

## Spiral Mandalas & More Multi-Day Workshop

with RaNae Merrill

Page 1 of 3

In this workshop, you will design and sew a spiral mandala quilt. We will also explore other possible layouts using combinations of spirals, and if you wish you may design a quilt that is not a mandala. The class is based on the techniques in *Magnificent Spiral Mandala Quilts (MSMQ)*. You may create your own version of the quilt shown here, or you may use one of the patterns in MSMQ, or you may design your own completely from scratch. We'll explore "seeing between the blocks", proportion, flow forms, various types of symmetry, color and value, and fabric choices. During the week of the seminar you will probably finish the first wedge of your mandala and be able to see how the finished quilt will look using mirrors.

**Quilt size:** Templates are available in two sizes, 20" diam. mandala that finishes to approx. 30" square, and 30" diam. mandala that finishes to approx. 45" square. If you design from scratch you may make any size you wish.



**There is a class materials fees payable to RaNae in class.** Please check the information from the presenting organization for the amount of the class materials fee. Also please come prepared to contribute to the cost of using a printer/scanner/copier in class (see info below about printers).

### Tools: (Items marked with asterisks are available for purchase in class)

<b>For designing:</b>	_____ Scotch tape
_____ Scissors for paper	_____ *A pair of mirrors at least 8" x 10", taped together along one edge to make a hinge (if they are rectangular tape them along the shorter edge). <b>Smaller mirrors will NOT work!</b> Mirrors available in class are non-breakable. If you bring glass mirrors, cover the entire back of the mirrors with tape, so that they will not shatter if dropped. (See next page about pre-ordering mirrors.)
_____ Pencil and a <i>fresh</i> eraser	
_____ Fine-point permanent black pen	
_____ 12" Ruler	
_____ At least 4 clear plastic page protectors	
_____ Dry-erase markers or crayons in a variety of colors. (See notes below.)	
_____ 15-20 Q-tips (for erasing dry-erase markers)	
_____ Plenty of white paper for drawing	_____ Inkjet printer/scanner/copies (please see Page 3)
<b>For sewing:</b>	
_____ Basic sewing tools: pins, scissors, etc.	_____ Translucent foundation material*
_____ Neutral colored thread for sewing; I prefer a fine weight, #60 - #100 if possible.	_____ Double-sided tape (a full roll; permanent, <i>not</i> removable; buy it fresh at an office supply store: old tape shreds! Scotch brand in yellow and red box is best.)
_____ Rotary cutter (45mm or larger), ruler and mat (Please bring one with a blade guard.)	_____ Masking or painter's tape
_____ Two highlighter pens in different colors	_____ *Add-a-Quarter tool with a card
_____ Orange, Pink or Yellow are best	_____ *Seam roller (optional, but really helpful)
_____ Table top light and multi-plug extension cord with surge protection (recommended)	_____ Several plastic bags to hold cut pieces of fabric

### **Markers, Binder Clips & Ziploc bags:**

Bring dry-erase markers or dry-erase crayons in variety of colors, if possible colors that correspond to your fabric colors. (Do not permanent markers or water-based markers - they don't work on the plastic page protectors that you'll be using to color your quilt design.) Markers can be purchased at office supply stores or online at [www.Staples.com](http://www.Staples.com). Binder clips and ziploc bags are essential for keeping all your pieces of fabric organized once they are cut. Small binder clips (3/4" wide): Staples Item #480114; Medium binder clips (1-1/4" wide): Item #831602. Ziploc bags can be purchased at any grocery store.

### **Printer:**

We will need at least one inkjet printer/scanner/copier in class for designing and for printing templates on translucent foundation material. If you are driving and can bring one with you, please contact RaNae in advance ([ranae@ranaemerrillquilts.com](mailto:ranae@ranaemerrillquilts.com)) to let her know you are bringing it. Please bring paper, extra ink cartridges and the printer software. Class members, please come prepared to contribute to the cost of paper and ink.

### **Sewing Machine Set-up:**

Bring your machine ready to sew with a new 75/11 or 80/12 needle and a foot that allows you to clearly see lines on the foundation: open-toe foot or a clear foot with a center-line mark. Make sure your machine is working properly. Don't set up the machine at the beginning of class -- use the table for designing, then set up when you're ready to sew.

### **Fabric:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Fabric #1: One multi-color large-scale print fabric.

\_\_\_\_\_ Fabric Group #2: Pull from the first fabric a palette of 3-5 colors, then add 2-5 shades of each color.

These should read as a single color: solids, tone-on-tones, small textures or tiny prints. As you select shades, think of how they would work together as gradations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Fabric Group #3: Several multi-colored fabrics in small to medium prints that combine colors in Group #2. The colors should be evenly distributed throughout the pattern.

\_\_\_\_\_ Fabric #4: A light or dark neutral to use as negative space within your mandala.

You will be creating your own design, so yardages will depend on how you place colors in your quilt (you probably will not use all the fabrics that you bring). To give you an idea, for a 20" mandala (30" finished quilt) you will need approximately 1/8 to 3/8 yard of each fabric in the mandala (if you use a lot of one fabric you may need more), 1 to 1-1/2 yards of the background fabric (this could be the large-scale print or any other fabric), approx. 1 yard of Fabric #4, and 1 yard of fabric for borders and binding. Width-of-fabric (WOF) 1/4 yards are better than fat quarters for this project, but either will work. See below for info on purchasing a fabric kit.

If you want to make a mandala using one of the patterns in *Magnificent Spiral Mandala Quilts*, I recommend that you download the PDFs from the online library that accompanies the book and print them onto foundation sheets before coming to class. You may be able to do this on the printer in class, but it will save you valuable class time if you do this before coming.

### **Items available for purchase in class:**

**Books:** *Magnificent Spiral Mandala Quilts* (required for class) and *Simply Amazing Spiral Quilts*. Each book includes the basic drawing and sewing techniques for spirals. If you have the first edition, please download the free updates in the Books section of my website. The books cover different aspects of designing with spirals: *SASQ* pays more attention to *individual* spirals and how to use them in a variety of quilt settings. *MSMQ* pays more attention to *combining* spirals and applies them specifically to the round, mandala-style quilts we'll make in class.

**Tools, notions and translucent foundation material:** In the tools list above, items marked with an asterisk will be available for purchase in class. About foundations: If you create your own mandala design entirely from scratch you will need blank sheets of translucent (see-through) foundation. Or, you may opt for pre-printed foundations. Both will be available for purchase in class. Packages of blank foundation sheets are in packs of 25. Complete sets of pre-printed foundations are available in two sizes: 20" diameter and 30" diameter. Each set will make two complete mandalas in different designs.

**Mirrors:** Each person must have their *own* set of hinged mirrors for the design portion of the class. Mirrors available for purchase in class are non-breakable and lightweight so they are safe for travel. Please pre-order mirrors -- see instructions below. ***IMPORTANT: If you bring your own glass mirrors to class, the backs must be covered completely with tape before class so they will not shatter if dropped. The mirrors MUST be at least 10" long on one side. If the mirrors are rectangular, tape them together along the SHORTER side, so that the long side rests on the table when they are open.***

**Fabric kits (optional):** There is an optional fabric kit available. Look for the Dreamcatcher kit (the image shown on page 1) in the Patterns section of my online store at [www.ranaemerrillquilts.com](http://www.ranaemerrillquilts.com). Please pre-order following the instructions below.

**To pre-order mirrors, fabric kits and other items:** Please order through my online store at [www.ranaemerrillquilts.com](http://www.ranaemerrillquilts.com). (Standard shipping charges and shipping times apply.) Keep in mind that I travel extensively, so I will have a limited amount of inventory. I recommend that you order as much as possible in advance.

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Visit the Spiromaniacs blog (more on **SASQ**) at <http://spiromaniacs.wordpress.com>

Visit the Spiromandalas blog (more on **MSMQ**) at <http://spiromandalas.wordpress.com>

Sign up to receive the Spiromaniacs newsletter and a free pattern at [www.ranaemerrillquilts.com/join](http://www.ranaemerrillquilts.com/join)

For more information about Spiral Quilt workshops and lectures, go to [www.ranaemerrillquilts.com/teaching](http://www.ranaemerrillquilts.com/teaching),

or contact RaNae at [ranae@ranaemerrillquilts.com](mailto:ranae@ranaemerrillquilts.com)

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