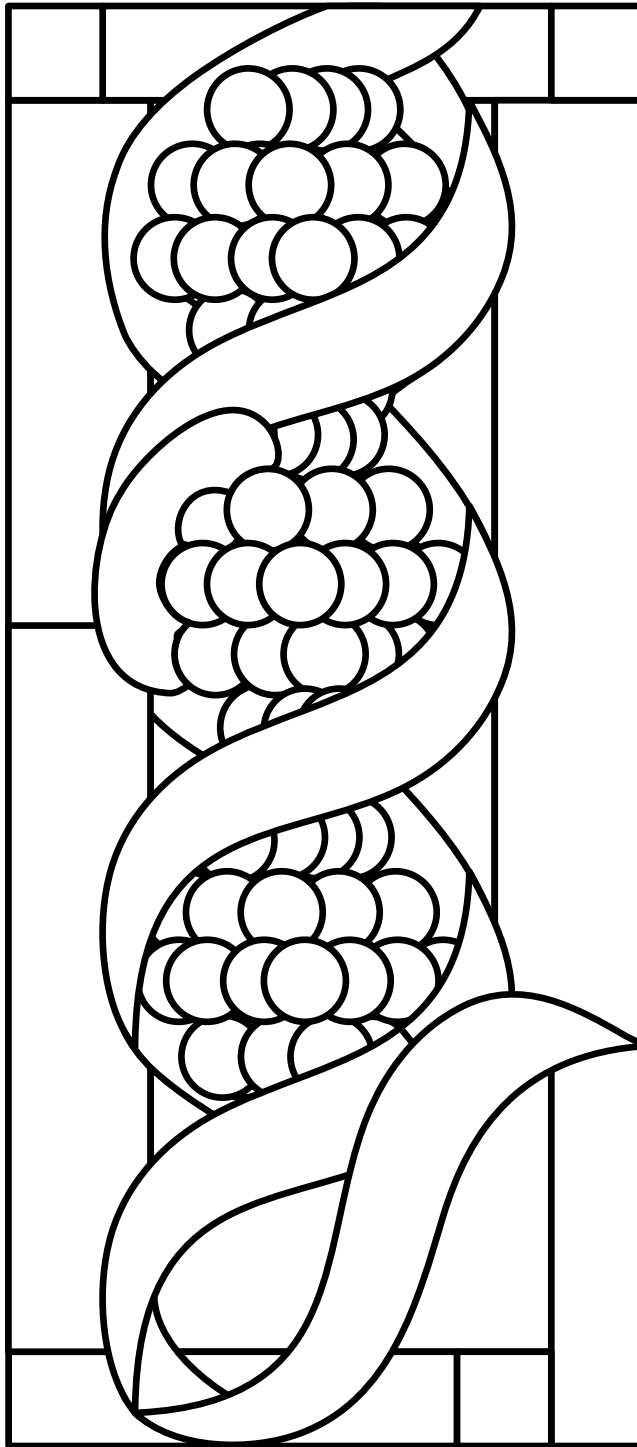
Remember to use caution when tapping a score and only use it as a last resort. It can cause spidery flaws around the score which can run off in a different direction than you scored. The sound can also drive other people nuts very fast!

Try different cutters from time to time as you increase in skill. You may find that the ones that did not work for you at first suddenly become much more manageable and comfortable for you.

new patterns for December



pattern for January



DNA and breast cancer ribbon pattern

While DNA is important in breast cancer risk, the environment is responsible for way greater risk so choose a low fat diet, lots of fruits and veggies, and lots and lots of exercise.