

# Broderie Perse by Machine

## Supply list (2 pages)

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Broderie perse is French for "Persian embroidery". This is a style of appliqué in which printed motifs are cut from one fabric and stitched to a background fabric. It was popular to sew by hand in the late 18th century and early 19th century. Fast forward to the 21st Century, today we love our sewing machines, and it is possible to make lovely Broderie Perse appliqué by machine. The process is relatively simple, though exacting, and involves no fusing. This keeps the finished work soft and supple, perfect to adorn a cuddly quilt or a garment. Broderie Perse can be applied during the construction of a quilt top or applied after a quilt is layered and pinned with batting and backing.

**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](mailto: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:

#### ❖ Fabric:

- **Background:** Chose a fabric that while visually interesting, is subtle enough to not upstage the appliqued motifs. The color and value should contrast enough to show off the motifs. The project size will vary depending on the motif or motifs chosen, but a fat quarter would probably be sufficient to learn the process. If you have a smaller quilt top project such as a table runner or table topper in progress, you may bring that and apply the Broderie Perse to it. Another option is to bring a garment – a shirt or vest, to apply the applique to.
- **Broderie Perse motifs:** Choose novelty prints featuring larger, bold motifs. Botanical flora and fauna prints were popular in vintage Broderie Perse applique but there are many other types of prints that would work beautifully. To be suitable, the prints must be large enough to carry out detailed perimeter stitching along clearly defined edges. Complex prints may need to be simplified, consider how you might do so when looking at potential motifs. You can choose a single large-scale motif, or combine and collage multiple motifs into one composition.

❖ **Sewing machine:** With a free-motion foot. This method relies on some basic free-motion stitching skills but you need not be an expert stitcher.

❖ **Thread:** In colors similar to your motif fabric or invisible thread (if your machine accepts this readily). Motifs usually vary in color so 1 – 3 thread colors that harmonize and coordinate well with the motif colors would be appropriate.

❖ **Chalk pencil**

❖ **Light-medium weight interfacing or stabilizer (optional):** To avoid stitching distortion if applying the applique to a single layer of fabric.

❖ **Batting and backing (optional):** You may opt to layer and pin your fabric layers prior to applying the applique, In this case, the application will also serve as part of the quilting process.

❖ **Scissors:** A pair of fine-jawed embroidery or craft scissors is absolutely necessary for the raw edged appliqué technique. The ones with slightly serrated edges made by Karen Kay Buckley are particularly well suited to this process.

❖ **Sewing pins**

❖ **Seam ripper:** absolutely necessary for this project.

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## Color Wash Background Panels

The sample as shown consists of a scrappy pieced background panel that has been framed. If you are a scrap lover/saver, you can piece a Color Wash style background ahead of time and bring that to the class to apply Broderie Perse on. If you opt to do so, cut multiple fabrics into consistently sized squares, in any size you wish, and piece them into a panel of the desired size. This method will allow you to create color and value shifts for a lovely, luminous backdrop. Frame your Color Wash panels if desired and bring the panel layered with batting and backing to the class.

