

## HOW TO MAKE A HANDMADE QUILT

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## HOW TO MAKE A HANDMADE QUILT

### EMPTY SPOOLS FIVE DAY SESSION

You can make a quilt entirely by hand in 5 days. From the very beginning of hand piecing the blocks to hand quilting to binding the top, I will take you step by step on your Slow Stitch journey. You will learn to hand piece a variety of block patterns from a simple 4 patch to fast pieced triangles to curved pieces and templates, from flying geese to improv scrappy blocks, we will cover it all. Next you will baste and mark a hand quilting sampler and start on with both traditional and Big Stitch quilting using the rocking stitch method. Finally, you will learn to do either a traditional binding or a facing to finish the edges. This will be done all by hand. Along the way I will teach you how to square up blocks, proper ironing techniques, how to baste the three layers together, mark quilting designs and finally how to design a quilting pattern to give your handmade quilt that individual touch. On the last day, bring your UFO projects to class and we will design a quilting pattern to give your project that one of a kind look. Even if you are an experienced quilter, this class will be full of information for you. Yes this is Slow Stitching but done in a way that gives you a finished quilt faster than you may think. Leave your machine at home and bring yourself back to the Joy of Handwork.

LEVEL: ALL

### Course Description Day by Day

We will be making two separate small projects. The first will be hand pieced blocks to be sewn together to make a small quilt top. Your choice of blocks and your choice of size. The second will be a hand quilting sampler where you will learn how to mark and stitch some simple hand quilting designs using both traditional and big stitch quilting.

NOTE: I have plenty of plans for this session but my focus is on my students and their ability to learn the techniques. So this day by day plan can change.

#### DAY ONE:

- Start hand piecing with a simple 4 patch block and advance to half square triangles, flying geese, curved seam blocks with templates, and improv blocks.
- Choose your block patterns to set into a quilt top.

- How to correctly press your hand stitched blocks and how to make a pressing plan
- How to square up your blocks and avoid bias seams.

#### DAY TWO:

- Continue piecing and learn how to sew your blocks together to get a square quilt
- Learn to mark 3 traditional quilting designs using a pencil and ruler and templates.
- Other marking tools will also be introduced along with how to use stencils.

#### DAY THREE:

- How to baste the small hand quilting sampler
- How to properly fit a thimble and use it.
- How to do the rocking stitch the traditional way
- How to do Big Stitch Hand Quilting

#### DAY FOUR:

- More hand quilting
- How to look at your quilt top with new eyes and decide on a quilting design.
- Trunk show of my quilts to illustrate quilting designs
- What judges look for in a quilting design

#### DAY FIVE:

- How to do a binding by hand
- How to do a facing by hand
- Share your UFO projects and get ideas for quilting designs (this is my specialty) along with a trunk show of my quilts for inspiration.

## Supply List

1. Wooden Hand Quilting Hoop about 14" in diameter works the best and will fit into your suitcase. These have a thick rim and are adjustable. Don't bring a large embroidery hoop with a thin rim, it won't work.
2. Hand quilting sampler. If you would like to make your own, bring the following: Two pieces of 20" x 20" fabric which should be a firm cotton, (muslin is a good choice) in a solid, light color so you can see penciled lines. A 20" x 20" piece of batting recommended for hand quilting. I recommend Hobbs Cotton 80-20, Hobbs Thermore, or Mountain Mist Quilt Lite. We will mark and baste it in class. I will have kits available with top, batting, and backing for purchase in class \$20.00 payable in cash or check to me.
3. Fabric for hand pieced blocks, again quilting cotton is recommended. If you want to do a 2 color quilt, like my sample, you will need approx. 1-2 yards of each color or the equivalent in scraps. The size of your finished top will be up to you.

4. Hand quilting thread (not regular thread) in a color that will contrast with your fabric so you can see your stitches clearly. Also bring a spool in a neutral color. I recommend YLI or Gutermann Hand Quilting thread. We will use this brand for both hand piecing and hand quilting.
5. Hand quilting needles. They are called “betweens”. Invest in a good quality needle such as John James, or Foxglove. Size 9 should be appropriate.
6. Hand Quilting Thimble. It should be metal, not leather or plastic and fit the middle finger of your dominate hand snugly so that it does not twist. Make sure it has a flat top and a ridge with deep dimples. I recommend a Dritz Slip Stop thimble available in fabric stores or on line.
7. For Big Stitch Quilting: Perle Cotton Size 8 and a Chenille needle size 24
8. Rotary cutter and mat.
9. Regular sewing needles and thread for basting. Sewing supplies such as pincushions, thread snips, needle threader, etc. Scissors for paper or plastic cutting.
10. Irons and ironing boards are provided by Empty Spools. However you might want to bring an ironing mat that can be used for squaring up your blocks.
11. Applique pins, short sized, Clover makes a good one with a white head that is easy to use. These are very important.
12. T pins to use for blocking
13. Sharpened #2 pencil and Quilter’s ruler, 12 ½ “square with 45 degree marking line at the corner for marking quilting designs and squaring up finished blocks.
14. Quilt tops or any planned quilt project so we can use it to discuss quilting designs. If you can’t fit it into your suitcase, printed photos are recommended.
15. Notebook and pen for note takers.
16. BIG NOTE: Lighting might not be ideal in our location. I recommend bringing a plug in light. Good lighting is very helpful for hand sewing. Empty Spools will supply extension cords for us.

#### Notes for Supplies

I will have a few hand quilting hoops for class use. If you need one, please let me know ([patty9308@att.net](mailto:patty9308@att.net)) so I can reserve it for you.

I will have thimbles for you to try on for a good fit if your thimble does not pass inspection and you can use it for the class.

If you are purchasing a kit from me, let me know in advance so I can bring it to class. Email me at [patty9308@att.net](mailto:patty9308@att.net).