

The Quilted Word

Supply list (2 pages)

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Among the many quilting motifs and textures, one that warrants further exploration is the creation of the written word in machine quilting. I have seen a few examples and indulged in this myself. Letters are beautiful, and I love incorporating words into my quilts, often with pen and ink, but the sculpted effect of lettering that pops out from your quilt can be amazing, adding texture and complexity to an art quilt. In this class, you will choose some words or letters to use as a quilting design to create a small quilt to explore the possibilities of this wonderful technique. Students can choose a favorite simple quote or a monogram to stitch as a sample. Once you realize how easy this is, you may want to use it on a larger project.



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:

- **A Couple of Layered Quilt ‘sandwiches’:** A top fabric layered with batting and backing, pinned (or spray basted) 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 sandwiches can be any size you wish but I recommend you keep them a reasonable size (14” – 18” square), especially for a first time project. 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 quilted words, that should be the main attraction.
- **Sewing Machine:** A good basic home 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.
- **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 the letters, and some finer threads (50wt.) in colors closer to your fabric will allow you to add texture that does not compete with your lettering.

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- **12" wide roll of 'Golden Threads' or Pellon Quilting Paper:** Golden Threads is usually available at quilt shops, fand is my favorite brand. The Pellon version is a bit less transparent and flimsier but will work as well. In a pinch, you can use an artist's grade tracing paper such as Strathmore® but the rolls give you better layout options **Note:** I will have some extra to share if you can't find any.
- **Drawing Pencil and a good eraser:** Bring a separate eraser, the one on the end of the pencil rarely does a good job.
- **12" – 18" Ruler:** To create straight lines for drafting your letters.
- **Utility Scissors:** for cutting paper
- **Scissors or thread snips**
- **Seam Ripper**
- **Novelty Fabrics (optional):** You may wish to embellish your quilt with fussy cut motifs from novelty prints like I did with my kitties on the sample shown. If you wish to do this, bring fusible web of choice as well
- **Basic Design Ideas:** If you have any books with decorative letters, they can be a great source for letters in unusual shapes. Another alternative is to create an 'alphabet' master sheet by typing out letters sequentially using a program like Word (don't forget the numerals and punctuation marks as well). There are tons of suitable choices in the font selection of any word processing program. Experiment to size them to a generous Font size where the letters will be about 2" tall or larger. Pick a font that reads well as a block letter or with wide strokes that will translate well into a stitched outline like the following choices: Note: these were created at 48 points but you will want them larger. You can always create your alphabets and have them enlarged on a printer or at a copy shop.

ABC ABC ABC ABC
ABC

