

# Empty Spools Seminars

SESSION II: Friday – Wednesday, March 2 – 7, 2018

## Renegade Thread Play with Melinda Bula

This is a technique class! Melinda takes the fear out of free motion quilting while teaching how to shade and highlight with thread. Learn to add dimension to your flower or landscape quilts. You will learn how to master your machine with Melinda's amazing tips and tricks.

### First part of the retreat you will learn:

How to add beautiful layers of thread painting to highlight, shade, and add depth to your quilt.

You will make a quilt sandwich and practice a variety of stitches appropriate for flower and landscape quilts.

You will learn how to master delicate, shiny rayon thread.

### Second part of the retreat:

You will have a chance to practice your just-learned stitches by either working on her Sunflower pattern or, if you have taken one of her previous flower or landscape classes, you can work on the quilt from that class.

This is a great class to help you feel more confident with free-motion quilting. And it's fun!

**Class Kit:** \$25 kit fee for this class includes a 20-page workbook, the Sunflower pattern, unlimited Top Stitch needles for class, as well as an assortment of pre-fused fabric shapes to practice your new-found talent.

### **Supplies to bring:**

- Sewing machine with foot peddle, **extension table**, cord, a free-motion presser foot, and machine instruction booklet
- Variety of 40-weight rayon threads - I like Sulky Rayon 40 thread. I sell thread packs on my website if you can't find it
- 1 yard of a solid black fabric to use for your practice quilt
- 1 yard 100% cotton low loft batting. I use Quilters Dream batting in the lowest loft, called Request. The batting should be cut to 22" x 36" for the practice quilt
- White chalk pencil
- Long straight edge ruler and rotary cutter
- 12 medium-size safety pins to pin the layers together
- Assorted scraps or fat quarters of at least 5 fabric colors you like
- 4 yards of Steam-A-Seam 2, either 12" or 18" wide
- Scissors for paper and fabric
- Straight pins (I like the flower head pins)
- Sharpie marker
- Free-motion gloves or whatever you like to use
- 4 extra bobbins (empty)
- Iron (if not provide by the venue)
- Table top lamp if you need more light

**Don't forget fabrics for the Sunflower quilt, go to my web site to download a supply list and color chart or bring your flower or landscape quilt ready to work on.**

### **Important Machine Talk before Class!**

You cannot learn free-motion quilting on a sewing machine that you have not sewn on and used to completed at least one project. Please do not bring your new machine that you just got or a friend gave you and you don't know how to use it. It will be a disappointing waste of your valuable class time.

You need to know how to thread it, how to drop the feed dogs, and how to set your needle in the down position. You'll need to know where the top thread tension adjustment is and how to use it. Also, how to turn it on would be a good thing. You can laugh now!

If you have to put a plastic shield over the feed dogs case to do free-motion quilting this is not the best machine to use for smooth free- motion quilting. Although I have done demos on this kind of machine, I want you to be successful, so please know how to work your machine!

This class is for you and I want to take the intimidation out of thread play but I can't help if you don't know how to use your machine. I will be there with you at every step, so don't worry. If you have any questions, my email is [melbula@comcast.net](mailto:melbula@comcast.net)



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Mail: 5306 Springridge Court, Fairfield, CA 94534-4005 | Phone: (707) 864-1170 Fax (707) 864-1345  
Email: [info@emptyspoolsseminars.com](mailto:info@emptyspoolsseminars.com) | Website: [emptyspoolsseminars.com](http://emptyspoolsseminars.com)