

Playing With Blocks – Skill Building Techniques

Supply list

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In this skill builder class, you will learn a variety of techniques that take you a step or two beyond the standard quilting basics. The project includes partial seam construction, cheater corners, a technique for foundation paper piecing with a re-usable foundation pattern and faced appliqué. You will also learn a neat trick for making easy miniature half-square triangles from leftover scraps. You will practice each technique on an individual block, afterwards you can make multiple blocks for a sampler if you wish, a pattern is included in the handout. **Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-631-8806 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:

- **Fabric:** As you may or may not wish to make multiple blocks for a sampler, it is difficult to predict how much yardage will be necessary for your project. The amount of individual fabrics will depend upon which how many blocks you choose to make and whether you are planning to use a palette of a few fabrics for the entire quilt or a variety of different fabrics to play with gradations or a scrappy effect. If you are going for a scrappy effect, a dozen fat quarters of lots of different fabrics should be enough. If you wish to stick to six or seven selections, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ yard pieces would be sufficient. The finished quilt will be more attractive if you use a variety of simple textured fabrics for backgrounds and prints or focal fabrics for featured points. Pick a special bold novelty print fabric for the center circle; it will be your main focal point. For the borders $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of a contrasting print that coordinates well with the other fabrics.
- **$\frac{1}{4}$ yard of lightweight interfacing:** this can be non-woven or a cotton product like Form-Flex or Shape-Flex.
- **Sewing machine:** With the basic accessories: extra needles, bobbins, etc.
- **Thread:** 100% cotton in colors similar to your fabrics.
- **Pins:** ordinary sewing pins
- **Rotary cutter, mat and ruler:** both a 9" (or larger) squaring ruler and a 6"x 24 ruler would be best
- **Freezer paper:** Available at supermarkets and some quilt shops, you will need a couple of feet or so.
- **Black 'Sharpie'™ brand pen:** you will need the regular (fine) point, not the ultra fine.
- **Pencil**
- **Scissors and thread snips:**
- **Seam ripper**
- **Pattern packet/handout:** supplied in class