

DIANE GAUDYNSKI

A Quilting Journey

This workshop is "techniques oriented" for Intermediate and Above students who are encouraged to make decisions, work at their own pace and bring supplies that will support what they want to learn. It is for free motion "home" machine quilters with free motion experience, not for beginners. The basic supply list may be enlarged or modified at your discretion. We will work on a small wall quilt to learn techniques, order of quilting, design choices. You will be exposed to both marked quilting designs, and freehand techniques with no marking.

Sewing Machine Skills:

You must be able to:

- € Adjust top tension
- € Adjust bobbin tension
- € Adjust pressure of free motion foot if possible
- € Oil machine (if appropriate)

*The recommended products will help insure your success: soft but stable batting, fine thread, Microtex Sharp needles, open-toe foot. Some suggested sources are included. You may re-pin the project after additional marking in the classroom if necessary - **no basting sprays allowed in classroom**. I prefer pin basting for this class, not spray adhesives or fusibles.*

Batting: *Hobbs Tuscany wool, a soft cotton batt (Quilter's Dream Cotton Select), or Hobbs Tuscany Silk. Please no flat cotton batting or batt with chunks of brown*

cotton debris. Hobbs Heirloom cotton will work, but is not as easy to handle in class and the results are not as good. We are not covering trapunto. No polyester batts, please.

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Your sewing machine should be in top-notch working order, with a shelf or surround. If you get it serviced for class, be sure and do some free motion quilting with it before the workshop to make sure all is well. Many times tension gets changed during servicing, so be prepared.

Bring your best machine for quilting and be familiar with how it works, specifically for quilting--how to adjust tension, drop feed dogs, etc. Machine Accessories such as a screw driver, oil, owner's manual, and phone number of your technical support are suggested. If you can bring a spare machine "just in case," that is a wise idea.

Contact me with questions if you have them at dianequilter@sbcglobal.net so you will make the most of the workshop!

Read through the supply list carefully before you start assembling your items.

Please bring the following items:

Sewing machine with shelf or surround; all your free motion feet including one with open toe (Bernina #24 for Bernina owners); walking foot if you have one; straight stitch (single-hole) throat plate, also optional. If your machine has a foot with a closed toe, many times it is possible to cut out the front yourself or have your dealer do it if it is metal. If your machine comes with a **BSR foot** and you want to work with it, bring that too.

If the plexiglas surround is new, be sure and check it to see if your quilt moves freely on it. If it is sticky, or tacky, wash with warm water and a mild soap, dry with a flour sack dish towel until dry. Then check again. Sometimes there are manufacturing or label residues left on the surround. A **Supreme Slider**, www.freemotionslider.com , VERY strongly suggested. I never quilt without one.

Cone thread holder if you are using large cones of thread (Aurifil, silk, etc.) - or a **horizontal spindle** on your machine if the thread will fit - check ahead of time. What you do not want is a big cone of thread sitting upright on your vertical machine spindle.

Needles: Microtex Sharp machine needles by Schmetz - #70 is a good choice for the threads suggested, but it is a good idea to bring a variety of sizes. If you plan on using #100 silk thread, you might try #60 Microtex Sharp needles. Bring extras.

Marking tools - blue washout markers, white markers for dark fabrics if needed (Clover's White Marking pen, Rohin white mechanical pencil type marker)

Grid marker stencil - June Tailor Gridmarker www.connectingthreads.com - a slotted stencil with parallel lines 1/2" apart.

Ruler - 3 x 18 is a good choice, but whatever fits in your luggage

Small sharp **scissors**

Extra **safety pins** (I like #1's, and "bent" are very nice)

Extra **bobbins** – **please wind your own as needed in class.**

Multi-Plug Extension Cord with surge protection
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Table top **light**

Circle template (a variety of small circle cutouts) from office store, optional

Flexible Curve - optional, but a nice addition to your tools for class. Office stores and quilt shops have these.

Sheet, to cover your work at night

YLI Wash-A-Way water soluble thread, optional

Any other aides you like - gloves, magnifiers, lights, etc.

Quilting stencils: I will bring a selection for you to use. If you are sure your own stencil or marked designs are workable for your skill level trace them ahead of time, before layering. If you are totally unsure and need the class for help in design choices, then bring some, but plan on marking in class with my guidance.

Note: Some of you may not mark at all but do the entire project with freehand designs; that is your choice.

Books *Guide to Machine Quilting* and *Quilt Savvy - Gaudynski's Machine Quilting Guidebook* are both very helpful and will explain and augment what is presented in class. There will be handouts, and it is a good idea to plan to take notes in class.

Project - Pieced square wall quilt

We will be working on a totally quilted look for this project, basically a 9-patch with a border.

You may opt to use a 6" pieced block or appliquéd block as the center square in the 9-patch. Choose all the same fabric choice for the squares or vary and shade them for a tonal or contrasting look. If you are very traditional, even an ecru would look wonderful with shades of cafe au lait and cappuccino fabrics.

Use your imagination; pick out some wonderful fabrics and colors so you will look forward to seeing the quilting bring it to life

Solids, soft swirly tone-on-tones or marbles, Fossil Ferns, Cherrywood hand dyed (a suede-like cotton), cotton sateen, for instance. Mix them. The better your materials are, the easier it is and more fun it is to learn to do free motion quilting. Backing fabric/color should be a soft neutral color that blends with the top color choices, in a good quality cotton. Benartex Fossil Ferns or Caryl Bryer Fallert's Gradations work superbly. Some sources:
www.equilter.com www.cherrywoodfabrics.com www.fabricktodayefor.com
www.bryerpatch.com

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Please piece together this small wall quilt. Press seams to one side, not open.

Use a light starch if desired on your pre-washed fabrics and press fabrics well before cutting, and cut the border strips on the lengthwise grain of the fabric, that is, parallel to the selvages. This will help insure straight, flat quilts.

The wall quilt will consist of 9 six-inch squares of fabric with a wide border.

The blocks are set in 3 rows of 3, each 6" finished and cut 6 1/2" square.

Add a 7" outer border (cut 8"). The finished pieced size will be about 32 1/2" square. A narrower outer border (4") is also fine if that is your choice, or the border can be cut down in class.

Note: For faster workers, who can quilt something like this in a day, bring more 18" layered squares to work and perfect techniques, all using good fabric that will show quilting well. Cut backing larger all around.

Fabric choices: Use good quality cotton, any colors, but try not to use "busy" prints. We want quilting to show up well on all parts of the quilt so choose fabrics wisely.

Pre-wash your fabrics so they are easier to quilt, but if you normally do not pre-wash, that's fine.

Batting and Backing: Pre-wash and lightly starch and press backing fabric. Avoid Bali batiks for backing or “white on white” prints as they do not glide well. Cut it about **2" bigger all the way around than the top and batt.** Batting should be cut about 1" bigger all around than the top.

Mark designs: Before layering, if you have any designs you want to use, and are sure will work and will be in your skill level, mark them at this point. Otherwise, we will decide and mark in class by moving a few pins, and do quite a bit with non-marked designs. I will have many appropriate stencils in class for you to use.

Pin baste: Gently and evenly stretch backing on table top and tape or clip to surface. Center batting over it, smoothing carefully. Do not clip or tape down batting or top.

Add top, centered, and smooth in place so construction lines are straight, and then pin-baste top, starting in the center. Be sure and pin along all construction lines, to each side with a staggered technique of placing pins—not across the ditch lines – and at edges. The ditch lines will be stitched first so they need to be pin-basted securely. The pins will be removed and you will have a much easier piece to handle after the “ditches” are stitched. There will still be some pins remaining in the border area and in the blocks.

Before the Class: If you want to layer the project and stitch in the ditches before class, that is a good idea. Use the threads listed below for this, or even an invisible monofilament thread and neutral cotton thread in the bobbin.

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Other Supplies

Thread:

For this class and for learning many of my signature quilting techniques, I'd like you to use fine weight threads.

Choose a variety of colors to coordinate and match to the colors in your quilt top. For example, if you have pink squares you might want to quilt with soft gold or light blue thread rather than pink. ***Do not choose a darker contrasting thread - always go same value or lighter.***

Choices for quilting on the top of your project include:

- Aurifil #50 2-ply Egyptian cotton (orange cone) - www.thatthreadshop.com or www.roserushbrooke.com
- YLI #100 silk (my choice for my own quilting) – 200 meter spools, or 1000 m. cones available at www.roserushbrooke.com I will bring an assortment for you to try or purchase
- Superior MasterPiece cotton thread: www.superiorthread.com
- DMC #50 cotton www.harriethargrave.com
- Mettler #60 2-ply embroidery thread (green writing)
- YLI Soft Touch cotton thread

For **bobbin thread**, choose any of the above cotton threads. **Please no poly bobbin thread.**

Warm-up sandwiches: Layer some warm-up pieces made of the same fabrics as in your top and backing fabric, as well as the same batt, about 12" to 18" square, with the backing cut several inches larger. Bring quite a few, or several larger ones so you have plenty of "practice" area. We will not be spending a lot of time on practice, but techniques need to be done "off quilt" until you get some mastery of each design.

I would appreciate it if you would not wear highly scented products or perfumes in class, and to refrain from using any chemical products or sprays in class. Thanks from all of us who are sensitive to these things.

Questions? Contact me at dianequilter@sbcglobal.net or check ahead of time at my website for tips and updates at www.dianegaudynski.net