

Seashells as Art Stitchery

Supply list (2 pages)

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In quilting, there are traditional motifs that appear repeatedly in variations on quilts, and there are designs that originate outside of the quilting box, designs that escalate a basic quilting job to the level of art. The sources and inspiration for these unusual motifs are endless, but among them are seashells. The seashell is one of the most beautiful natural art forms in nature and comes in various shapes and sizes. In this class, you will use a seashell as your muse and motif to create an exquisite piece of stitchery. You can choose a complex or straightforward shell – I will have some designs to choose from, or you can draft and create your design from a shell of your choosing. After completing the stitching, you can enhance your stitchery with colored pencils or paint.

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:

- **Layered Quilt ‘sandwiches’:** A top fabric layered with batting and backing, pinned and ready to stitch on. You will need one sandwich made of good fabrics for your finished project and a couple of extra sandwiches made from muslin to practice on. The ‘good’ sandwich can be any size you wish but I recommend you keep it a reasonable size (10” – 18” square or a rectangle in that range), especially for a first time project. The practice sandwiches can be around the same size or a bit smaller. For the best results, the good fabric should be finely textured (a mottled or transitional batik would be fine) but without busy or large scale motifs that could upstage your quilting motif.
- **Sewing Machine:** A good basic domestic machine, preferably with feed dogs that can be dropped. Please bring your owner’s manual if you have one and are not familiar with all the functions of your machine as well as the utility tools kit (small screwdrivers, brushes, etc) as you may need to perform some minor maintenance on your machine during class. Don’t forget your power cord and foot pedal.
- **Sewing Machine Accessories:** You need to bring a free motion quilting foot (this is absolutely necessary).
- **Sewing Machine Needles:** Bring a package each of machine quilting or topstitching needles in size #11 / #12 and #14 suitable for your machine. If you are using batiks for your project, Microtex needles in size #12 will also be helpful, and if you choose a heavy thread (#12 - #28), Jeans needles are recommended.
- **Regular Straight Pins**
- **Thread:** Machine quilting thread; this can be #40-#50 wt. cotton, polyester embroidery, or rayon thread (Note: rayon thread can be temperamental for free motion quilting). A variety of colors will allow you to pick and choose ones suitable for the designs you want to use. **Tip:** a heavier weight #12 - #35 wt. thread in a color that contrasts with your fabric is nice to define motifs.
- **12” wide roll of ‘Golden Threads’ Quilting Paper:** Golden Threads is usually available at quilt shops, I will have some to share if you can’t find it.
- **Drawing Pencil and a good eraser**
- **Quilter’s marking pen and a chalk fabric marking pencil:** The blue rinse-away type pen and white chalk if it shows up on your fabric as colored chalks can stain the fabric permanently.
- **Scissors or thread snips**
- **Seam Ripper**

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- **Paper:** A few sheets of 8½" x 11" paper to do some practice sketching shells if designing your own.
- **Machine Quilting Gloves:** Help you grip the quilt more effectively and give you greater control of your stitching; my favorite are 'Machingers'.
- **Coloring mediums (OPTIONAL):** You can enhance your project with applied colors after the stitching is complete if you wish. If you want to try this, options include Prismacolor pencils, Derwent Inktense Watercolor Pencils., Dye-Na-Flow Fabric Inks, or Seta-Color Fabric Paints. There are other coloring mediums you can explore but these are readily available and easy to use. You may not reach this stage on your project in class but instructions for this will be covered in class.
- **Shell Sources:** I will have a few basic shell form designs you can use, or you can draft your own stitching design. If that is your preference, bring images of shells that interest of you (from a book or downloaded from the internet). Print or copy the shell images sizing them to fit onto a, 8-1/2" x11" page filling the area well.

