

# Pintuck Landscapes...

## with Optional Needlepunch

A creative mini project from Paula Scaffidi AKA Fiberella

[www.fiberella.com](http://www.fiberella.com)



### ACCESSORIES

◆◆◆ Bernina Pintuck Foot (or Feet)  
Largest to smallest: #30, #31, #32, #33. Use one; or more for added textural interest and depth in your landscapes. Recommendation: #30 & #32 pair well; #31 or #32 if just using one.

◆◆◆ Optional Bernina Needlepunch  
Machine needle felting is one of my favorite things in the sewing universe!

### SUPPLIES

Fabric - Solid or blurry colors; cut or tear pieces roughly 8" x 10"

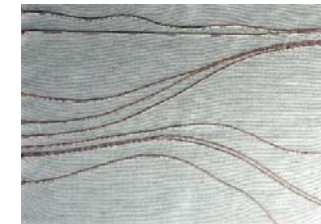
Needlepunch friendly fabrics: lightweight wool, wool blends, silk noil (raw silk), linen, Brussels washer linen; cheesecloth or scrim.. Kona cloth in dark colors is also workable with slightly heavier roving applications. Pintuck only: silk organza, synthetic sheers and denim can be added to the list above

Thread - Any variety of colors in cotton, silk, polyester, rayon, etc. Be sure to match thread weight to the needle size.

Twin needle(s) - sizes are marked: needle spacing / needle size. Each foot requires a specific needle spacing, but the needle size can vary to match thread wt. See chart at right.

Optional Stabilizer - For delicate fabric, OESD's Aqua Mesh is suitable for pintucking and needlepunching. I find Aqua Mesh Plus ideal while sewing pintucks; but avoid its use with needlepunch. The adhesive gums up the barbs on punch needles.

Optional Needlepunch requires Roving (unspun fiber) - You'll need a variety of colors at your fingertips. Finest quality merino and specialty roving in colorful assortments are available at [www.fiberella.com](http://www.fiberella.com).



This colorful landscape was created with just two pintucks and a splash of added roving color.

#### Why sew with multiple sizes of pintuck feet?

Create depth by sewing larger pintucks with thicker thread and a longer stitch length. Then sew smaller pintucks (used in the distance or for fine textures) with thinner thread, using a shorter stitch length.

Of course you can vary the stitch length setting to suit your exact threads and for eye appeal.

### Combination Chart ... a starting place

PINTUCK FOOT	TWIN NEEDLE SPACING / NEEDLE	GROOVE #	THREAD SIZE	STITCH LENGTH
#30	4.0/100	3 grooves	top 30wt. bobbin 50 wt.	3 - 4.5
#31	3.0/90	5 grooves	top 40wt. bobbin 50 wt.	2.5 - 4
#32	2.0/75	7 grooves	top 50wt. bobbin 50 wt.	2 - 3
#33	1.6/70	9 grooves	top 60wt. bobbin 60 wt.	2 - 2.5
#33	1.6/70	9 grooves	machine embroidery wt.	1.5 - 2

#### A Few More Options...

Beyond the chart you can create additional depth per pintuck foot.

Purchase an extra twin needle with the same required spacing for your foot; *but with a different needle size*. You'll be able to stitch with a wider variety of thread weights while using the same foot.

#### Design Tip:

Stitch thicker, contrasting threads to describe something "up close". Use thinner threads, more like the color of the fabric to create distance.

## Selecting Threads...

- Look for color options in your stash *with appropriate thread wt. for your needle size*
- For a shadow effect, use a different value of thread in each needle
- Add interest to pintucks by using contrasting colors, especially a warm and a cool
- Variegated thread is fun
- Or try more than one luster of thread... like a shiny blue paired with a sparkly white as you coast over the water, etc.
- It's ok to use a thread wt. one size too small for your needles; but I don't recommend ever using a thread that's too thick for the needle size.

Fabrics with blurry colorations can help you begin to visualize a landscape. I saw trees, shrubs and ground in this one.

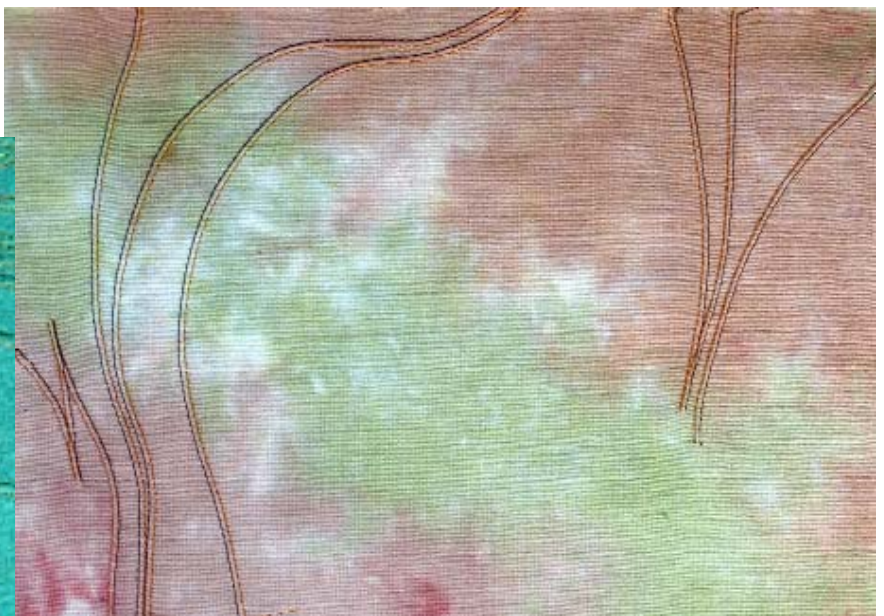
This aqua wool fabric is ideal for needlepunch.



## Threading the Machine

Check your specific machine manual for "Threading the Twin Needle". Presser foot must be up while threading except while threading the needle itself. Basically, thread the right needle as usual; taking care to have it pass along the right side of the tension disc. You can feel and very gently move the disc off to the side with your fingertip. Thread the left needle passing the thread on the left side of the disc; and skip the very last thread guide at the needle.

Tip: For faster thread change, plan to maintain the same color in the right needle (which has to be threaded before the left needle). By changing the left needle only, you will not have to re-do the right needle. Just raise the presser foot. Clip the thread feeding the left needle at the spool. Pull the cut segment of thread out through the left needle and re-thread. ALWAYS THREAD THE RIGHT NEEDLE FIRST.



See the points or peaks in the image to the left and above in one spot? I've simply used the reverse button to form these. With needle-down, just hold the reverse button and guide the fabric to and fro.

## Machine Settings

- Straight stitching only! Make sure your stitch width is set to zero.
- Loosen the top thread tension a little whenever your bobbin thread is thinner than your top thread (see chart page 1).
- Needle down is handy for most pintuck techniques, including reverse sewing.
- Many Bernina foot pedals have the ability to raise and lower the needles with a tap. I love this feature.
- If you are lucky enough to have a knee lift, I encourage you to use it. Try using your left foot on the pedal.
- On Bernina you can tie off very easily in a number of ways. I like to set my regular zig zag stitch to zero width, making it a straight stitch; and set the stitch length very short (in the satin stitch range). Bernina temporarily altered stitch memory will remember these adjustments, but only until you turn off your machine. So during your work session, you can toggle back and forth to the adjusted zig zag stitch to sew several straight stitches of very short length to tie off when needed. This "knots" your pintuck when you wish to stop or begin in the middle of your landscape.

# Simple Beginnings...

## Edge-to-edge pintucks

Reveal a landscape with just a few lines. Peaceful and calm feelings are easily expressed with gently curving horizontal lines. Diagonals will suggest movement, and invite you into the landscape. Verticals lend a sense of stability or place. All of these are easy to sew from edge-to-edge.

Cool fabric or thread colors will enhance a calm feeling. Have fun playing with thread and fabric color changes. See how these colors affect your mood. EnJOY.

- ◆ Re-state your first pintuck line by "tracking" it in one of the side grooves on your pintuck foot. Take your eye off of the needle; instead, watch a single line of thread from the previous pintuck enter a particular groove. Just keep your eye there and stitch along. Can you see the little toes on the feet?
- ◆ If you choose to alternate the edge you begin stitching from, your contrasting thread colors will reverse their up/down position in the landscape. Begin to notice the hardness, softness of the line that this change offers as a design tool.
- ◆ Iron as needed. Place fabric face down with pintucks nested into a padded ironing surface; steam press to maintain a smooth base. Cool before moving.
- ◆ Create another parallel line using a different groove. You can produce perfectly parallel lines to form pleasing repeat patterns.
- ◆ I love the look of gently flowing, "part time parallel lines" in the landscape. They're interesting. Perfectly parallel all of the time = too predictable. So for variety, "track" a section of a previous pintuck under the foot... and then just veer off because you felt like it! Just ride the bump to a new open spot and coast somewhere, somewhat parallel to the last line, changing the curve at will. As you stitch along, begin to notice the beautiful shapes of the spaces in-between pintuck lines. Try to watch these "space shapes" emerge as you are stitching.
- ◆ Another option is to "track" a previous pin tuck and then "hop the rail" to another groove; stitch a bit and then hop to another groove. This works well when you have more grooves to play with.
- ◆ You can dash into the landscape from the side, stitch at random but aim to eventually catch a prior pintuck with one of the grooves for some parallel coasting along.
- ◆ I enJOY repeating this cycle of creating a line, and a perfectly parallel line or more; establishing something of a pattern..... and then adding in a stronger surprise change of direction.
- ◆ Blend a diagonal pintuck line in with a horizontal by "catching a groove".
- ◆ Turn your work 90 degrees. Have you made any branches or trees without knowing it?
- ◆ Top to bottom verticals and gently bending diagonals are great for trees.
- ◆ Vertical lines feel quite stable. We consider buildings and monuments as stable, permanent. The wind may come along and cause your trees to sway. Is it windy today? How would you show a gentle breeze?
- ◆ Vary the sizes of trees to add visual depth. This works especially well using with more than one size of pintuck foot. Use your smallest grooves for smaller branches and distant trees.



Vertically it's a large tree trunk.

.... Horizontally it's land.

Be sure to look at your work from all directions as you're creating . You will be surprised how often amazing things emerge without aiming for them!

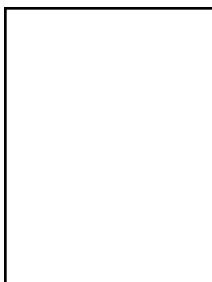
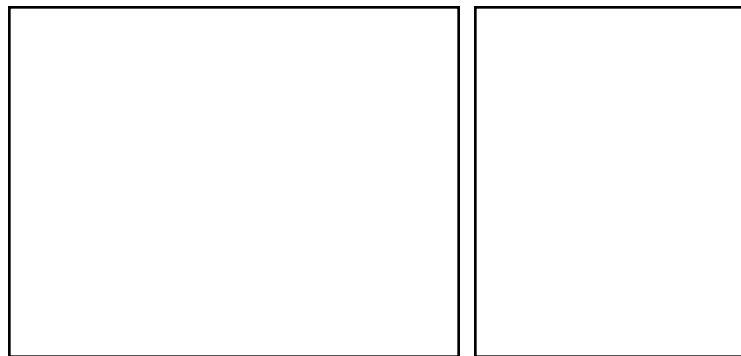
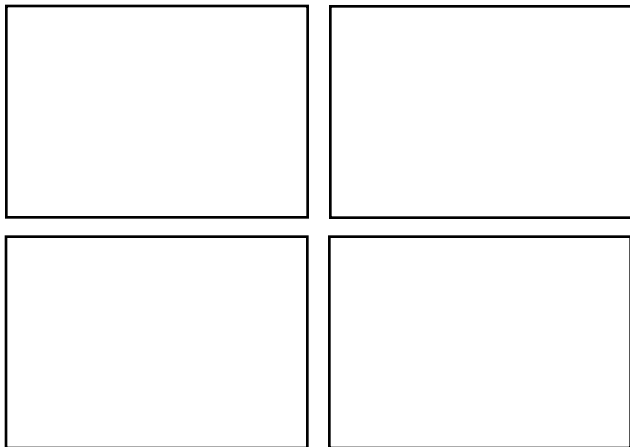


### Broken Lines...

One line leads to another. Eventually some lines will need to stop midway. Bernina machines have temporary altered memory, making the securing of pintucks quick and easy. How-to is on the next page....

# Composing Landscapes . . .

Develop ideas with the use of small "thumbnail" sketches. You can also cut or crop your sewn 8" x 10" compositions down, finding more pleasing proportions and shapes in smaller areas. Then create another larger work with the design as your guide.



Horizontal lines are restful.... We lie down when we're tired.

Vertical lines are stable... We don't expect them to fall.

Diagonal lines indicate movement... You can add a path or river so others can travel into your landscape.

*DOODLE OFTEN. TURN SIDEWAYS OR UPSIDE-DOWN!*

## Add a little perspective . . . diagonal line segments are easy to sew

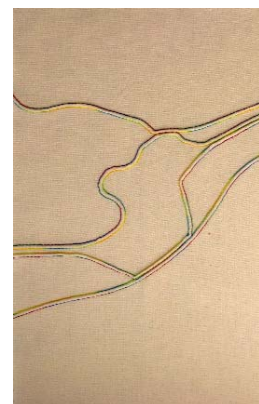
Invite someone into your landscape by adding a path, road or river. Converging diagonal lines start out wide toward the bottom of your landscape; and become closer together as they move diagonally up into the landscape. Even just a single diagonal line will create both movement and depth. It's easy.

- You can begin a pintuck anywhere. Plan to slant two lines toward each other. See diagrams for ideas.
- To routinely lock off the stitches at the start and end of a pintuck, use a series of short stitches. Simply set your usual zig zag stitch to a ZERO stitch width and a stitch length in the satin stitch range... very short. Bernina temporary altered memory will keep these settings until you turn off your machine. So every time you are ready to lock on or lock off a pintuck, just hit your zig zag button and stitch about six to eight little stitches. Tip: The thinner the thread, the tinier these stitches can be.
- Stitch "converging" lines, two lines that get closer and closer together in the distance for a path, road, river or stream. The two slanting lines don't have to touch; just stitch them increasingly closer together to convey distance. Using tiny stitches to tie-off you can stop a diagonal line on the horizon, where land meets sky.
- Getting excited? Add clashing and/or hot thread colors for a passionate feeling. Thin threads in cooler colors will recede. Thick threads, bigger pintucks in warm or hot colors will advance.
- Crossed Lines are lovely. Try some.



Pivots are shown below and to the right. Pivoting technique makes it possible to sew desired, angles and smaller, tighter curves.

Bernina Features Books are well worth the investment. In addition to lots of other feet, you'll find pintuck and pivot info in in Volume I.



## Optional Needlepunch...

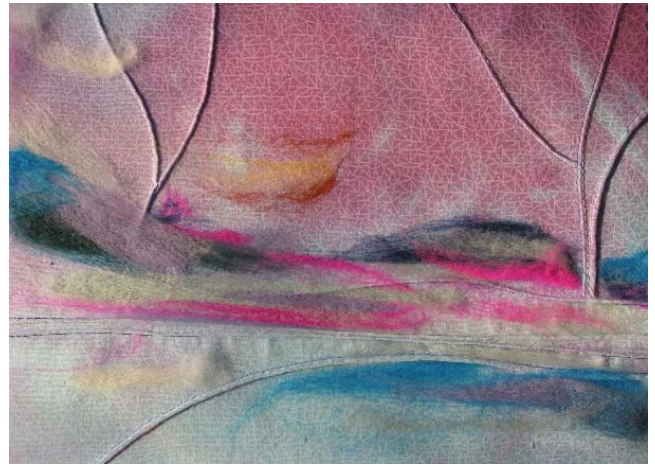
Shine a light from your imagination. Fill your world with the wonder of color. You can just keep layering roving until you arrive at a combination you're comfortable with. So there are no worries.

*Is there sunshine or moonlight in your landscape?*

Locate a light source in your mind's eye. Imagine the wavelengths of light illuminating the contours of the earth from its angled position.

"Color" with roving between the pintuck lines; color outside of them. You can lay down roving "brushstrokes" so they go right across a pintuck.

In the pintuck landscape at the right, I added imaginary color to a bleak color palette.



A suggestion of a cloud breezes across the pin tuck tree on the left. The tree is a simple V, stitched using the reverse button. On the right, the tree has a Y formation; and a part-time parallel third line. First I stitched the vertical; then I carefully inserted both of the twin needles right alongside this same vertical pintuck. I tied off with short stitches and sewed my way to the top. Then a last pintuck widened the trunk at the base and added the third branch.

## Roving How-to & Where-to...

- ◆ Check your needlepunch manual for proper set-up. Needlepunch is a feed dogs down activity... so you'll be moving your fabric around to guide arranged roving shingles under the punch needles.
- ◆ Begin by pulling shingle of roving or fiber. Hold the roving with a gentle press about three inches from its end. Use the other hand, thumb and pointer, to pull a "shingle" of roving. These should be about three inches long; and will shrink to about 2 ½ inches as you Needlepunch them into place. Desired thickness: you should almost *but not quite* be able to see through the shingles (even after you've machine felted them down).
- ◆ To make variegated brushstrokes you can pull more than one color at the same time.
- ◆ Only lay out one, two or up to three shingles at a time.
- ◆ To avoid puckering of the base fabric, it's best to run the machine between any overlapping shingles.
- ◆ Arrange color placement to please the eye. It great fun to move roving shingles around at random; and then needlepunch when the arrangement pleases your eye. Hold it up in a mirror. Maybe a touch of..... ?

- ◆ Gently keep the base fabric flat against the machine bed; but don't press down hard. If you do, how can you move the fabric around? :-)  
Relax. Lighten up your touch, and move the fabric to keep the needle cluster punching on roving, not directly hitting the cloth. This protects more delicate fabrics like cotton which is prone to needle marks.
- ◆ Work your way across the shingles with moderate motor speed and slow fabric movement. Hold the fabric not the roving.
- ◆ Keeping the punch needles on the roving at all times, I recommend fully punching one shingle before going on to the next. This allows for a smooth base fabric in the end. You can begin in the middle of each brushstroke; or toward an end. However you do it, allow the "brushstrokes" of roving to dance their way across the surface, shrinking toward where the punch needles are fastening them. You've punched enough when the roving shows underneath.

# ENJOY!

To learn more, visit the Resource page on [www.fiberella.com](http://www.fiberella.com)

