



Instructor: Dawn White

Saturday, January 10, 2026

10:00 am – 3:00 pm, \$65

Montavilla Sewing Center
Lake Oswego OR

Project size: varies. You can make a small wall hanging or incorporate your fractured image into a larger quilt.

It's easier than you think to "fracture" an image, creating a ripples-in-a-pond effect using four repeats of fabric. The magic is in the cutting and arranging of squares. A fractured image is created by cutting the first repeat into squares, trimming the remaining three repeats a little differently before cutting them into squares, and then arranging all of the squares on a grid. When the squares are sewn together, voilà! You get a fractured image.

Choosing the fabric. You'll isolate an image on the fabric – not an entire width of fabric – to fracture. Look for a strong medium to large-scale print with plenty of movement, color, and contrast. Asian prints and lush romantic florals with lots of leaves and vines work well. Fabrics with a large motif and varied smaller motifs also work well.

Don't choose a fabric with a single design element that is simply repeated across the surface. Don't choose stripes or geometric prints or fabric with lines. Don't choose a diffused or abstract print or a fabric with a lot of plain background space. I have found that designs on panels are not good candidates for fractured images.

I have several fractured images on my website, firstlightdesigns.com. To see two blog posts with examples, go to <https://firstlightdesigns.com/fun-with-fractured-images/> and <https://firstlightdesigns.com/ufo-sighting-fractured-image-from-2019/>

If you've found a fabric you like but are unsure of its suitability, email me or text me with the manufacturer's name and design and/or a photo. I can let you know if I think it will work for you.

Important: *Don't wash your fabric!*

Yardage requirements

4 repeats* from one continuous length of fabric.

*A repeat refers to the length of a design printed on fabric before that design is repeated. It's easy to find: just look for a specific design element, such as the point of a leaf or a dot, close to the selvage and then see where it occurs again; the distance between the identical elements is the lengthwise repeat

The most suitable prints for **Fractured Image** have a repeat between 12" and 24". Note that if you use a 24" repeat, you'll have quite a bit of fabric left over.

The size of the repeat determines how much fabric you need. For fabric with a 12" repeat, four repeats will be close to 1½ yards. For fabric with a 24" repeat, four repeats will be close to 3 yards. The person at the fabric cutting counter can help you determine how much fabric to buy based on the size of the repeat and the number of repeats you specify.

All four images must be cut from the same position in the fabric. That's why you need four repeats. Even if an image in the middle of a width of fabric looks identical to an image along a selvage, it most likely is not.

Tip: Consider buying five repeats. This will give you a piece of uncut fabric to put on the back of your quilt. People always want to know what the fabric looked like before it was cut up! Extra fabric is also good to have on hand in case you want to fracture a second image, use the fabric for borders or binding, make additional blocks or (heaven forbid!) make a cutting error.

Sewing Supplies

Sewing machine ($\frac{1}{4}$ " foot recommended)

Standard sewing supplies (scissors, straight pins, measuring tape, etc.)

Rotary cutting equipment – large mat (24" x 36" recommended), 45m or 60m rotary cutter with *new* blade, and rulers large and small (6" x 24" ruler is a good choice)

150 straight pins

2" flat head pins (they usually have a flower or butterfly at the top)

2 large (about 12" x 18") sheets of template plastic (frosted, not clear)

Extra fine-point Sharpie pen in black or other dark ink

Design wall: 1½ yards of flannel or lightweight batting. Recommended: flannel printed with a 2" grid, which helps to keep cut squares in straight lines.

Questions? Email me at dawnwhitepdx@gmail.com or text me at 503-522-7681.

