



First place winner Georgeanna Sanfilippo (center) receives her Baby Lock Ellegante machine from Sewing World dealers Randy and Vivian Luster in Ft. Worth, TX.



Winning pillow from Georgeanna Sanfilippo

# 1, 2, 3... PUNCH!



2nd place winning pillow from Trudy Flynn



3rd place winning pillow from Kathy Engelmeyer

*You've no doubt heard of American Idol, but have you heard of Punching Idol? 60 students tried, and only 9 made it to the PUNCH!*

Designer and author Christopher Nejman challenged 60 students to learn his unique methods of punching fabrics using a Baby Lock Embellisher machine. Based on his best selling book *Pillows: Designer Sewing Techniques*, the students spent three to 11 months studying, learning and making samples before their final weekend challenge. All were schooled in Nejman's philosophy: Breaking the Rules of Creativity! The triumph -- certification to teach Christopher's exclusive methods to students around the country.

The final group challenge was to build a pillow using their new skills based on the theme "The Magical Forest of Good and

Evil.” Not only were they required to create an award-winning pillow based on this mystical premise, but they had to do so in a single weekend, using pantyhose in their fabric creation! As if that wasn’t enough, they also had to take quality photos showing the step-by-step details of their work, and develop a PowerPoint presentation to entice the judges, and later, their students.

Judges included Linda Griepentrog, former editor of *Sew News* magazine; Sandra Betzina, owner of Power Sewing; Kenneth King, designer to the stars; Pam Mashie, Baby Lock national educational ambassador; Candy Wiza, acquisitions manager of KP books; Kate Bashynski, sewing assistant to Nancy Zieman and artist for Christopher Nejman’s embroidery CDs; Chris Tryon, Baby Lock educational coordinator, standing in for Steve Jeffery, Baby Lock president; and *Crazy Quilting* books author Barbara Randle. Their challenge -- rating the entrants on 18 detailed categories.

First place winner Georgeanna Sanfilippo of Grandbury, TX, received a Baby Lock Ellegante 2 machine from her dealer, Sewing World, in Ft. Worth, TX, and a selection of Robison Anton embroidery threads.

Second place winner Trudy Flynn of Hypoluxo, FL, won a Sulky Metallic Thread package and a Dream World clear sewing machine table.

Third prize winner Kathy Engelmeyer of St. Ann, MO, took home an Amazing Designs CD package and a Dream World clear sewing table.

The book of inspiration, Christopher Nejman’s *Pillows*, published by Krause Publications, is 128 pages of fun, featuring more than 200 color photos to inspire and teach the unique techniques on 15 pillows. Using non-traditional punching methods, flamboyant fabrics, novelty threads, decorative stitches and a few uncommon presser feet, the book serves to inspire all the students who participated in the certification process.

In 2009, not only is Nejman publishing another book titled *Celebrity Bags*, but he plans to take his certification program on the road. Visit [www.christophernejman.com](http://www.christophernejman.com) for more information on punching classes and the licensing program, or call 1-727-372-4888. ☺

