

Art Quilts ~ Boro by Machine

Supply list (1 page)

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Boro is a rustic approach to mending that was developed in Japan centuries ago. It is similar to Sashiko but in Sashiko, you use structured designs for a decorative effect while Boro is more utilitarian. Boro (also called 'Visible Mending' in the USA) are patches applied to fabric and adhered with simple grid or visible linear stitching. Boro was typically used to mend or patch worn textiles, but in recent years, Boro and Slow Stitching have caught the fancy of contemporary fiber artists who relish the earthy organic nature of this simple approach to stitchery. Boro is typically done by hand but in this class you will work with heavy threads and stitch by machine.



Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-888-9784 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.
Thank you, Helene

TOOLS/MATERIALS:

- **A piece of 'stable' base fabric approximately 9" x 12" or 12" square:** This can really be anything from a quilter's weight cotton (that will need the addition of a medium stabilizer) to a piece of denim or canvas. You may turn and hem the edges if you wish or leave them rough (this is particularly attractive with canvas or denim if you wash and dry the raw edged piece as this will 'fluff' out the edges). Some upholstery weight fabrics might work as well.
- **Medium weight stabilizer (optional):** This will only be necessary if you use standard quilters cotton for your base fabric; Boro involves dense stitching and ordinary fabrics will need the additional support to prevent distortion.
- **Fabric scraps in various sizes:** These can be as small as 1 ½" and larger as you wish, but keep them small enough that you can apply an assortment of them to your base fabric. They can be square, round or odd shapes if you prefer. Texture is a big factor here; you can stick to quilter's weight cotton if you wish or explore other fibers and types of fabric – homespun, linen, denim, silk even wool if you wish. These will be used as 'patches' on your base and you want to choose colors that are attractive when combined with each other and your base fabric.
- **Thread:** 12 wt. cotton or polyester thread; these are available from a number of manufacturers – Aurifil, Superior, Sulky, YLI... Some are marketed as Jeans Stitch thread, others as Top-stitching thread. The thread can be any color you wish as long as it contrasts well with your fabrics. Whether you use the heavy thread on the bobbin as well as the top will depend on your machine, some machines handle heavy bobbin thread beautifully while others need to have adjustments made to the bobbin tension, if that is the case, you can use a standard 50 wt thread for the bobbin instead of tinkering with the bobbin tension.
- **Sewing machine:** preferably with an open-toed zig zag or walking foot. An ordinary piecing foot will work as well but the visibility will be somewhat impaired making it a little harder to control the spacing on your lines of stitching.
- **Needles:** You will need a fairly large needle to handle the heavy thread; bring top-stitching or Jeans needles in size 16 – 18.
- **Rotary cutter, mat and ruler:** The ruler can be any size but a square ruler around 6" or so will be the most useful; these will be to cut your patches if you didn't cut them ahead of time.
- **Scissors and thread snips:** for cutting threads, trimming fabric etc.
- **Seam ripper**