

Empty Spools Seminars Session IV
April 15 - 20, 2011
Friday - Wednesday

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CIRCLES AND SQUARES - Approximately 30" Square
Supply List.

Our week together will be spent exploring and understanding the workings of a Mandala style quilt through design, color and workmanship skills. Students will gain valuable hands on experience in all these areas throughout the week. You may bring your machines into the classroom but do not set them up on your table. Place them under your table until you need them so they are not in your way as we design, color and cut. Once the project design process is explained and explored, students are encouraged to change design direction at any time to create their own unique Mandala. Students will receive a complete pattern for the class project. Take advantage of the time we have together to design and/or make your own quilt.

You can choose your color palette from a multi-colored printed fabric, a photograph, object or anything else that inspires you and has a beautiful composition of colors. Identify and expand each of your colors with regard to value, intensity, and visual texture. Bring yourself lots and lots of choices of each color. The class project is really one color, blue; and an accent of orange. I ended up using eleven different blues with a mixture of values, intensities and visual texture. I began with many more. I also included a dark purple in with the cool blues. The warm accent of orange was expanded to include magenta. A very simple palette: one color, one accent. Bring lots of choices.

Fabric Requirements: Use good quality 100 percent cotton fabric and/or special fabrics like silks; but, be sure you are familiar with them and how they should be treated before sewing. If you like how my quilt looks, notice the fabrics. They are quiet, concentrated tone-on-tone style of fabric, and some have more visual texture than others. I did not use multi-colored printed fabrics in my quilt. If you want to jazz it up a bit or change it a lot, etc., bring your color/fabrics accordingly.

Using my quilt as an example: Amounts are generous

_ yd. each fabric (I used 16 different fabrics, some minimally, others much more). If there is one fabric that might be used repeatedly, more than any other, then get more of that one.

Dresden Plates - I found a small symmetrical all-over print that allowed me to create a kaleidoscope effect by cutting from the same design area 16 times. If you do not have or find a fabric like that, you can create your Dresden plates from any combination of colors/fabrics you like. I needed about 1-1/2 yards of the symmetrical print I found, you might only need a quilters quarter or less of each color you're using.

Accent - 1/3 yd of each. I used two oranges, two magentas (1 bright, 1 dark) and a medium purple.

Final Plain Fabric Border - 1 1/3 yard so you can cut length grain.

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Circles and Squares Supply List

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Tools and Equipment

15" square of flannel covered foamcore board used as a design board to set up your mock up and use the mirrors; one set of Magic Mirrors 5-1/2" x 11 _" by Marti Michell or 8 _" x 11" by Jan Krentz for designing (these are actually plastic not glass and are crucial to the design process, smaller mirrors will be of no help to you. Reducing glass if you have one; 2 sheets of ungridded, flat template plastic, Olfa Magne Touch knife or an Olfa Art & Craft Knife to cut template plastic; 1/16" hole punch or large needle; fabric marking pens or pencils that you can see on your fabrics and a sharpener; permanent pen to mark on templates (pigma pens will smear); fine pins .5mm and .4mm; iron with auto off feature, ironing surface, sewing machine you do your best work on with manual and feet, new needle, appropriate thread (I use DMC machine embroidery thread 100% cotton 50/2; 1/4" foot if applicable, stiletto, seam ripper, small adhesive sandpaper dots or Invisigrip to prevent your rulers from slipping; paper and fabric scissors (regular size and a small pair for trimming seams), notepaper, rotary mats (usual one and a small one for sub-cutting), rotary cutter you usually use and the very small cutter 18mm with replacement blades; rotary rulers; square included; painters tape, colored pencils (only if you usually use them when designing, they are not required); inexpensive school compass that holds its position, tweezers, glue stick, two 18" squares of freezer paper, pressing sheet or parchment paper, mechanical pencil, and whatever additional sewing supplies you usually use. Also, bring a sheet or tablecloth to cover your work at night and a table-top light and a multi-plug extension cord with surge protection.

Please feel free to call me if you should have any questions (925-938-1708). I look forward to a week filled with learning, fun and fellowship.

Piece, Sally