

Hi, my name is Linda and I'm a "Threadaholic."

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Since the beginning of time, fabric collectors have stashed, hoarded and hidden their fabric to keep other members of the family from learning of their desire to keep, fondle or accumulate fabric. This phenomenon is commonly referred to in the sewing or quilting world as a fabricoholic. For this illness there is no known cure.

Many of these fabricoholics are coming out of the closet and creating wonderful sewing rooms which allow them to display in an orderly or not so orderly fashion their collections for others to observe and admire. It also enables them to see the collection so that a quick decision can be made as to whether it is time to sew or shop.

As embellished wearables and quilting have become popular in recent years, so has another phenomenon. It is the threadoholic. This person collects thread in much the same manner a fabricoholic collects fabric, though a threadoholic could be worse. There are so many types of thread for varieties of end use. Some go in a needle, some do not, but each type of thread offers a multitude of possibilities to dramatically change the appearance of a fabric.

Not long ago my husband came in to the sewing room in the wee hours of the morning to inspect my project. I had just run out of basic black thread while finishing the final seam. There was not enough black thread on my walls to complete three yards of sewing. I was O-U-T of basic, all-purpose black thread on the spool and on any bobbins. He began helping me look.

In his endeavor to help me through my dilemma, he found a spool of black. "No, that's Candlelight for couching on the serger" was my reply. "What about this one?" he asked with a smile on his face. "No, that's Ultrasheen for embroidery or decorative stitching" I added. After scanning the walls of thread for several minutes and discovering that every other black thread there was used for other embellishment or utility purposes, I decided to retire since no store is open at 2:00am to sell me all-purpose thread. I would have to complete this project later in the day.

I am constantly searching the market for new threads to play with. They give me the creative freedom to completely change a piece of fabric. No one can ever have too much thread!

Much to my delight, YLI has created a thread called Reflections. This nylon core thread with an iridescent film is designed for the sewing machine needle. Truly a thread of a different color, the actual colors will vary depending on the fabric or light source. The unique manufacturing process causes the color to vary within the spool, much like reflections on water.

Reflections is a 40-weight thread. Loosen the tension slightly and stitch with a metafile or top-stitching needle for best results. The large size spools work best with a spool holder which allows the thread to come off the top of the spool, much like a serger. The thread will lift off the spool rather than turning and twisting.

Reflections works beautifully with decorative stitches from the machine. My preference is cotton basting and bobbin thread in the bobbin. Fill several bobbins before beginning to stitch. You will be amazed how much Reflections adds to the appearance of fabric. I like to add layers upon layers of thread to my projects. When a bobbin runs out, I am ready to add another and keep on sewing.

I am enthralled with machine embroidery. I am so intrigued with embroidery that I had Cactus Punch Designs create a disk of my designs. These floral designs are 3-D; therefore, it is necessary to use a

decorative thread in the bobbin as well as the needle. While using Reflections to create these floral designs, loosen the tension, use a large eye needle and watch wonderful daisies, poinsettias, fern and other greenery come alive before your eyes. The reflective nature of this thread is magnificent. And these flowers will last forever without extra care or watering.

Add Reflections to your collections of thread. There are eight wonderful colors on spools of 1,000 yards. I thought that was a large put-out. Can you believe I have gone through one spool creating flowers? What a wonderful bouquet it is going to be.

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