

# Creative Living

with Sheryl Borden



#6400 Series

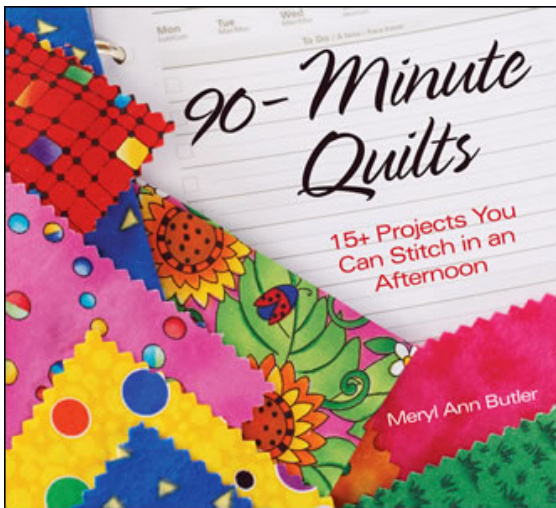
## Sewing & Fashion - Section II

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**Due to the size of this section, it has been separated into three sections in order for it to be downloaded more quickly. For instance, “Tech Tote” is in Section I on page 3, whereas “90-Minute Quilts For the Community” is in Section II on page 11, and “Basics for Machine Piecing Precision” is in Section III on page 14.**



## 90-Minute Quilts for the Community

According to author and quilter, Meryl Ann Butler likes to make fast, easy projects for community service and grandbabies - but she really enjoys getting back to complex projects, such as capes and tabards and some of her 90-Minute Quilts. For complete instructions, and beautiful colored photos of her quilts, you can order her book from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

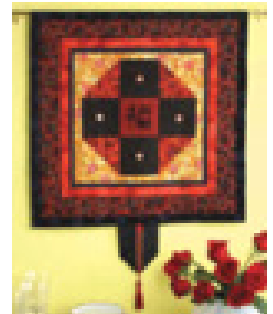
bidding, it's a way that quilters can help support their town, county, or favorite charity. Larger, lap quilts are excellent projects to make and donate to a community service, senior citizens organization, hospital, assisted living facility or other needy groups. The Virginia Tech lap quilt (lower left) would be a perfect quilt for these entities.

Handmade quilts have become very popular at fund raisers in many communities. Not only do they generate lots of interest in



A recycled jeans quilt is a meaningful gift made from old jeans. (left)

A shawl gift is one size and makes a great bazaar item, as does a Feng Shui Good Luck quilt. (Right) A Girl Scout troop made this quilt for Haiti survivors. And nothing says love more than a Memories quilt.



Look around at your stash of fabric pieces and scraps, and see if you can turn them into projects that will help others.



Wheelchair Quilt



### QUICK TIP

Use a June Tailor "Rule Your Rulers" circular ruler hanger to keep press cloths within easy reach under your ironing board. It's about six bucks, and you'll never be searching for lost press cloths again. Available where quilt supplies are sold including Sarah's Thimble Quilt Shoppe.



**COURTESY: Meryl Ann Butler  
Author and Quilter**





# WHAT MAKES JEANS LOOK LIKE JEANS

When making your own jeans consider including these techniques and materials to give them an authentic look. Look at your favorite jeans and make notes to achieve a similar look.

- Choose denim no lighter than 8 oz. and no heavier than 13 oz. Denim fabric is often labeled with the weight and that number represents the weight of a single yard.
- Use a pattern that has a fly front, close fit, and the 5 pocket styling traditional in blue jeans 2 hip pockets, two front pockets and a key pocket inside the right front pocket.
- Choose a heavyweight topstitching thread (and a large machine needle) when topstitching the pockets, fly, yoke, waistband, hem and other details. Traditionally the thread is gold and you topstitch two rows 1/4" apart. Jeans thread can be purchased at your local fabric store, and it comes in more colors than gold. If you have two



sewing machines, thread one with all purpose thread to construct the pants and the other with topstitching thread for doing the accent work. This makes the process go much faster.

- Use a decorative stitching on the hip pocket if you wish.
- Belt loops are found on jeans as well but if you

don't wear a belt, you can leave them off.

- A metal zipper is a must to keep your tight fitting jeans closed. A jeans zipper is the best choice but will be a little clunky in a lighter weight denim.
- As you construct your jeans, decide which leg seam you would like to topstitch. Remember that the topstitching adds strength to the pants. It is really hard to topstitch both seams in each leg. If you choose to topstitch the inseam, then topstitch the outseam from the waistband down to the bottom of the front pocket.
- Use one line of topstitching on the hem about 5/8" up from the bottom of the pants. Jeans do shrink, even if you have pre-washed your fabric so hem them on the long side for more years of wear.
- Use a metal jean button or snap at the waistband closure. For a very authentic look apply metal studs at the corners of the pockets. This is hard and takes lots of practice so buy more than you need. A little zigzag topstitching at the corner of each pocket will serve the same purpose.



**COURTESY: Rae Cumbie**  
**The Assn. of Sewing & Design Professionals**



**Free Motion = Embroidery or Quilting** without the use of the feed dogs. The sewing machine foot in this case is removed, and we do not add another foot to hold the fabric. The free-motion presser foot is in the way as we quilt or embroider so removing it completely makes it much easier to see where you're going.

Using the Octi-Hoops makes it easier to do any Free-Motion technique such as: embroidery, stippling, quilting, darning, cutwork and more.

### QUILTING with the OCTI-HOOPS

It is amazing how easily the hoops working together make quilting and stippling so easy. The procedure for quilting with the Octi-Hoops is:

1. Lay your Quilt Sandwich beneath the sewing machine needle where you want to begin quilting.
2. Slide one of the 2 larger frames under the quilt (the bottom layer of the quilt is now lifted (floating) over the machine's feed dogs and throat plate area. You will NEVER have puckers on the back again.

If you can't drop your machine's feed dogs you can still use these hoops. Simply set your stitch length on 0, and you will be shocked that they don't cause any problems.

3. Place the next frame down (in size) on top and inside the bottom frame (( NOTE: THERE IS NO STABILIZER ON THE QUILT)) and that is all that is needed to hold the quilt in place.
4. Remove your machine's foot and snap on assembly. REMOVE THE FOOT! NO FOOT IS USED! NO FOOT=NO PUCKERS ON TOP OF QUILT. )
5. Pick up one of the 2 green handles that came with your kit and pretend to write your name with it. Use left or right hand. You will move the quilt using this small handle and write on the quilt with the needle, but your mind will think you're writing.

6. Place one of the 2 handles in any one of the 8 holes located on top of the smaller frame and after pulling the bobbin thread up through the quilt and stitching to tie a knot, cut your thread tails and begin sewing! Steer, using the handle, and talk to yourself - tell yourself you're writing on a piece of paper, not quilting, and your mind will release at some point and quilting will become nothing more than doodling on a piece of paper.

Each of the frames has been engineered in an octagon shape and on each of the eight sides is a hole designed for our handles to drop into. These handles feel like a crayon in your hands and allow you to move the frames by writing as you do on a piece of paper.

The handles drop in easily to each hole and come out just as easily, so you never risk lifting the frame as you embroider which causes stitching issues and needle breakage with traditional embroidery hoops.

You can go to the following website and view the segment Clare taped for Creative Living on using the Octi Hoops to embroider on any sewing machine:  
<http://www.creativefeet.com/products/frames/octi-hoop>

**COURTESY: Clare Rowley  
Creative Feet**

