



*An Artist Newsletter*  
by Becca Rahn



I feel like my theme for this month is "A little better is still better" (you'll see what inspired this in the links down below). One of my goals for this year was to look at the things I do and try to do them better: redoing photos, updating patterns, using the tools I have to their best potential. I've realized that a lot of doing things better means looking at the things that I don't like doing and figuring out how I can fix that. For example, it turns out I find making stickers just annoying. They are so much work for so little return. So I decided to just retire them. Why do something I don't like? I bought a shipping label printer, instead of the paper/tape method I've been

using for years. One of my weaving kits is getting a re-think because they take me so long to assemble that I procrastinate everything about doing it. I just don't enjoy that step. So I'm looking at a different way to package them so it's faster and easier. One simple thing to make it a little better. What's your one simple thing that's made your life better this month? I want to hear about your life/art hacks! -- Becka

## what's new?



I've got a new fabric review over at my blog about [Spoonflower's new Seersucker fabric](#).



I also wrote about a question I get asked a lot: ["Who does your sewing?"](#)





I've also finally gotten these large size project bags listed in [my Etsy shop](#). They are made from recycled canvas so each one reuses about 2 plastic water bottles! How cool is that?

classes



## Surface Design for Fabric & Paper: Creating Kaleidoscope Patterns with the Repper App

I've got a brand **new class over at Skillshare** and I am really excited about this one. I used to teach a "Spoonflower Master Class" back before the pandemic and this was one of my *favorite* projects from that class. It uses an app called Repper to make amazing repeating patterns from a simple recycled paper collage.

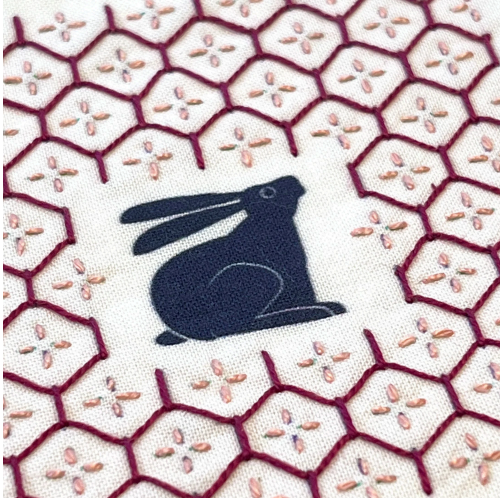
When I reached out to the guys at Repper to get their ok to teach the class, they offered a coupon code for a discount on a Repper subscription for my newsletter subscribers and I said YES! Use the code **BECKAPATTERN** to get 25% off your subscription. (Repper also has a free trial so you can check out the class without a subscription, but you are going to want to subscribe. You are going to love it.)

Check out the class at Skillshare

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On Demand Class

## Sashiko Inspired Squares



My sashiko-inspired squares class is also now available on-demand on my website. There are 6 patterns, each with a different woodland animal in the center.

[See all the class details](#)

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**I'm also teaching free classes for Dakota County Libraries & Carver County Libraries this fall!**

### [Dakota County Libraries](#)

- Beginning Cross Stitch Sept 10, Oct 1
- Embroidered Felt Frog Oct 15, Oct 29
- Woven Mini Tapestry Nov 12, Nov 26
- Corded Silk Jewelry Dec 10

### **Carver County Libraries**

- [Etsy Behind the Scenes Sept 17](#)
- [Newsletter & Blog Basics for Artists Oct 22](#)



On the studio table this month:

**Tools:** I remembered this past weekend how handy this [locking hemostat](#) is when you are threading elastic through a narrow casing. I lost the end and could grab it with these.

**Notions:** I was working on some class prototypes and said "I wonder if you can get the hardware to make clipboards, and sure enough, you can. Just do a quick search for "clipboard hardware" and you can find all kinds of sizes and styles.

**Tools:** I finally bought myself a thermal label printer (not pictured) for shipping labels. It's turned out to be really handy. [This is the one I got](#). It was a little annoying to set up, but it's worked perfectly since.







[This month's game is called Dixit](#). It takes 5 minutes to learn and it's great for larger groups; in fact I think it's better when you play with a crowd. The concept is simple: one person is the storyteller and gives a clue like "discovery" and everyone chooses a card to match it. Then everyone votes. The trick is that the storyteller wants only some of the group to pick the right answer, so you have to give a good clue but not too good. The art is amazing. Lots of fun!

links you'll love

- I've got a whole [bunch of items on major sale in my Etsy shop](#). I never run sales, but these are all items I am re-designing and refreshing so the current stock needs to go to new homes!
- I've never tried dyeing with woad, but did you know [you can save it in the form of woad balls?](#)
- I really want to get some: [The Portland Stamp Company makes custom lick-and-stick stamp sheets](#).

- [Have you heard about Stickergate?](#) I found a number of small business sticker printers to try out and I am enjoying their social media accounts. And that profile of Andrea Lake is a great read.
- I loved Bob Newhart and [this is a nice little profile of him](#). Bernard from the Rescuers has always been a favorite.
- I have always loved quillwork & this is a great read: [Meet Casandra Artichoker, Young Native Artist Reclaiming Lakōta Practices](#)
- So much about AI lately. From NPR: ["AI might be able to help a person become more creative, but it risks decreasing creativity in society overall."](#)
- My sisters and I all sent this around to each other saying "I love this" and I love the message: ["A little bit better is still better."](#)
- My friend Cassandra shows how she [adds tracking devices to the quilts she ships around the country](#). Such a good idea.
- I'm really sad to see them go: [North Suburban Center for the Arts has closed permanently](#). It's a tough year for non-profits (and artists) this year, so do something nice today for one you love.
- I did a lot of sewing a couple of weekends ago and made my [third Santorini tank by Itch to Stitch](#). It's such a great pattern; you can see a [photo over at my Instagram](#).

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