



QUILT ALCHEMY

with Giant Nested Curves

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Description:

The Giant Nested Curves quiltmaking approach began from a desire to use what I had on hand. The construction of the first top used only scraps and leftover batting, and I bound it with a mix of random binding tailings. Even the quilting used assorted thread colors from bobbins left over from previous projects. I used bits from so many different projects, yet the result felt like something completely new. The secret was the strength of the overlying design: large curves nested inside one another.

The Quilt Alchemy workshop outlines this strategy in a way that anyone can use with their own readily-available materials. It might be unfinished quilt tops that no longer spark joy, cherished scraps and off-cuts, or orphan blocks. Or maybe it's fabric that is much loved and still in a bundle (much hated fabric is also welcome). We'll identify the strengths and weaknesses of the components, and then we'll develop a strategy to enhance and transform our materials. Everything will go into new compositions with quarter circle seams that have 6, 9, and 12 inch radii. The results will be a project that's defined by each quilter's aesthetic.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop instincts for selecting fabrics or arranging offcuts and scraps.
- Explore repetition and pattern when constructing improvised slabs or “made” fabric to use with templates.
- Build technical skills for sewing precise curves
- Further your understanding and use of design tools like asymmetry, balance, and variation.



Provided by Instructor :

- Templates for participants to share during the workshop (also available for purchase)
- Instructional handout (pattern booklet)
- Painters tape for hanging design walls



Participants should bring the following:

Tools:

- Sewing machine with a presser foot that does not have a flange or guide. We will be sewing with a true $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. *Don't forget the accessories like the power cord and the foot pedal!*
- Large and small rotary cutters (I prefer 45mm and 28mm, but 60mm and 18mm are good).
- Cutting mat - the largest you can fit in your luggage. Minimum size is 14" square.
- Rulers - 6" x 24" and a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (or larger) square
- Straight pins, seam ripper, thread, snips
- Small diameter glue stick (Sewline, Fons & Porter, Bohin, Quilters Select, Prym, etc)
- Battering or flannel to use as a design wall
- Camera with ability to take and display pictures (phone is fine)

Fabric:

- Assorted scraps, orphan blocks, unfinished quilt tops, or leftover yardage to make the slabs that will go inside the curves/circles.
- Yardage for background
 - On average, I get the background pieces for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ circles (10 quarter circle squares) from $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of fabric.
 - Three yards (or less) would be needed to create the layout below.
 - This does not have to be continuous yardage and can be a mix of completely differently fabrics or fabrics within a narrow range of color/value like the the mostly blue background below.

