

In the Studio with my Janome

By Thomas Knauer of Thomas Knauer Sews

“At my core, I am a simple quilter. I love having all of the bells and whistles available on my Janome Horizon Memory Craft 15000 machine and certainly break them out with regularity, but when it comes down to, it the fundamental things are what really matter to me.

The single, most important part of my MC15000 is its wide throat. While those 11” are fabulous for people who quilt on their domestic machines, that extra space allows me to work on atypical approaches to piecing my quilt top. I rarely do block-based quilts, which means that I frequently find myself working with unwieldy components. One of my favorite techniques is foundation piecing on a grand scale. It makes quilts with no parallel or perpendicular lines.



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While the technique is pretty simple, managing all of that paper and cloth can get quite tricky if your sewing space is limited. What might have been template work (which I loathe), is easily handled as foundation paper piecing.



In a lot of ways, the biggest advantage of having a machine with a wide throat comes when I am designing a new quilt. Knowing that I don't have to worry about wrangling awkward chunks of quilt allows me to follow through on any and every design possibility. Having that wide throat on my Janome does so much more than make my piecing easier to manage; it makes me a better designer or at least a more interesting one.

I know machines have more exciting features and wonderful possibilities, but when push comes to shove, the extra sewing real estate is utterly indispensable. I rediscover with almost every top I piece that the extra sewing space on the MC15000 is not just for quilting; in opening up that space, it is really about opening up the imagination.” - Janome Artisan Thomas Knauer