Claudia's CREATIONS

SNOW COUNTRY EXPRESS

CHRISTMAS VERSION

WINTER VERSION

Photo above actual quilts. **Snow Angel Block** not shown.
Changes have been made to enhance the design.
Refer to Instructions for accurate pictures.

**All aboard! Snow Country Express!
Leaving track #29, I want to be there on time!
Enjoy First Class seats on a wonderful sightseeing journey
around mountainous pine
and snow filled countryside!**

Stitch field required 8"x12"
.art .dst .exp .hus .jef .pes .vip .vp3

Snow Country Express Supply List
Finished size 54" x 54"

Design: **Snow Country Express** $130.00 (each student must purchase the design to attend the workshop)

Fabric Supply List:

3 ½ yards	Light colored tone on tone Background Fabric	½ yard Binding
1 ¾ yards	Outer Border Fabric & Sashing (length needed for Outer Border)	4 yards Backing
½ yard	Sashing (in alternate fabric color)	60" x 60" Batting
7 yards	Shape Flex 101 by Pellon (20" wide)	

Embroidery Supply List:

Minimum Hoop Requirements: 8" wide x 12" high or **larger** / bring your **largest hoop & grid**

All Hoops should have a **grid/template** (purchase or make one if you don't have one)

10 yards Heavy Weight Tear Away (Pellon #806 Stitch & Tear)

Temporary Adhesive Spray: Suggested **505 Spray Adhesive**

Removable fabric marking pen: Suggested **SewLine Duo Marker & Eraser Med Point tip** (no air erasable pens)

Embroidery Needles 80/12 and 90/14 (both work but some machines prefer one over the other)

Terial Magic Starch (mandatory)

Suggested: 18"x24" Wool Ironing pad suggested and white **Top Cover** by OESD (permanent vinyl covering)

Basic embroidery kit: including small double curved scissors, tweezers,

Arrow shaped post it notes by Post-It-Notes (they say: **SIGN HERE)**

Bobbin Thread: (light neutral color & black)

Embroidery Thread: Isacord 40 wt. Embroidery Threads listed:

Christmas Colors

Greens
5324 Bright Green
5510 Emerald
5610 Bright Mint
6043 Yellowgreen

Greys
0112 Leadville
0142 Sterling
1972 Silvery Grey

Yellow/Gold
0811 Candlelight
0824 Liberty Gold

Black & Whites
0015 White
0020 Black
0870 Muslin

Purple/Pink
2702 Grape Jelly
2721 Very Berry
3130 Dawn of Violet

Browns
0932 Nutmeg
1233 Pony
1876 Chocolate

Reds/ Oranges
1304 Red Pepper
1800 Wildfire

Blues
4010 Caribbean Blue
4116 Dark Teal
4240 Spearmint

Winter Colors

Greens
0345 Moss
0453 Army Drab
5934 Moss Green
6043 Yellowgreen

Greys
0112 Leadville
0142 Sterling
1972 Silverly Grey

Yellow/Gold
0704 Gold
0721 Antique

Black & Whites
0015 White
0020 Black
0870 Muslin

Purple/Pink
2723 Peony
2810 Orchid
2830 Wild Iris
3130 Dawn of Violet

Browns
0932 Nutmeg
1233 Pony
1876 Chocolate

Red/Orange
1335 Dark Rust
1911 Foliage Rose

Blues
3902 Colonial Blue
3750 Winter Frost
3810 Laguna
4332 Rough Sea

Sewing Supply List

50wt. Cotton Thread matching the fabric for piecing

Basic sewing kit including scissors, pins, rotary cutter & mat, long straight ruler, etc.

20 ½" Square Ruler by Creative Grids & Jumbo Wonder Clips (to hold fabric away from hoop while embroidering)

Thread conversion chart on page #57 if you want to combine Winter & Christmas blocks!!

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Tips for Successful Embroidery!

Keep these pages accessible, you will need to refer to these "Tips" throughout your embroidery!!
Follow Claudia's two step **"Perfect Placement Technique"** for accurately multi-hooping large designs!

Step #1: Marking the design's first stitch location on the grid:

- Attach the **hoop and grid** to the module with no fabric.
- **Open the design** to be embroidered.
- Advance to the **embroidery sewing screen**. Embroidery Machines open a design in an editing screen. Touch the icon that moves you to the embroidery sewing screen. Advancing to the embroidery sewing screen takes you to the first stitch of the design, where you are ready to embroider!

Brother, Babylock & Janome machines have an automatic center stitch programmed into the machine. You must advance past this "programmed center stitch" to move to the first stitch of my designs. These machines will have an additional icon (usually a +/- key) you will need to touch to move you to first stitch of my design.
The **Basting Box option** must be **turned off** before advancing to the embroidery sewing screen.

- When at first stitch: by hand, lower your needle to touch the grid. Place an arrow shaped post-it-note on the grid so the tip of the arrow touches the tip of the needle. This marks the **first stitch location** of my design on the grid (not the center of the design, not the center of the hoop, but the first stitch of the opened design).
- Raise the needle; remove the hoop and the marked grid from the module.

Step #2: Hooping the Fabric

- Place the **inner hoop with the grid** on the (stabilized and marked) background fabric. The arrow shaped post-it-note on the grid should be pointing to either the **Needle Alignment** or to the **Placement Line** location on the background fabric. The location is noted in the Embroidery Instructions and will be different for each hooping (it will almost never be the center of the hoop).
- Hoop the (stabilized and marked) fabric with the lines on the grid parallel and perpendicular to the drawn lines on the fabric. The drawn lines need not lie exactly under the lines of the grid, but must be parallel and perpendicular to the lines on the grid. This keeps the larger piece of fabric square and straight as you embroider.
- Remove the grid from the hoop and attach the hoop to the module.
- It may be necessary to re-position the needle exactly over the **mark** indicated in the instructions.
  Use your **Move Motif Icon** to tweak the needle perfectly over the mark.
- **Needle Alignment** is to place the needle over a specific mark like the drawn crosshair on the fabric
- **Placement Line** is to sew (without thread) over previously sewn stitches to ensure correct placement.
- To watch a demo of the "Perfect Placement Technique" from your computer go to:
 www.claudiascreationsaz.com   Select the "Videos" tab and choose Perfect Placement.

Additional Tips and Helps!

Tip #1: Built in Basting Box!

Many embroidery machines have a built-in basting box option. When this option is enabled it may add a color stop to the stitching order of the design. This option should be disabled before opening a design. If the basting box option is on or enabled when you advance to the embroidery sewing screen, you would be marking the grid with the first stitch position for the basting box and not the first stitch of the design!
Be sure to disable the basting box option before opening a design. Mark the first stitch of the design with the post-it note arrow.

Tip #2: Hooping Tips

Place sections of **permanent** double sided tape **(not repositionable)** on the wrong side of the inner hoop.
Then flip the inner hoop right side up and place the inner hoop, with the grid inside of it, on the fabric.
The doubled sided tape holds the inner hoop to the fabric. This makes it easier to pick up the inner hoop and fabric and place it in the outer hoop with ease. (Always loosen the outer hoop screws as much as possible).
Remove the tear away stabilizer from the last hooping to reduce the stabilizer "bulk".
Roll the excess fabric in a tube shape and use clips to hold the excess fabric out of the way.

Tip #3: Unusual Embroidery Instructions:

Needle Alignment: This is placed first in the stitching order to align the needle exactly where it goes.
It is strictly for needle placement and not to be sewn out (unless indicated). If it is accidently sewn out it will look like a crosshair. Pick it out!
Placement Line: This is a line that is to be sewn **out without thread** over an existing line to ensure correct placement. It is an alignment tool for connecting one hooping to another.
The blank line after the thread color: Thread Purple #_____ (Write your thread Color # on the line)
It will help you remember what color you used when you return to embroidering.

Tip #4: Babylock & Brother Machines

Sometimes these machines like to rotate the design.
Don't know why!! Make sure the design on YOUR screen has the same orientation as the picture on the instructions. This is a reminder!!

> Babylock & Brother machines may need to rotate the design to look like this!

Tip #5: Trimming the Blocks

For best accuracy, use a **square ruler** to trim all the blocks. Place the square ruler on the block lining up two sides, then trim. Trimming with a 6" x 24" ruler is **not as accurate** and leads to slips and miss-cuts. If you have difficulty keeping a ruler from moving when you cut, wear quilting gloves to help hold it in place!

Tip #6 Sewing without Thread

Every machine has a icon where you can advance or move backwards through a design. This is usually used when you **"break a needle"** or **"run out of bobbin thread"** and you need to backup to replace stitches. I use this icon to advance through a design to **"sew without thread."** As you advance lower & raise the needle often to check the position to be sure you are correctly following the placement line.
YouTube/ claudiascreationsaz for demo.

Fabric Preparation

Terial Magic.
Saturate the background fabric in **Terial Magic.** Spray or pour onto the fabric to saturate.
This product is a heavy starch. The fabric must be very stiff to avoid stretching during embroidery.
Let the fabric almost dry then iron the fabric flat and smooth. (YouTube channel / claudiascreationsaz)

Woven Interfacing:
Place the woven interfacing (Shape Flex 101 by Pellon) adhesive side down, on the wrong side of the fabric. Spray with water to activate the adhesive. Use your hands to smooth out the moistened Interfacing over the fabric before using the steam iron. Set the steam iron on the center area and hold the iron long enough to dry & seal the two layers together, but not so long that it burns! Pick up the iron and place it close to the first spot. Repeat until all the interfacing is sealed to the fabric. This will "pre-shrink" both fabric and interfacing. The Interfacing will shrink, that is expected. All the edges of the Interfacing should be sealed to the fabric as if they were one piece so they can't be separated.
To cover larger pieces of fabric, continue the process by overlapping the pieced sections by ½".

(www.claudiascreationsaz.com / Videos / Fabric Prep or YouTube / claudiascreationsaz / Fabric Prep)

Cutting Instructions

Background Fabric: (3 ½ yards)
Cut (**3**) **20" x 44"+/-** (or width of Fabric) **Strips**
Set (**1**) aside **20" x 44"+/-** strip this is the **Center Block**

Sub Cut the (2) remaining strips in half:"
Cut (**4**) **20" wide x 22" height+/-** sections these are the **Embroidery Blocks**

Sub Cut the remaining length of fabric **in half lengthwise** for the Borders:
Cut (2) **22"+/- wide x 66"+/- length** **Top & Bottom** and **Left & Right Side Border pieces**
More cutting information is on page #94.

126"

Center Block 20" x Width of Fabric (44"+/-)	Embroidery Block 20" x 22""+/-	Embroidery Block 20" x 22""+/-	Top & Bottom Borders 22"+/- wide x 66"+/- length
	Embroidery Block 20" x 22""+/-	Embroidery Block 20" x 22""+/-	Side Borders 22"+/- wide x 66"+/- length

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Fabric Preparation for All Blocks & Borders

Terial Magic.
Saturate the background fabric (shown above) in **Terial Magic.** Spray or pour onto the fabric to saturate.
This product is a heavy starch. The fabric must be very stiff to avoid stretching during embroidery.
Let the fabric almost dry then iron the fabric flat and smooth. (YouTube channel / claudiascreationsaz Terial Magic)

Interfacing: Shape Flex 101 by Pellon
Center and Iron interfacing (after Terial Magic) to the back of the Background Fabric. Piece the interfacing to get the size needed. Over lap the pieced sections by ½". The interfacing may be slightly smaller than the fabric blocks & it will shrink when you iron it. Lightly spray with water to activate the adhesive. Smooth the interfacing with your hands (this will help to displace the air between the interfacing & fabric).

Start pressing in the center and work out slowly. Iron with steam, the interfacing to the fabric. All edges should be sealed together. If you see air bubbles, spray with water and iron again. Watch my Fabric Prep video for a demo.

(www.claudiascreationsaz.com / Videos / Fabric Prep or YouTube / claudiascreationsaz / Fabric Prep)

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Marking the Fabric:

Mark on the front side of the fabric (with removable marker):
       a **horizontal & vertical line, centered on the fabric block/strip.** (aka=Center Crosshair)
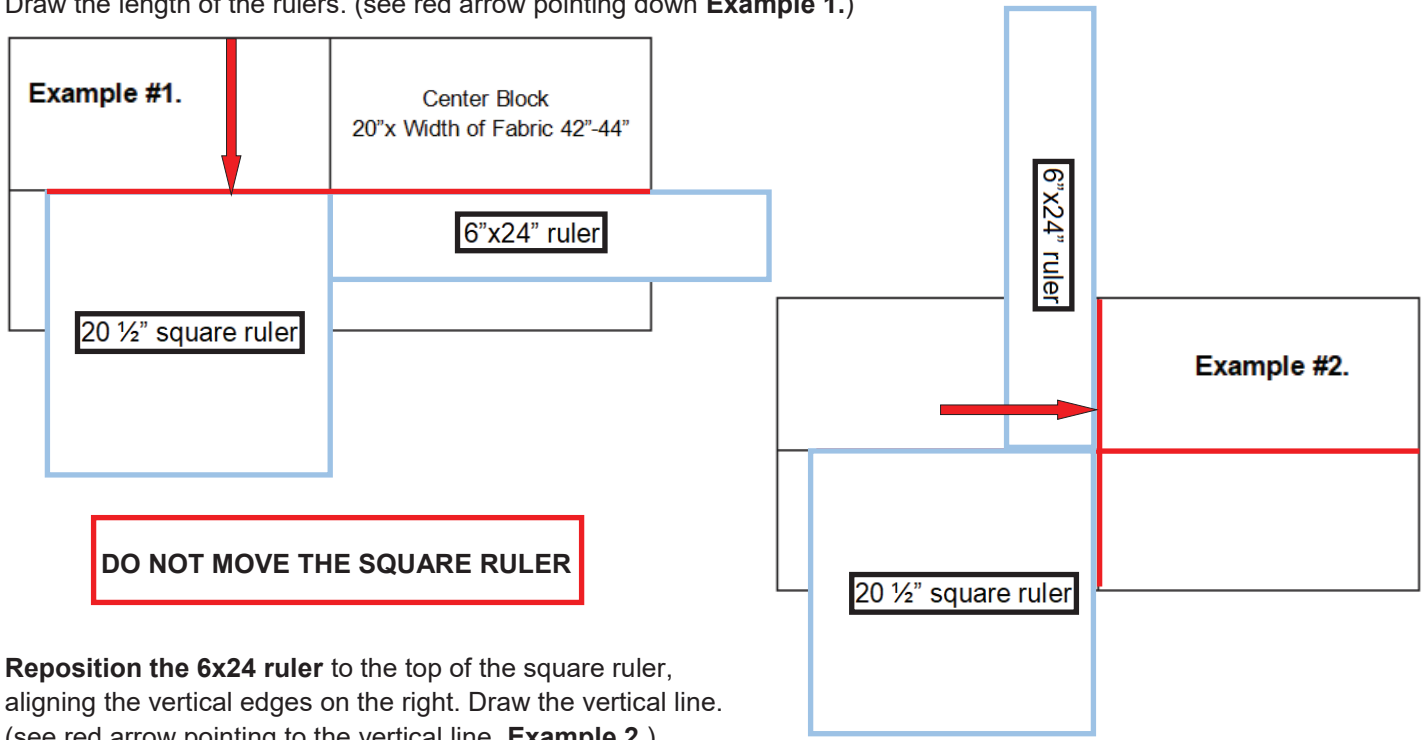
See my demo on YouTube.   YouTube / ClaudiasCreationsaz / Marking the Fabric
(be sure to subscribe & click on the bell to be notified of new videos)

Read all before marking:
Place the upper right corner of the square ruler in the center of the fabric. See diagram. Draw a line across the top and down the right side of the ruler. This gives you a perfect 90° angle. Extend lines from there. Add all lines needed.
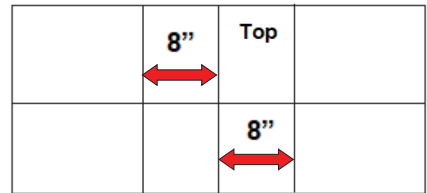
Center Block
Lay the 6x24 ruler to the right of the square ruler & align the top edges.
Draw the length of the rulers. (see red arrow pointing down **Example 1.**)

Example #1.

Center Block
20"x Width of Fabric 42"-44"

6"x24" ruler

20 ½" square ruler

DO NOT MOVE THE SQUARE RULER

6"x24" ruler

Example #2.

20 ½" square ruler

Reposition the 6x24 ruler to the top of the square ruler, aligning the vertical edges on the right. Draw the vertical line.
(see red arrow pointing to the vertical line. **Example 2.**)

Add an additional **Vertical Line 8" on either side of Center**.
Write Top at the top of the Block.

8"   Top

8"

Embroidery Blocks: (4 20"wide x 22" height+/-)

Mark a **Center Crosshair** on all (**4) Blocks.**
See **Example #3.**
Mark additional **Vertical** lines **2" on either side of Center.**

Write **Top** at the top of each Block.
See **Example #4.**

20"wide Top

20"wide Top

22" height+/-

22" height+/-

Example #3.

Example #4.