

# Ombre Gradations

Supply list (2 pages)

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Use decorative Slow Stitching by hand or decorative machine stitches to create a unique piece of textile art by securing raw fabric strips to a background panel. For this project, you will select a series of fabrics that will be stitched to a foundation in a progressive sequence. The sample, as shown, represents the tide line of a beach as seen from above. You can choose a representational theme or choose a simple sequence of transitioning colors, values, or textures. This is a wonderful exercise in working with a gradation theme.

**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:

- **A stable base fabric approximately 6" x 18":** Denim, canvas, dense felt, or upholstery weight fabric are good choices. You may turn and hem the edges if you wish or leave them rough (this is particularly attractive with denim if you wash and dry a raw edged piece to make fluffy fringed edges). If the base fabric is lightweight you may add a layer of flannel or thin batting and a backing to add body and stabilize the panel.
- **Fabric scraps in strips and rectangles in various sizes:** These can range from 2" x 5' rectangles to narrow strips about 6" in length. You can stick to quilter's weight cotton if you wish or explore other types of fabric – homespun, linen, silk, or wool if you wish. Keep a gradation theme in mind. Colors can transition from light to dark, or choose a textural transition like grades of sandpaper. The fabrics can be representational, think of a meadow with tall grasses at the bottom transitioning to finer distance textures at the top. You can also forego the idea of a gradation and just use a collection of appealing scraps. **Tip:** using strips that have been torn to create a rough edge adds wonderful texture. **NOTE:** I will have plenty of fabric scraps to share to supplement your choices.
- **Thread or floss (for hand sewing only):** Pearl cotton six-strand floss, or #12 sewing thread. The colors should coordinate with your fabrics but with contrast if you want your stitching visible as part of the design, or choose a single contrasting color for all the stitching.
- **Hand sewing needles (for hand stitching only):** Crewel embroidery needles in a range of sizes are recommended as the choice of needle may vary depending on the fabrics chosen, and an eye that will accommodate your thread.
- **Needle 'grabber' (optional):** This is a little rubber disk that gives better traction when pulling a needle through bulky or heavy materials. Depending on the fabrics and threads you choose, you might find this very helpful to pull a stubborn needle through.
- **A sewing machine with decorative programmed stitches (for machine stitching only):** You can opt to use the decorative stitches in your sewing machine to apply the fabric strips.



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- **Sewing thread:** In colors and fibers of choice. You can use metallic or rayon thread if you are comfortable working with it, or stick to cotton or polyester thread. Using a heavier thread like 12 weight will create beautiful prominent stitches but will require a heavier (Top-stitching or Jeans size #16) needle.
- **Needles:** If you are working with a heavy base panel, use Top-stitching or quilting needles in size #14.
- **Sewing pins**
- **Acid-free Fabric glue stick (optional):** You can use a glue stick to hold fabrics in place while you stitch. Make sure it's acid-free to prevent long-term damage or discoloration of the fabrics.
- **Scissors:** For cutting threads, trimming fabric etc.
- **Embellishments (optional):** These can be buttons, beads, drilled gemstones, sea shells, bits of jewelry or other 'found' objects.
- **Strong polyester or beading thread:** Beading thread like Nymo would be the best choice for attaching embellishments with sharp edges like bugle beads, but a strong polyester button and carpet thread would be suitable for most other objects. NOTE: if you have beads with small holes like seed beads, you will need a slender needle capable of going through the beads with the appropriate thread.
- **Rotary cutter, 6" square cutting ruler and small mat (optional):** You can trim the scraps to the shape and size you want with scissors but you could also use a rotary cutter to trim the strips if needed.