Free-Motion Quilted Coasters with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Free-motion Quilted Coasters
(optimistic music) - Hi everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live like we do every Thursday, and I have special guest, friend of the family, favorite human being, Ashley Nickels! - Hi everyone. - And who are, aside from friend of the family, favorite human, who are you, and what are you doing here? - Thanks, Faith. I'm Ashley Nickels, I am one of the instructors on Creativebug, I'm a sewing and quilting instructor, an artist, and I'm here because it's a big week. My book came out this week. - [Faith] Happy birthday, book! - [Ashley] Thank you! - [Faith] So exciting. - [Ashley] I birthed a book. - [Faith] Yeah, and I'm sure it felt laborious, and it gestated for quite some time. - [Ashley] It did, it did. - [Faith] And now it is here. - [Ashley] It's finally here in the world for you all to enjoy. - Especially one special Creativebug follower. We are doing a giveaway of this book plus a prize pack of some lovely fabric and some really fancy scissors, the kind that you would never use to cut up herbs. - Oh, no. Or paper. - No paper, either. - Do never cut paper with these. - I'm really loosey goosey with my scissors. I use them for everything, but I wouldn't these. But I'm not eligible to win, so, you are. Please go to our Instagram. It's just Creativebug on Instagram for more information on how to win, and tell us a little bit about this book. What's it about? What is in it? - [Ashley] Well, anything you need to know about life is in this book. - [Faith] Philosophical? - Exactly. - Encouraging? - [Ashley] No, it's basically anything you need to know about free-motion quilting from start to finish. It's also a quilt from start to finish, so how to get started with basting, and supplies, and materials; how to finish a quilt. And there are projects in there, and there's even an extra special, to me, section on watercolor quilting. And a demo that we're gonna do right now is from this book, and it's block letter, free-motion quilting. - [Faith] Now tell me a little bit more about watercolor quilting, because you basically invented this, didn't you? - [Ashley] I did. Yeah, it's a technique that combines painting on fabric, and free-motion quilting. And I usually use a black thread, which is what I'm gonna show today, and I often use an invisible thread. And so the result is very colorful, but also very textural. And I often add letters, or words, or sentences into my quilts. So I'm gonna show how I do my block lettering, and there's a section in the book with an alphabet that you can even trace and practice if you want to do my kind of weird, very non-symmetrical block letters, or you can practice and do your own fonts that you want. - [Faith] And we are doing it on the tiniest quilt possible, also known as a coaster. - [Ashley] Also known as a coaster. So we're gonna use these mini quilts that I've kind of finished with a very rough zigzag edge in place of a binding, and I've already made my creative, so we're gonna go ahead and make it a pair, and make it Creativebug. So I'm gonna do the word bug on this, on this little one. - And if you are brand new to free-motion quilting, do you need a special machine? - No, you don't need a special machine. And my book actually talks a lot about machines, but really, the only thing that you need to be able to do is lower your feed dogs, and some machines have a plate that covers your feed dogs, and worst case scenario, you can use some tape to cover your feed dogs, so you really don't need a fancy machine. - [Faith] And these are the feed dogs? - [Ashley] Yeah, these are the feed dogs. - [Faith] That pulls it through. - [Ashley] Exactly. - [Faith] And this one, I think, has a switch on the side. - [Ashley] Yeah, this Bernina's is on the side. Some machines are around the front, and the other thing that you need for free motion is a free-motion foot, or an embroidery foot that they're available for all machines. - Okay - So. And I always use these really fancy, - [Faith] High tech. - [Ashley] High

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tech quilting supply (Faith laughing) that you buy at the drugstore, and I cut off the fingers of rubber gloves for grip. - [Faith] It's exactly what they look like. - [Ashley] Yeah, exactly. I mean, that's what they are. And they make fancy gloves for this, but we don't need fancy gloves. So I'm just gonna go for it, because this is such a tiny little things that I'm not even gonna mark it. So when I first start free-motion quilting I pull my threads up, and I make what's called security stitches. Learn all about it in my book. And we can just go. (sewing machine whirring) And at this point, I can stop with my needle down, and cut those strings away. - [Faith] I did not breathe through that whole letter. That was riveting, exhilarating. - [Ashley] It's mesmerizing. - [Faith] It's very cool. - [Ashley] Yes. And then I'm gonna do my U. (sewing machine whirring) And if you thought that was riveting, wait 'til you see a G. (Faith laughing) - [Faith] I'm so excited. - [Ashley] I mean, the best letter, in my opinion, is an S, but there's no Creativebugs, so. - [Faith] That's true, unless all our viewers at home. - [Ashley] So save it for another day. Yeah, there you go (sewing machine whirring) And we'll do a little ending, and we're good. - [Faith] That took no time. - [Ashley] No, it takes no time at all. Voila. - [Faith] And it doesn't, okay, so the special-- - [Ashley] And then you can snip the threads, and there we go. - [Faith] That is actually adorable. - [Ashley] Mm hm. - [Faith] So if people at home want to learn more about this watercolor technique, 'cause it really is so gorgeous, you have a class on Creativebug. - [Ashley] I have a class on Creativebug. - [Faith] Watercolor quilting. - [Ashley] And lesson five in my book is all on mixed media projects. So there's watercolor quilting, there's applique, and then there's my block lettering. - So please visit Creativebug on Instagram. What's your Instagram? - @alphabetashley. - Alphabet Ashley. - Yeah, follow me. - Was that before or after you became a fan of quilting the letters? - [Ashley] (sighing) It's all serendipitous. So I used to have a blog called Alphabet Summer, which is where that came from. - Oh, I see, I see, I see. - But it remains a perfect name for me. - Super-relevant. And do we have any more instructions for the folks at home? Just go to Instagram. Check out our Instagram. Also, we're been posting some, by we I mean, Erika is our new social media person. She's been doing some amazing stories on Instagram. So if you haven't followed us before, or you're like, "Oh, they're just posting about new classes," heck no, we're not. We're posting about everything, and even at home, when I'm not at work, my boyfriend's like, "What are you grinning at your phone about?" And I say, "I'm watching Creativebug stories. "They're really good." So check that out, and enter for your chance to win this awesome book. If you've never done free-motion quilting before, this tells you everything. - [Ashley] Definitely, yeah. It's basically, it's why it's called 101. It's everything you need to know. - But if you 're an experienced free-motion quilter, I would say this is still, it's very much your style, your aesthetic, the colors are gorgeous, the projects are really interesting. - Yeah, and it'll give you some new ideas even if you are more experienced at free-motion quilting, try out some new ideas. - Well, thank you so much for stopping by. - Thanks for having me. Thank you, everyone. - And thank you all watching at home. We'll see you next Thursday. (optimistic music)

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