

A Stitch in Time _ _ _

Just like “a stitch in time saves nine”, using the right product can sometimes save you time and make your quilting time easier and more rewarding.

by **Beth Cameron**
Photos by **Ebert Cameron**

I wasn't sure where to focus my article this time, so I asked the girls at the quilt shop where I sometimes work. I asked them what they felt was the latest and greatest notion out there for quilters today. They felt I should tell you about a new product, by Hancy Manufacturing, called **Quilt Pounce**.

Quilt Pounce looks sort of like a blackboard brush with a hole in the back of it to put the chalk dust in. The chalk dust sifts through to the terry towel type surface of the brush. Then, despite its name, you don't pounce, but you rub it over your stencil. Voila, ready to quilt! You have just saved yourself considerable tracing time. Once you are done quilting, remove the Pounce Powder with a heated iron or damp cloth. The brush comes with a cover, to store and protect the chalking surface when not in use, and refill bags of the special chalk are available.

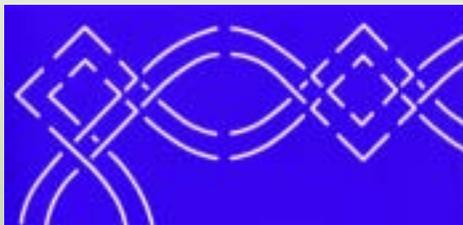
I have to agree with the girls at the shop that this stuff is pretty slick—it was easy and



quick to mark the fabric and fast and easy to remove with the iron. I admit I didn't try removing it with water—why mess with a good thing?

While I am on the subject of marking quilts I thought I would mention a pencil that is fairly new on the market. There is such a vast array of marking tools on the market it makes it incredibly hard to know what to buy. Probably all of you have heard horror stories about marking pencils that did not come out easily or not at all! Maybe, too, you are in the market for a new marking pencil as I am. My favourite pencil is apparently no longer available! Sigh.

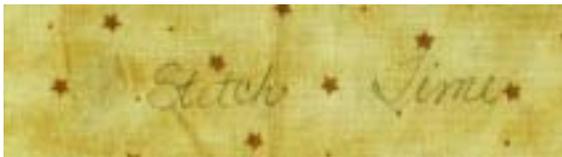
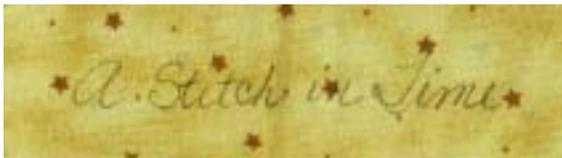
This fairly new product is in the Fons & Porter™ line and is called **Water Soluble Graphite Pencils**. These pencils come two to a package with a pencil sharpener. While they are called water soluble, they can also be



removed with a fabric eraser. I used Clover's™ **Pencil Fabric Eraser** (stick type) to test it out. Clover also makes a regular square type eraser (as do others) but I quite like this stick type which is made like china markers with the sting down the side which you pull down to break the seal and then unwrap to expose the eraser tip. I tested both methods of removal, and while admittedly I probably marked too heavily (I wanted the sample to show in the image I scanned for the newsletter), both came out relatively easily. Despite being touted as water soluble, I think I preferred the eraser. I know I would have liked it even more if I hadn't marked so hard! Unfortunately, it is graphite colour so I still need to find a new favourite for marking dark colours.

I would always recommend you test any *new-to-you* marking method before proceeding, especially when marking something you have put hours of love and labour into.

So now that we have our quilt marked, it is time to start quilting. If you are a machine quilter, let me tell you about my favourite quilting gloves. I have tried all different kinds, including the finger tips cut off rubber kitchen gloves. They all worked but I quite like the **Machingers™** by Quilters Touch. I took a workshop last weekend with Barbara Olson who does all her own machine quilting (which is incredible, I might add) and **Machingers™** are her preferred glove, as well. This news made me decide I should share our favourite with all of you. The gloves are made of a light-weight knit that fits snug on your hand. There are no seams and there is a special treatment on the fingers for grip. Barbara says she can even change her bobbin and needles without removing the gloves. I have to confess I had a



bit of an embarrassing moment with them. I mentioned to a friend, after using them, that I found them quite tight on the wrists. My friend pointed out that this was part of the design, to give the hand and wrists enhanced support. Of course, if I had read all the instructions, I wouldn't have sounded so clueless. OK, so maybe next time I'll read all the instructions before making rash comments. Machingers™ come in four sizes.



For those of you who have been enjoying your Machingers™ and are starting to notice that the fingertips are getting soiled, just in case you are like me and don't always read all the instructions, they do mention to renew the grip on the fingertips by gently rubbing oil soap or saddle soap on the fingertip coating and then washing. Barbara confirmed last weekend that this was the best way to get the fingertips clean.

If any of these products interest you we would like to encourage you to support your local quilt store and ask them if they can get them for you if they do not already carry them. If they are not able you may want to try one of our member shops—their contact information is listed on our website and they are listed yearly in our summer edition of *The Canadian Quilter*.

Special thanks to girls at the *Running Stitch*, Kanata, Ontario for their advice with these products and for reading the instructions when I don't.