

Exploring Fabric Choices, two-day workshop -- *The most important workshop you will ever take.*

The first day of the workshop is a No-Sew event and is divided into:

Part One: Understanding the Nuances of Color, Value and Fabric Selection in which we will play with a variety of fabric swatches.

Part Two: Build your own resource book of paste-up blocks using the skills learned in fabric play and fabrics from your very own fabric stash.

You will need several fabrics. The fabrics listed are very specific, to be able to achieve success in your future quilts. Each piece of fabric from the list below should be *at least* a **Fat Eighth** -or- **4 ½" x 12"** in size. You can also bring fat quarters or ¼ yard pieces. There is no need to pre-wash because we're not going to sew anything.

It's ok to bring more fabric than is listed below. You'll have more success and choices with more fabric than if you don't bring enough. You'll use a different set of fabrics for each of the seven paste-ups – so please don't just bring one set and plan to use them for everything. The key to this workshop is for you to have a wide variety of fabrics to play with, in varying colors, prints, scale, etc.

When you are choosing your fabrics for the workshop, bring lots of different colors and varieties of fabrics for your Paste-Ups.

You will need and use in class each of the following:

- **Two Whites (one Solid, the other can be a tone-on-tone print)** (By the way, White is white. Everything else is not white.)
- **Two Red prints** (red and white, red and black – it doesn't matter as long as the predominant color is RED.)
- **Two Blacks (One Solid)** and these don't both need to be dark, a black and white print will be fine for the second fabric
- **a graded** (from light to dark) **selection of five (5) Monochromatic fabrics** (Choose one color, i.e.: red, or blue, or green, etc.) **that are not from the selection of fabrics above.**
- **One (1) Ugly fabric**

Additional fabric you will need to bring with you to class:

You'll choose the rest of your fabrics by Value – the lightness and darkness of the fabric:

- very light
- medium light
- medium
- medium dark
- dark

(The hardest things to find are true lights and true darks.) These are fabrics from your stash, in a variety of colors and prints. You will want to have solids, prints (large and small), stripes, plaids, batiks, focus fabrics, brights, florals, geometrics, ethnics, monochromatic blenders, etc. – bring what you normally use in your quilts. The fabrics don't need to be coordinated – remember, we're going to *play*. Please feel free to bring any fabrics you need clarification with.

Supplies for the first day:

- Exploring Fabric Choices pattern, which includes complete instructions for the workshop and quilt – you will purchase this at the workshop -- \$16. *Pattern fee will be collected at the beginning of class.*
- Rotary cutter and mat board (if you can't remember when the last time was that you changed your blade, bring a replacement, just in case)
- 6" x 12" ruler or a 6" x 24" ruler – Please bring a ruler like an OmniGrid or an Olfa Frosted Advantage ruler. (If you have a very old (1980-1990's) ruler with lines that are hard to read, please leave it at home. That type of ruler will not help you to cut your fabric accurately)

- 2 glue sticks - yes, two (these are the office supply type, like Dennison, Uhu or Avery, not the kind that go inside a glue gun. Also, please get the permanent type of glue stick, not the temporary or Post-it glue type – it will never stick, even for a short amount of time!)
- paper and pen for note taking
- sheet protectors (also known as page sleeves) and binder (1” is fine – or whatever you have handy) for your pasteups
- a camera – digital, or the camera on your cell phone. Not a film camera – you need to see an instant image.

We will choose new fabrics for a quilt top using the block that we used for the paste-ups. The last hour of Day One will be set aside to help all students pick the fabrics for their quilts. Bring any fabrics you think you would like to use – **You will need TEN fat quarters for your quilt blocks – two lights, two medium lights, two mediums, two medium darks, and two darks.** I will assist *every student* with your fabric choices for the quilt, including going with you to the Merchants Mall to select what you need.

I don't want you to choose all of your fabrics prior to the workshop because your choices WILL change after the first day's workshop, but I do want you to bring a couple of Focus Fabrics that you can use to choose the fabric colors for your quilt. You can bring some fabrics that you think you would like to use in the quilt, and then add new fabrics as needed.

There will be homework the evening of Day One to cut the fabrics for your quilt for the next day. If you don't have your fabrics cut, you will be way behind when we start the day and you will feel as if you are always running to catch up. I will give you easy instructions for cutting that will help it go faster. Please plan to cut this evening as a part of your festival schedule.

Day Two of the workshop is as follows:

You will need:

- your sewing machine, power cord and foot pedal, along with your accessory box and machine manual.
- A ¼” presser foot (Accurate seam allowance is essential for success. I use one with a guidebar on the right side of the foot that gives me an accurate seam allowance everytime. My foot is the Bernina #57)
- Neutral thread for piecing. I use Aurifil 50 weight light gray or beige
- Put a new needle in your sewing machine, clean the dust out of the bobbin area, and wind three (3) bobbins with neutral thread (light gray preferable).
- A basic Sewing kit with scissors, seam ripper, pins, cloth tape measure etc.
- Rotary cutter and mat board (if you can't remember when the last time was that you changed your blade, bring a replacement, just in case)
- a 6”x24” or 8 ½” x 24” ruler works best to do all of your cutting, which you will do as homework on Friday night. I will show you the easiest and quickest way to get all of your cutting done. If you have it all completed when you arrive at class, you will be able to begin designing and sewing your blocks. If not, you'll need to cut first and won't get to sewing until after noon-time.
- Your cut fabrics sorted into sandwich sized zip lock bags, by fabric, so you'll have 10 of them. Ten fabrics = ten bags.

We will make nine (9) blocks that are 12” square. Don't worry about sashing or border fabrics, those will be chosen once all of your blocks are completed.

The last hour of class on Day Two will be used to evaluate what you have learned in the workshop. You will use your resource binder multiple times in the future and your quilt will be a nice reminder of all of the skills that you have learned in the workshop.

Please make at least ONE* Personal Design Board to use during class:

One 13” x 13” square of Foam core art board (Michael's, Hobby Lobby, any art shop has this)

One 13” x 13” piece of scrap batting – like Warm and Natural

Adhere the piece of batting to the foamcore with craft glue like Elmers.

*You will use these to design your quilt blocks before sewing. If you can make 9 of them, you will be able to design all of your blocks in class. You will use these again and again as you continue to quilt and they will become one of your favorite designing aids.

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If you have *any questions* about this list, please email me so I can clarify any issues before class. My email address is at the bottom of the page.