**Quilting Disasters And How to Fix Them**

by Lora W. Zmak and Lisa W. Norton

**A. Stains**

**Bird Poop**- First remove any loose berry poo with a spoon or knife, rinse the stain with cold water. Afterward, pretreat with the laundry detergent paste and let it sit for a few minutes. Gently brush off the stain and rinse. Repeat until the stain is gone.

**Bleeding Fabric** - Shout Color Catchers, They are small sheets that can be tossed in the wash and rinse cycle to trap and absorb dyes. They are safe to go though the dryer. Synthrapol is used to suspend and carry excess dye from the cotton fiber. It removes unfixed or unattached dye and keeps it from redepositing on other areas of fabric. It works similarly to Color Catcher.

**Blood** – I use spit. It works, but now your quilt is a bio hazard. Or an enzyme stain remover such as Shout. After treating rinse the area with water.

**Wine –** Spray on Oxyclean stain remover works in removing wine stains.

**Age Stains -** *Retro Clean* is a gentle soaking agent designed to safely remove yellow age stains (including mildew, wood oil, tea, coffee, blood, water damage and perspiration stains) from vintage quilts and all washable fabrics. Don’t store quilts in plastic. It may cause the yellowing.

**Pens -** Ball point – Milk, or Milk and vinegar. Soak for a while and then wash it with mild detergent.

**Permanent Marker** - Hair spray or hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol. Then wash.

**Frixon pen -** markings come back, wash and then try baking soda and water to help remove the chemical.

**Ironed blue pens** – Water Soluble Blue pens will go away with water, but not always. Sometimes they’re stubborn and keep coming back and if you heat set the blue markings, it resists disappearing. A solution of 50% Dawn with water can make it go away.

**Dry Eraser Pen** – Murphy’s Wood soap was the only thing that got it out. Straight, no chaser.

**B. Holes**

 **Puppy Chews** – Quilts can be patched! Fusible batting tape, plus Applique Steam a Seam Tape, position backing patch, batting and top patch, fuse all in place and then hand stitch or machine stitch it together.

 **Shredded/worn fabric** – Trace the square, triangle or diamond on tissue paper, add a quarter inch seam to it. Starch the seam allowance under and spray baste the back. Then appliqué the block right over the worn fabric.

 **Binding** wears out, quilting wears out. Add a new binding right over the top of the old one. Add a label to the back of the quilt regarding who mended, why and when.

**Old quilts** that are falling apart. If they are beyond repairing, re-invent. If it is too far gone, re make it into a smaller quilt, runners, pillows, Christmas stocking, a jacket, robe. It is a shame to let it continue to rot in a closet. My grandmother used to say, “I may as well use it. If I don’t, the next old woman will.”

**Snipped or cut** – BoNash! From Walmart. It is an invisible fusing agent that leaves no detectable evidence.