

Slow Stitching meets the Janome Skyline 9!

Late spring last year I got this crazy idea that I would learn to sit still and hand stitch. With a very busy schedule, hand stitching isn't particularly convenient but that is precisely why I fell in love with it. Now I spend a few hours a week practicing my slow stitching and share this love with all of the friends that will listen.

When the Janome Skyline 9 became available, I jumped for joy because some of the built-in embroidery designs are Sashiko! I have been working on this project for many months on and off. I hope you stick around as I take you on a Sashiko tour of built-in designs on the S9.

My featured panel project combines my love for Sashiko hand stitching and machine embroidery. It is not everyday that your embroidery machine complements your favorite technique so well. I plan to use my panels to create a queen size quilt and matching pillow.



About the Project:

If you decide to give this project a whirl, you can create your own panel of embroidered Sashiko designs from the S9 instead of fitting the designs between the hand stitched pre-printed, squares.

Sashiko Project:

Janome Skyline 9

Embroidery foot

Rayon thread

White bobbin thread

Sulky sticky fabri-like wash away stabilizer (not paper)

OESD fusible polymesh stabilizer

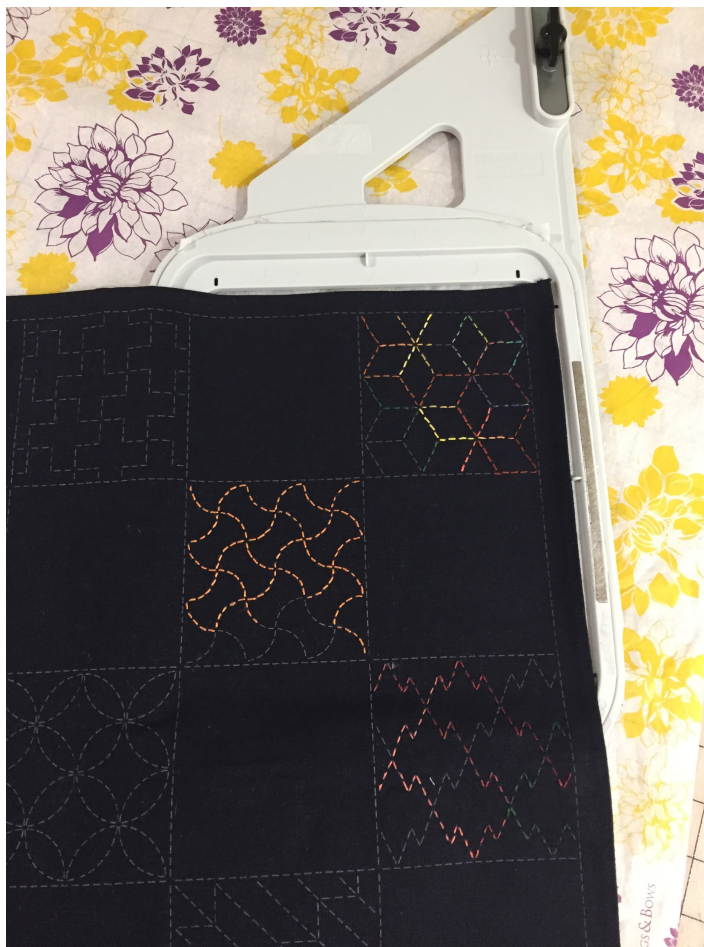
RE20 machine hoop & template

Olympus Preprinted Sashiko patchwork panel 20"

Steps:

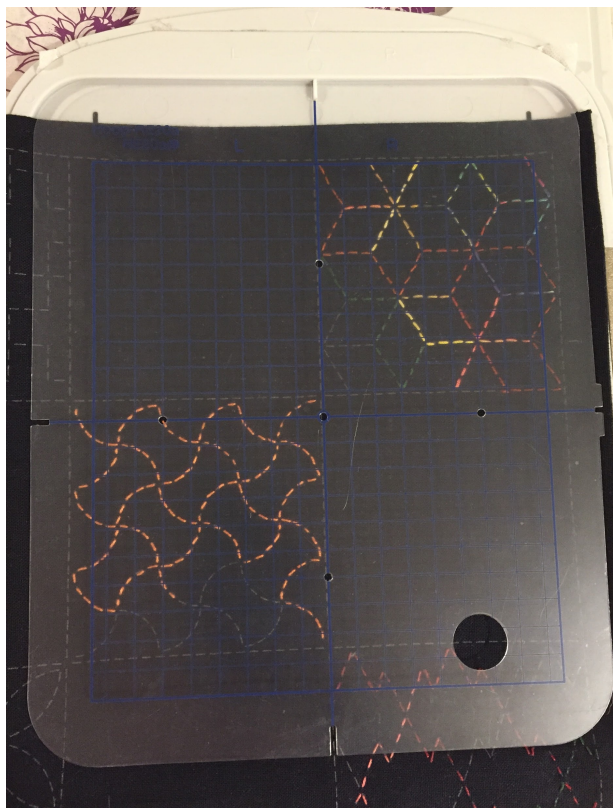
1. Stabilize your fabric with the iron-on fusible stabilizer
2. Hoop the sticky wash away stabilizer and place a corner of your Sashiko panel on the hoop covering the entire area, press down gently to smooth out wrinkles.





You can see from the photo above, that I had started the hand stitching portion of the project. This made it easier to see where the “empty” patchwork squares are located. These are the spots where the embroidery designs will go.

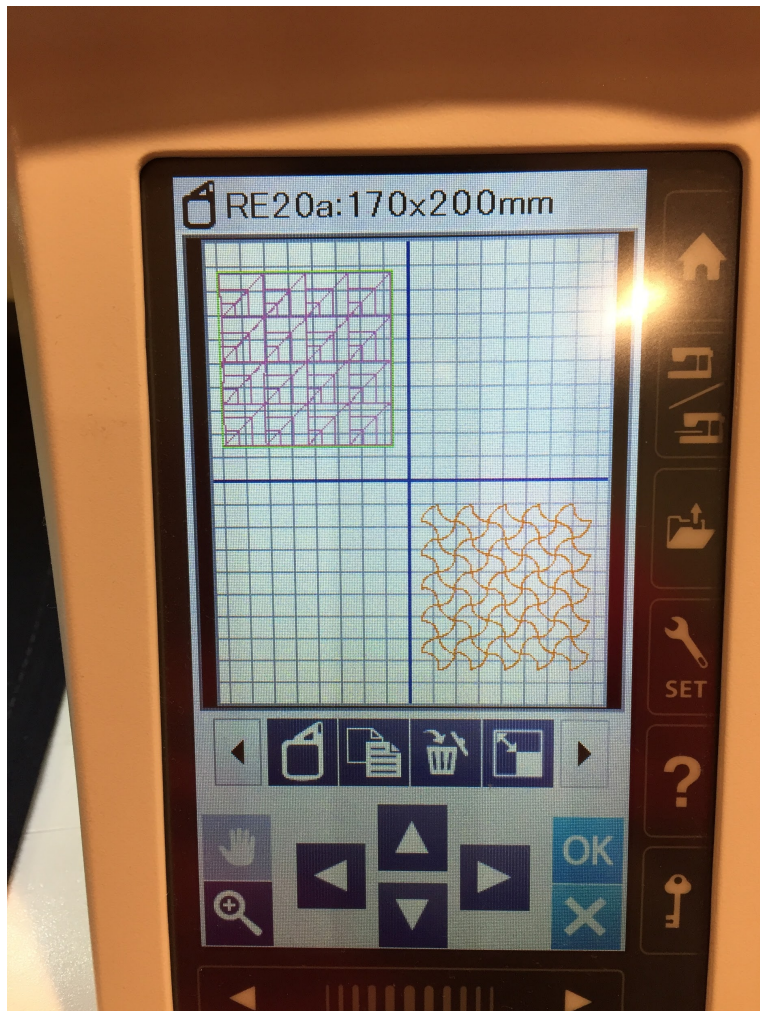
3. Use the template for the RE20 hoop to visualize where your designs will appear in relation to the editing screen.



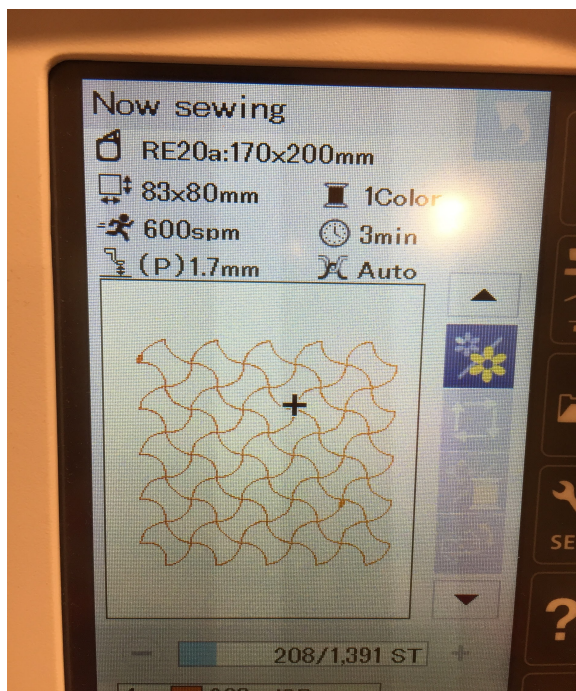
4. There are 4 built-in Sashiko designs that worked well for the blank patchwork square on the panel. Select from the square designs available for SQ14a hoop.



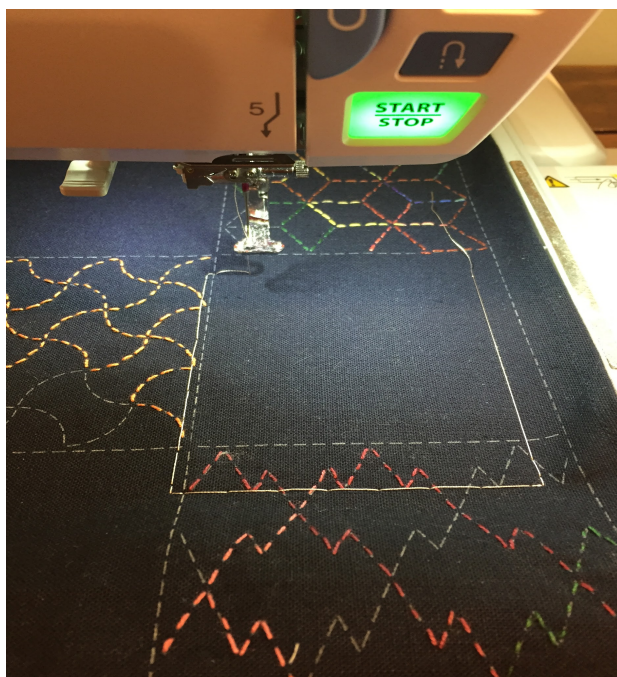
5. Now the fun part!



6. I shrunk the designs to 93% to ensure that they fit in the designated areas. To reduce the design simply use the icon to the right of the trash can as seen on the editing window above. Tip: to preserve materials embroider multiple designs per hooping.



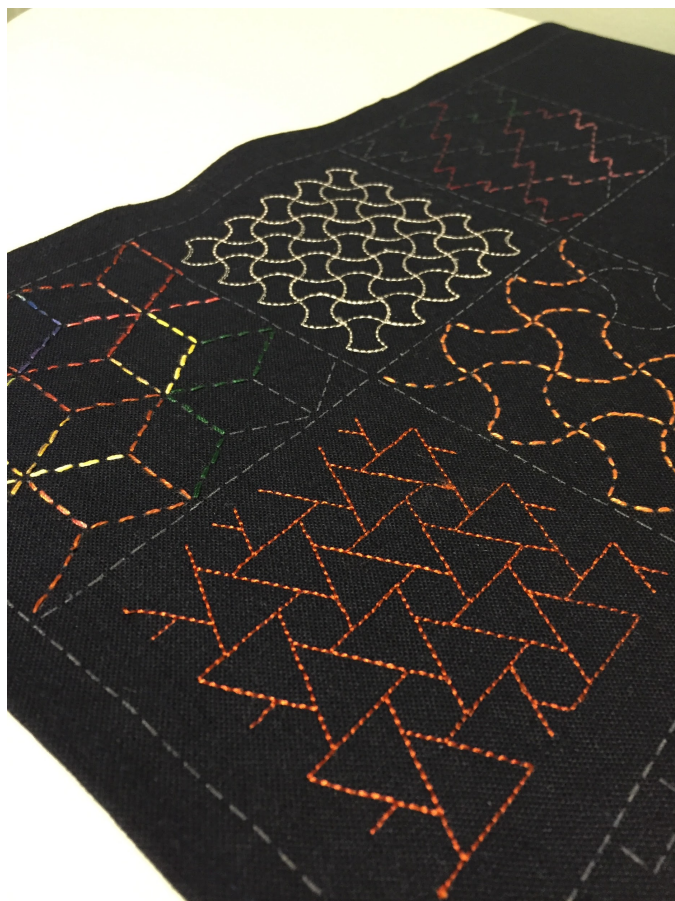
7. There is another great built-in feature on the S9 and that is the "tracing outline" icon found underneath the yellow flower. This allows you to see the area where your embroidery design will appear; it uses tacking stitches that can be removed easily after your design is embroidered.
8. Trace the outline before embroidering your design





One of the designs I had hand stitched was also available as an embroidery design on the S9 so I put them side by side and they compliment each other beautifully.

9. Continue embroidering the Sashiko patterns as desired



As with every creative pursuit, practice matters. This is my second attempt at working with this type of panel. When I started this process last fall, my first few attempts had some

misses mainly because I was impatient and the designs I chose were bigger than I had anticipated.

The 2nd panel on the bottom portion of the photo below, looks better because I used S9 features for success, like the tracing outline and templates as well as patience.

I hope you will give Sashiko stitching a chance, whether you hand stitch your project or use a combination of slow stitching and machine embroidery methods. I fall more and more in love with this technique because of how it is helping refine my love for sewing, attention to detail and the creative process in general.

Cheers to a machine that can keep up with us.

Happy Spring Friends!

Love,
Maday

