

Empty Spools Seminars

SESSION I: Sunday – Friday, Feb. 25 – March 2, 2018

Circle Around - Curves Ahead!

Jeannette DeNicolis Meyer

www.jdmeyer.com

Description: Create rhythm and movement across your quilt surface by learning how to “draw” template-free curves with your rotary cutter and piece them on your machine, how to make templates for very deep curves, how to stitch quarter-circles with a minimum of fuss, and how to inset circles and other organic shapes in a few fool-proof steps. You'll leave class with a quilt top, a sampler notebook, and total confidence in your ability to piece curves and circles.

Supply Fee: \$5 for handouts and use of communal tools and materials

STUDENT SUPPLY LIST

BASIC SUPPLIES:

- Rotary cutter** with new or sharpened blades
- Cutting mat** – at least 18” x 24”
- Sewing machine** you know how to use, in good working order. Pack the instruction booklet, plug and foot pedal (don't laugh: it has happened!) Check your instruction booklet to learn how to move the needle position. If your machine doesn't have a setting for moving the needle position, bring some masking tape to mark a guide on the machine bed.
- Extra sewing machine needles**
- Extra bobbins**
- Scissors** (both fabric and paper)
- Seam ripper**
- Straight pins**
- Piecing Weight Thread** to blend with fabric
- Pencil and paper** for taking notes

FABRIC:

- For the quilt top: A selection of fabric of 1/2 to 1 yard pieces These lengths of fabric should contrast with each other in hue or value or both. It would be best if they change hues or values over the surface of the fabric (hand-dyed fabric works well). It's hard to know in advance what you'll opt to use in class, so bring a good selection from which to choose (or to trade!).
- For the technique samples: We'll be making small samples of a variety of techniques for making circles and curves. You can either cut bits off of the larger pieces you're packing to make your quilt top, or you can make room for 8-10 fat quarters in your suitcase.

OPTIONAL:

- Extension cord
- Batting and backing for the quilt top you make; you know yourself. Are you the speedy student who always finishes first? Then you might get to this step. If so, don't forget to pack some sewing machine needles and thread for machine quilting, along with safety pins for basting.
- Examples of your work to share (outside of regular class time). I recommend packing a few of these, whether you think you want to share them or not. That gives you the option of changing your mind.
- What makes you happy when you're in a workshop? I've seen everything from a portable sewing table to a special chair to personal listening devices. Whatever makes you more comfortable and able to go for it in class is worth considering hauling along.

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Mail: 5306 Springridge Court, Fairfield, CA 94534-4005 | Phone: (707) 864-1170 Fax (707) 864-1345

Email: info@emptyspoolsseminars.com | Website: emptyspoolsseminars.com