

## SUPREME SLIDER BY PAT LAPIERRE

*driven by Michelle Marvig*



**I**t always amazes me that it is the simplest products that impress me the most. In a world of high-tech sewing machines and gadgets, the little sheet of plastic known as the Supreme Slider has become my best friend while free-motion quilting.

Designed by Pat LaPierre, the Supreme Slider comes in two sizes: 8in x 11½ in and 11½in x 17in. It looks just like a piece of

soft plastic — white on the top side and pink underneath — with a small oval opening. The top of the slider is made from Teflon and it is this substance that gives the slider its friction-free movement. The pink base is not tacky to touch on the skin, but it is tacky when placed on the plastic or metal extension tray of a sewing machine, holding the slider in place.

To use the slider is simple. Add the extension table to your sewing machine, attach the free-motion quilting foot, and lower the feed dogs. Place the slider on the extension table, with the oval hole over the opening in the needle plate on your machine. Smooth it in place to ensure that it has formed a bond with the extension table. You are now ready to free-motion quilt or embroider.

The Teflon surface of the Supreme Slider makes manoeuvring the item being quilted or embroidered easier. This effortless movement makes it easier to create the exact shape you want with your free-motion stitches. It also takes away, for me at least, the tension in my shoulders while quilting, because I am applying less pressure to move

the fabric and getting the result that I want. To use a cooking comparison, the difference is like trying to remove a fried egg from a standard frypan compared with removing it from a Teflon-coated one.

The smaller Supreme Slider will fit most machine extension tables, while the larger size fits the new long-bed style of machines like the Bernina 820 or Janome 6600, or the larger acrylic extension tables. Both sizes can be trimmed, if required. Maintenance is only a quick rinse in warm, running water and an air dry if the pink, tacky back has a build-up of lint and won't stick to the machine as before.

When quilting larger items, it may be advisable to place a small amount of masking tape at the front, just to avoid the possibility of the Slider being picked up accidentally while you are manipulating a larger item. Also, for machines with drop-in bobbins, it will be necessary to lift or remove the Supreme Slider in order to change a bobbin.

Because I was so enamoured with this product, I gave it to two of my students to test as well. They were both surprised by how much difference it made to the ease of stitching and the quality of their work. Jenny didn't want to give up the Slider at the end of class and borrowed it for the weekend to finish the quilt she was working on!

I came across this product while away with the Travelrite Houston tour last year. It was being demonstrated and sold by multi-award-winning quilter Sharon Schamber. I did hope that some of her quilting genius would rub off on me, but I still need to put in the hours of practice to get to her level!

The Supreme Slider is a very handy tool to add to your kit of tools to help your free-motion work. Check with your local patchwork stores to see this product in action.

