Statler Stitcher

With the Right Moves from Galil
Statler Stitcher Makes Quilting a Snap

A burgeoning home quilting business is emerging in the U.S. due to a company called Statler Stitcher. For the first time, a home quilter can automate the tedious process of quilting without sacrificing individual creativity. Old-fashioned quilting may never be the same.

Statler Stitcher is "selling machines like mad," according to founder and designer Paul Statler. The system is known for its perfect stitching and ease of use. With this automated machine, the quilter merely selects or creates a design and the machine does the quilting. And it does it accurately, precisely and smoothly because of a Galil motion controller hidden in the depths of the Stitcher.

Normally a quilt is held in a frame, which is then guided by hand under a sewing machine. With the Stitcher, the sewing machine moves along an xy axis guided by the Galil controller. The quilt stays stationary and the sewing machine moves. A third axis controls the stitching motor. If the thread breaks, the sewing machine goes back over the broken area and repairs the break.

To accomplish this, a three-axis Galil motion controller guides three servo motors: two axes control the xy moves as the sewing arm goes back and forth to stitch the design to the quilt's filling and backing. A third z axis controls the stitching motor.

Galil's linear and circular interpolation mode allows the xy paths to be programmed and followed easily for accurate, even stitching no matter how complicated the design. For extremely long quilting paths, Galil controllers allow new segments to be added during the motion. Shorter patterns can be downloaded all at once as a single file.

Statler Stitcher's first systems used a DMC-1030 ISA bus controller, followed by a DMC-1832 PCI bus controller. Now the company is considering a DMC-2132 Ethernet motion controller.

Use of the DMC-2132 will bring Ethernet to the equation, providing all the best qualities of precision and flexibility while allowing the computer to be separated from the servo motors, reducing cabling restrictions. The low cost of the DMC-2132 will allow machine costs to remain low.

A total package sells for about $27,500. Statler

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Stitcher does include the long-arm sewing head, table, and computer. The Statler Stitcher will work with most long-arm machines being sold today. It is the only system of its kind on the market.

Many home quilting shops have invested in this machine, allowing them to set up small home businesses quilting for others. Because hand quilting is a tedious process, quilters often will work hard on creating the design and then pay someone to actually do the quilting. The Stitcher also sells to industry for making large quantities of quilts.

Automation adds accuracy and repeatability to the process. Accuracy is to 0.004 inch. The program can determine pattern and size, stitches per inch, and pattern repetitions and offset. Stitching speed is about 2500 stitches per minute.

The Stitcher can also program different quilting patterns. The designer can "teach" a pattern by hand-guiding the machine or drawing a pattern on the PC. The Stitcher will automatically repeat it back. ■

Statler Stitcher
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