

# quilt. sew. live. breathe.

a sewing machine cover

by jake finch



We asked our buds over at Colonial Patterns to whip up this beautiful embroidery pattern, and to make it ours. They did a wonderful job. Then Jake stitched up the panel, pieced strips around it and turned it into a sewing machine cover. It's sized for her machine (she uses a Janome 6500 that sits flush in her work table—it's considered a larger machine) but you can adjust the size for your machine. This cover is really just a quilt creased and folded to cover the machines front, back and top. Ribbons were tacked on the side to hold the front and back together.

### overall materials & tools:

- white cotton or linen/cotton blend: 14" x 11" at least
- 1 fat quarter for cover top and back
- (2) strips red fabric at 1 ½" x 11 ½"
- (2) strips red fabric at 2 ½" x 9 ½"
- (2) strips black fabric at 3" x 9 ½"
- backing fabric at least 21" x 28"
- ¼ yard red fabric for binding
- batting at 21" x 28"
- 1 ½ yards ribbon
- 6-strand embroidery floss in red and black
- five brightly colored assorted buttons
- lightweight fusible interfacing (optional)
- image transfer materials of your choice (see notes below)

### embroidery panel

#### Transfer image:

There are many options on the market to handle this task. The least expensive (and what Jake did) is trace the image onto the fabric by hand. Iron your panel fabric well, using spray starch if desired to make fabric stiffer. (Jake didn't use an embroidery hoop so the starch gave a firmer hand to the panel, which helped regulate the thread tension as she stitched.) Using painters' tape, tape printed pattern image to a well-lit window. Then, center the panel fabric over image and tape edges to window. You should be able to clearly see the image's lines through the fabric. Using a sharp pencil or tracing marker (which you will test on a scrap of fabric to make sure it comes out if needed) carefully trace the image onto the fabric. Remove panel and pattern from window and tape from fabric.

A light box makes this task even easier. Another option is to print out the pattern image onto transfer fabric sheets, like Printed Treasure, but for this pattern you'll need extra long sheets. If you're savvy enough, you can even lighten the lines before printing so it's just dark enough to see. Still more options include special papers that can be run through your printer that will allow you to iron the image onto the fabric, but know that you'll have to "reverse" the image before printing.

#### Stitching panel:

When the panel is ready, backstitch each drawn line using two strands of floss. Black floss was used for most of the design and red was used for the letters. Use a hoop if you prefer as it will help to moderate your thread tension, but don't leave your unfinished panel sitting in the hoop when you're done stitching. It can stretch the fabric out of shape. If you're careful in your stitching to make sure your drawn lines are covered, and if you keep your hands very clean, you can get away without washing the embroidery when you're done.

When you're done, assuming it doesn't need to be washed, carefully iron panel flat and straight. Then, cen-

designed and made  
by jake finch  
skill level: super simple  
finished size: 20" x 26"  
finished embroidery  
panel: 11 x 7½

tering the stitched image, trim panel to 11 ½" x 8". If you do need to wash it, gently soak the panel in cold water and a tiny amount of detergent used for hand washables. Air dry and carefully steam iron flat and straight. Most embroidery floss is color fast and you shouldn't have problems with running dyes, but do check floss packaging for the words "color fast."

One last hint: Jake used a linen-cotton blend and the weave was looser than cotton. After transferring the image, she used fusible lightweight interfacing on the backside of the panel to stabilize the fabric. It's lightweight enough that it doesn't have to be removed and hides the knots from the front.

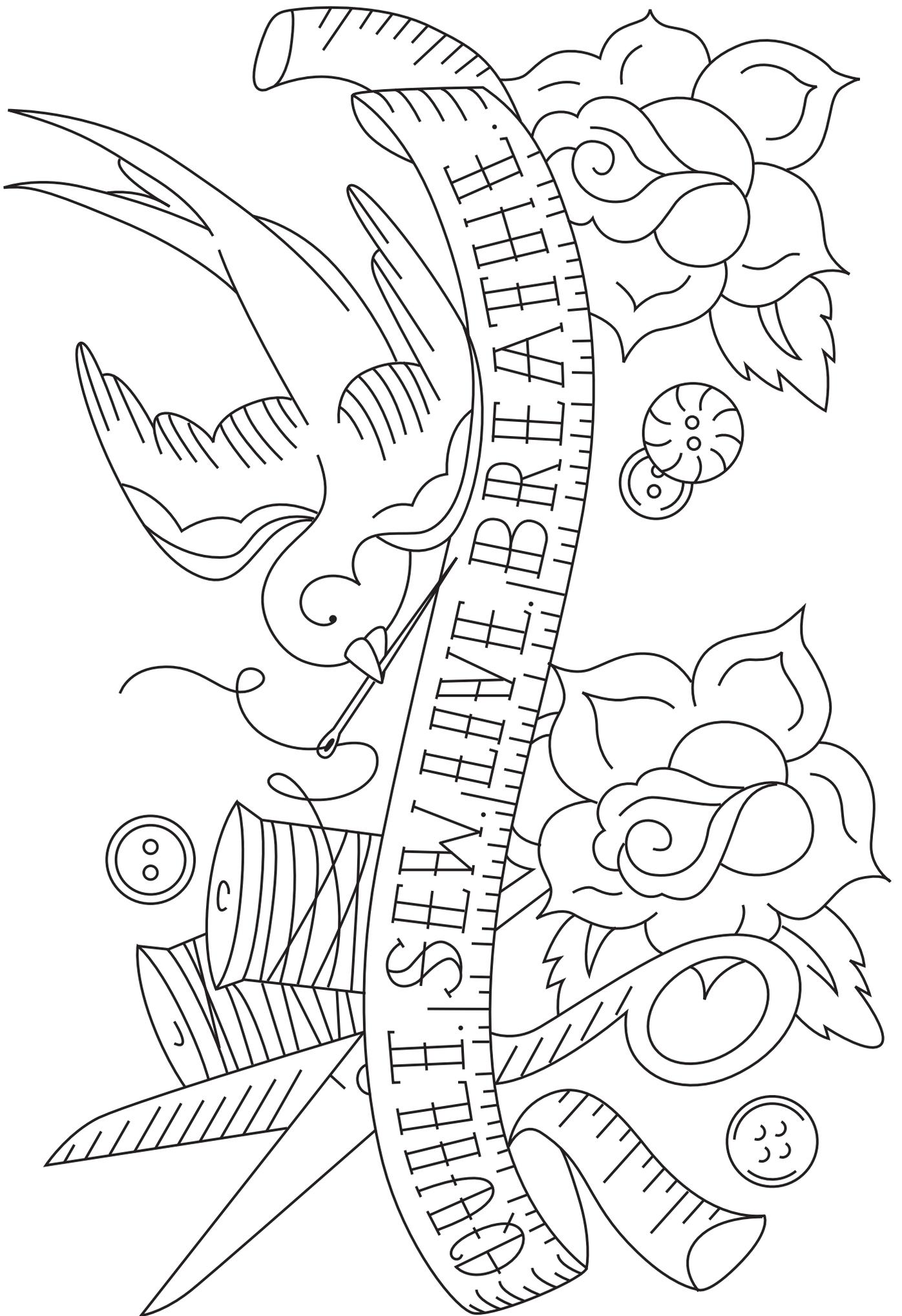
### making the cover

#### Piecing outside:

- Sew (2) strips red fabric at 1 ½" x 11 ½" to top and bottom of panel. Press seams to strips.
- Sew (2) strips red fabric at 2 ½" x 9 ½" to right and left sides of panel. Press seams to strips.
- Sew (2) strips black fabric at 3" x 9 ½" to right and left sides of panel and red strips. Press seams to black strips.
- Cut fat quarter to 20" x 16 ½". Sew 20" side to pieced panel top.

#### Finishing cover:

- Layer, baste and quilt cover. Jake did not quilt the embroidery panel, but did stitch ¼" inside panel's edge.
- Trim cover. Finished measurements should be 20" by 26". If your machine is smaller, you can trim to accommodate a different size. Measure twice and make sure to always keep the panel centered in the front.
- Bind cover's edges.
- Sew four lengths of ribbon, about 12" each, to the back side of the cover edges where it can be tied at the machine's sides. ✨



SHE HAS THE SEWING MACHINE