

Cogs Quilt: a curve, cog, composition and construction workshop with Jenny Haynes

In this workshop we will be playing with the traditional Snake Trail block with a twist; a square block with cogs in the corners. This block will be the start of your designs and work as a puzzle piece that can be flipped and turned to change the composition of your Cogs quilt. There will also be plenty of room for free cogs play and a more improv approach.

Learning Objectives:

Amongst the many techniques and skills covered in this class are no-pin curves, FPP using freezer paper, colour work, construction and quilt design.

Jenny will be guiding you through the design, planning and prepping stages of your quilt, starting with an online prep session on Zoom a few months before the 2027 Empty Spools Seminar. The designing part can be done in many different ways: with pen and paper, the layout app on your device or on your chosen drawing app. No computer skills needed.

A Cog Quilt pattern is available for those who'd prefer a more set, and less open ended approach.

Level:

The class is targeted to the experienced quilter who would like to develop their craftsmanship further. Adventurous and brave beginners should also feel encouraged to apply. No previous curve experience is required, but general quilting knowledge is assumed (how to use a rotary cutter, sew with an accurate seam allowance etc.) and an eye for precision always helps.

Dates and Location:

The in-person workshops will take place at Empty Spools Seminars 5th - 10th of March, 2027

Itinerary:

'Get Ready!' Session 11am PST, 22nd of November 2026 - Zoom Meeting

In this two hour online session we will be going through the design and pattern, templates and pre-cutting. We will also talk about how to choose fabric and colours to make the design yours, by using tools like drawing programs and colour apps, as well as coloured pencils.

Day 1:

Set out our equipment and get acquainted.

Day 2:

Instruction will begin with a recap of we talked about in the 'Get Ready!' session, go through everyone's designs, plan the approach and decide what cogs and backgrounds need cutting.

Jenny will share her tips on making the FPP Cogs and inserting them accurately into the background fabric using her no-pin technique. Well also look at lots of seam matching and pressing techniques.

Day 3:

We continue to build blocks, checking on composition and colour as we go. We start joining blocks together.

Day 4:

We focus on progress and problem solving. Any tweaks, alterations and fixes are tackled with Jenny's help.

Day 5:

Our final full day. More assembly tips as well as thoughts on finishes. We will discuss different ways to plan your quilting whether you prefer using pen and paper or a drawing program.

Day 6:

Time to wrap up. We must remember to get a group photo of all your stunning makes.

Supply list in preparation for the class:

- cutting mat
- rotary cutter
- long-gridded ruler
- access to a printer (for the paper templates) for those who choose not to use Jenny's acrylic templates. More templates information will be shared in the prep session.
- Freezer paper (for the Cogs FPP templates). More info in the prep session.
- fabric - fabric quantities will be discussed in the 'Get Ready!' session; please hold off buying fabrics until after the zoom.

Bring to the Empty Spools Seminar:

- sewing machine (with a 1/4" foot or a straight-stitching foot and plate if possible)
- Iron (if using a travel iron, please make sure it's got automatic switch-off function)
- paper templates (discussed in the prep session)
- quality fine sewing thread (40 or 50 wt) in neutral, grey, or to match your project
- cutting mat (12" or larger if possible) and rotary cutter
- table lamp (some of the classrooms can be a bit dark)
- Add-a-Quarter Ruler
- long-gridded ruler (a large square ruler is also helpful, 12" or larger)
- Hera Marker or other non-permanent marking tool/pen/chalk
- pins
- seam-ripper
- fabric (see above), some pre-cutting is advised and will be discussed in the prep session
- glue stick (Prym Aqua Marker or Sewline Glue Pen are popular)
- wool pressing mat (useful but not essential)
- tailor's clapper (useful, but not a must)
- a mister, spray bottle or an iron with steam (again, useful but not a must)

Included:

- PDF Drunkard's Path templates for printing
- PDF pattern of the Cogs quilt (with options to make different versions)
- a recording of the prep session

Design boards without batting are supplied by Empty Spools Seminars.

What to Expect Once You've Signed Up:

You will be contacted directly by Jenny with an invite to her teaching platform. Please add jenny@pappersaxsten.com to your safe senders list to make sure you receive her emails. The platform will hold all your class material including invites to the 'Get Ready!' session in February.

If you have any questions about the workshop, do not hesitate to contact Jenny directly on jenny@pappersaxsten.com