

# Ruler Work Quilting on the Baby Lock Vesta

February 2, 2022

## Supplies

- o Ruler foot to fit your machine (see notes below)
  - Sew Steady Domestic Ruler Foot (Low Shank used in video for Baby Lock Vesta)
- o Extension table to fit your machine
- o Slider topper for extension table
- o Rulers for Ruler Work with Gripper Tape on underside
  - Sew Steady Circle used in video
  - Sew Steady Westalee Design Arc 12" used in video
  - Sew Steady Westalee design Feather Template Set 4 used in video
- o Machine quilting gloves such as Machinger Gloves
- o Layered Quilt secured with safety pins or spray baste
- o Sewing Machine set up for free-motion quilting

## Instructions

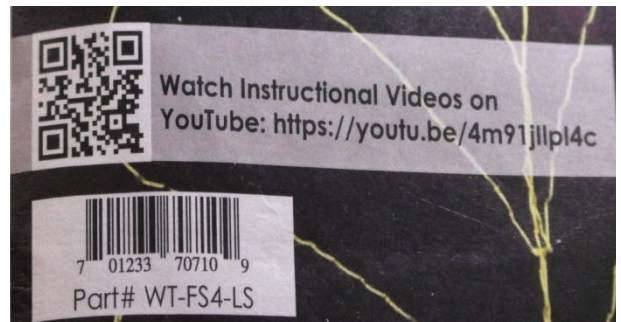
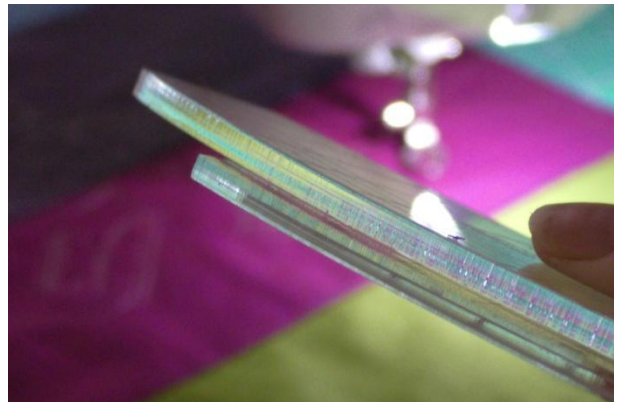
### *Choose a Ruler Foot for Your Machine*

There are over 3,500 different sewing machine models in the sewing world and four different styles of shank. The shank is the part of the machine that where the ankle and foot attach. Your machine could have a high shank, medium shank, low shank or slant shank. In the photo right, the high shank foot is on the left and the low shank is on the right. Select the ruler foot that fits your machine. If you are unsure, enter the model name and number of your machine when ordering and the correct foot will be selected for you at the eCommerce site. If you have multiple machines with different shank heights, select the foot for the machine you will be using for free motion quilting.



## *Choose Rulers for Your Machine and Design*

The selection of ruler styles and designs available is large. Rulers can be used to create multiple designs using the same template. Rulers are available in thicknesses to match the style of ruler foot on your machine. Select a high shank ruler for use with a high shank foot. In the photo right, the thicker high shank ruler is on the top. Instructions for using different rulers to create designs are generally included with the ruler and instructional videos are often available. Rulers also have markings etched on the surface to help in placement on the quilt.



## *Set Up Machine for Free Motion Quilting and Ruler Work*

Set up the machine for free motion quilting.

- Lower the feed dogs. Check your owner's manual for specific instructions for your machine. Some machines use a lever behind the free arm and other electronic machines use a specific icon on the screen. If using a lever behind the free arm, the feed dogs will lower immediately and will raise after taking a stitch.
- Thread machine with matching thread color on top and in the bobbin.
- Attach the ruler foot. Remove the ankle of the machine and place the ruler foot loosely on the ankle. Place the quilt under the foot and **lower the foot lever**. Secure foot with ankle screw so it just glides over the top of the quilt. Different thicknesses of quilts will be adjusted differently.



- Insert a quilting needle in a size to accommodate thread thickness.
- Insert an extension table or lower into a cabinet so the surface around the needle is flat.
- Lay a glider on the surface around the needle for smoother movement.
- Attach gripper strips to the underside of the ruler.
- Wear a pair of gripper gloves such as Machinger's.

## *Practice Your Technique*

The ruler steadies the movement of the quilt to achieve perfect results. Use the ruler to move the quilt by pressing down on the ruler and pressing the edge of the ruler to the edge of the ruler foot. The foot is thick and completely round so the ruler can be in any orientation to the ruler and will not go underneath the foot. Some templates such as the circle template will create a design on the inside of the template. Practice without stitching to get the technique flow. The stitching will be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge of the foot. If a video is available for your template, watch it for technique clues.

All the rules for perfect stitches while free motion quilting also apply to ruler work. See the handout for "The Secrets of Free-Motion Quilting, Revealed!" for more information on perfecting your free motion skills.

