

PIECING IT TOGETHER

CAROL TAYLOR www.caroltaylorquilts.com

Carol will teach 20 different improvisational piecing techniques and really free ways of creating designs as well as machine quilting ideas and using facings as bindings. We'll make strip sets, circles, offbeat squares, skinny lines and explore couching and fusing techniques for added interest. If you are tired of precision cutting and piecing then use this workshop to free yourself! Expand your creativity and have fun in spontaneous sewing. Use all of these basics to gain the confidence to express your individuality in your quilt.

SEWING MACHINE

Clean, well oiled and in good working order –with sewing machine instruction book

All Feet, including:

¼" piecing foot

Free motion foot

Walking foot (if you have one)

Optional: Couching or braiding foot (a foot designed to carry the yarn as its sewn –has a hole to put the yarn through and a channel under the foot so it drags along. Other names you might recognize this foot by: couching, cording, maybe even “beading” or Sequins and Ribbon foot and the accessory package from Creative Feet. (www.sewingmachinefeet.com)

Knee Lift

Pedal and Cord, also Extension Cord

Several bobbins

Machine needles: 90/14 for couching and free motion; and 80/12 for piecing

BASIC SEWING/QUILTING SUPPLIES

Scissors

Pins

Thread

Rotary Cutter with NEW, sharp blade, Mat

Rulers

6x24 or 6x18 see-thru ruler

Optional—6" square

9.5" square (to make circles with)

4" square (to make circles with)

Fusible web –**Wonder Under** or **Transweb** –NO Heat and Bond – 1 yard

Stabilizer – ½ yard or more—to STABILIZE couching—do not bring interfacing

1 ½-2 yards flannel to cover design wall (optional)

Small iron and mat for your table (optional)

MISCELLANEOUS

Fat drinking straws and two pieces of masking tape (to rig a guide for couching yarns)

Zip lock bags for storage of individual pieces

Digital camera

FABRICS

3 12" full length, fat quarter or more of your “most precious fabric”

Cut 3 12 inches off either end of your “most precious fabric” to use in class or bring a fat quarter, or bring the whole piece in case you want to use all of it. This will become your MAIN focus fabric, and it's best if it is multi-colored with at least 3-6 high contrast colors in it. Use to create the color scheme or palette of your quilt.

Fabrics to coordinate and contrast with your most precious fabric—

Bring a variety of fabrics in each of the main 3-6 colors that you want to emphasize.

Bring at least 20-24 more that add energy to the first group.

Continued...

Fabric Hints: Bring as much fabric as you like. Variety is more essential than quantity. Scraps can work fine if they're at least 6"x6" and strips of at least 2-3". If you bring about 20-25 fabrics, you'll be set. (Also, consider trading with each other).

- SOLID color fabrics—Be sure to bring the most gorgeous SOLIDS, solid substitutes or textured fabrics (batiks add this texture but still appear as "solids". Bring lots of solid black or other dark color for the background (hand-dyed or commercial)
- BLACK AND WHITE graphic prints will add something special...A small black and white can be used effectively. Other colorful stripes work well also.
- HAND DYED FABRIC –work well –add interest
- BACKGROUND FABRIC to put your components on. Bring a piece of solid color or solid substitute textured fabric for your background. Also useful for piecing so you don't have to take the big piece out from under the components.

THREADS

Bring endless variety of threads that go with your fabric. Carol will also have threads for sale, available in her class. Suggestions:

30 wgt., 12 wgt. and specialty threads—Examples:

Variety of 30 wgt. rayon threads in solid and multicolor

YLI Invisible

Neon thread

Sulky 12 wgt. multicolor in variety of colors (it comes in 84 choices!)

Sulky 30 wgt. solid and multicolor cotton

Metallic Silver thread

Signature Poly variegated thread

COUCHING YARN OR RIBBON FLOSS

Choose a width your machine can zigzag over. Yarns that have both dark and light colors that change are most effective. Carol will have yarns for sale in class.

10-12 Small Quilt Sandwiches (about 12"x12")

These will be used to practice some free motion stitching to finish the quilts. Make the top fabric black or dark. The batting should be wool or cotton, not polyester. The backing fabric can be any cotton fabric you have and wish to use.

STABILIZED FABRIC to couch on:

This will become part of your quilt, so using your background fabric is a good idea. (this is not a practice fabric) Cut a square or rectangle about 22x27 of one of your very dark or very light fabrics to couch on (using the same fabric you are using for your background is a good idea). Cut this at home and put a heavy weight stabilizer (not interfacing) behind it. We'll couch on this, so it needs to be very stable and not pull when we zigzag yarns on it. Spray baste (outside on a surface that won't be harmed) with 3M Photo Spray Mount—it is much stronger than the quilting sprays.

Note: Do not panic if you cannot find the perfect thread, yarn or floss. Bring what you have. In addition to the many temptations of the onsite store, Creations of Kerrville, Carol will have a variety of threads and yarns available for sale in her class. If you have questions, or would like a supply list with photos and detail checkboxes, please email Carol at ctquilts@rochester.rr.com – she will be delighted to hear from you and help you prepare.

BRING A CREATIVE ATTITUDE and be ready to free up and just try anything to make your own unique quilt. You'll be surprised at what you come up with!