

Love Not Hate Kite

By Ajaire Parello

Fiber Art with Fabric Scraps and Chain Stitch

“One of my favorite things to do with scraps is to use them for fabric art. I save all of my smallest sewing scraps and the run-off from serging and create collages which are secured in place with stitching. I had an idea to use the chain stitch function on the Janome CoverPro 2000CPX for the stitching and I am thrilled with the results of my latest piece.



Flutterby
Kite

pattern by
Molly & Mama

sewn by *Call Ajaire*

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My cousin recently held an event where they auctioned off pieces of art to raise money for a mural in a local school and I knew I wanted to donate a piece to the auction. I had just seen the Flutterby Kite in Issue 12 of One Thimble and thought it would be the perfect backdrop for one of my fabric collages.



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Since the kite would be visible from both sides, I didn't use a backing fabric for the scraps. The effect is a sort of lace which has tiny holes and spots that aren't completely covered by scraps and is different on each side. By using the chain stitch on the Janome CoverPro 2000CPX, there ended up being a side with chains and a side with a basic running stitch.



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The side with the chains has more texture and depth than the other side and it makes this piece even more special. The chain stitch also offers some stretch to it which would make it the perfect option for using this technique with knit fabrics. I've written in depth about this fiber art technique over on my blog, **Call Ajaira**, but below are some updates to show this chain stitch version:



First, make a pouch using wash away embroidery stabilizer. I arranged the fabric scraps in the general shape of the kite pattern, taking care to leave a bit of extra on the sides in case the piece wants to shrink a bit during the process. Pin the layers just to hold everything together.



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Using the CoverPro 2000CPX, take out two of the needles and adjust the tensions for chain stitching. I tested on a scrap to get the best tension for stitching on this wash away stabilizer, but yours may differ so I suggest running a few stitches on a scrap before proceeding.



Begin stitching even rows. I used the needle in the leftmost position so I could use the right side of the presser foot as a guide for stitching the rows. You can decide how close together you want the stitches.



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The reverse side shows the chain stitch.



Continue stitching rows all the way across, catching the scraps in the stitches. The repetition is similar to quilting and kind of therapeutic so be sure to enjoy the process.



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I like to go back and stitch in the other direction to really secure everything in place. Normally, I will use parallel stitching, but for this piece, I had a vision which included the dark strip of binding and wanting a bunch of the lines to originate from that point. You can see the results above. This is a great place to experiment!



Again, you can see that the texture of the chain stitches makes a difference in the overall appearance of the piece.



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Once you are happy with the stitching, wash away the stabilizer to reveal the new piece of fabric.

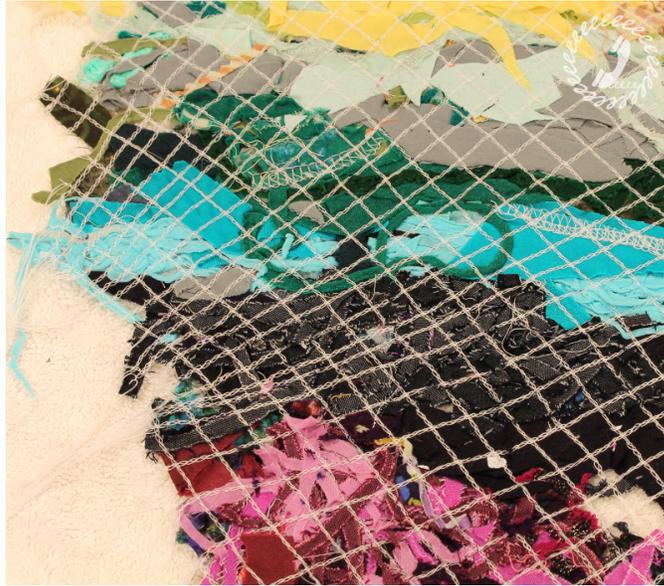


One of the best parts of this process is seeing those vibrant colors come through when the stabilizer starts disappearing.



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The fabric should remain flat until it dries to decrease the amount of stretching or distortion.



This close-up of the chain stitches is just lovely, isn't it?



Once the fabric is dry, you can use it to create something truly unique. Fabric art and fiber art are a terrific way to use up scraps and the Janome CoverPro 2000CPX added a whole new dimension to the process.” - Janome Artisan Ajaira Parello of **Call Ajaira**