

DECORATIVE QUILTED BORDERS & CORNERSTONES

Are you experiencing the “border blahs?” Here is a **technique** to add a spark to your quilts. A stipple stitch surrounding a simple free-motion or appliquéd pattern throughout your border will make that final classic statement. We will explore how a one color thread can enhance and change the look of a one color border fabric. We will learn how these borders & cornerstones can be quilted separate from the quilt center and the two pieced together to form the finished quilt (a good technique if your quilt is large).

A good knowledge of your machine and how to set up for free-motion quilting using your free-motion or darning foot is needed. You do not need to be a “master” quilter – just have the desire to jump in and have fun.

Supply List:

- **Tracing or butcher paper** – For 1 or 2 design layouts measuring 16” x 9”. I will have butcher paper on hand if you do not have your own rolls.
- **Practice quilt sandwiches:** Bring 2 - 15” x 15” muslin top & back with batting.
- **Border & Cornerstone Fabrics:** We will create 1 to 2 sample borders with cornerstones at each end. Border fabrics will be cut to 9” x 16” and cornerstones cut to 10” x 10” and our designs transferred to them. Please do not skimp on the fabric. Have at least ½ yard cuts of a good selection of colors. For class purposes you can use muslin for your backing. Good fabric choices will be solids or “painterly” fabrics (batiks work well) – tonal range from dark to light – I prefer darker fabrics with brighter threads. Choosing complimentary fabric and thread colors can give maximum impact. The same hue of fabric and thread can be used if their values are different. Fabrics with detailed prints do not do well with this technique.

Think creatively about your cornerstones. They really stand out by using different fabric or a fused appliqué design that is a repeat of your border design or totally different

- **Batting** – Choose a thin batting like Hobbs or Fairfield 80/20. Warm and Natural will also do.
- **Fusible Web** – ½ yard - I prefer Wonder Under regular (not the heavy weight).
- **Top Threads** - 30wt or 40wt – cotton, polyester or rayon. (Have an assortment of different colors to compliment your fabrics). 30wt is a quick filler if you are familiar with using it - thread selection is the personal choice of the quilter.
- **Bobbin Threads** – match top thread color or come close with a neutral. I find that 40 wt in the bobbin is fine for either 30wt or 40wt top threads– minor top tension adjustment may be necessary depending on the individual “personality” of your machine.
- **Personal Designs** – If you want to create your own designs for class – keep them simple and no larger than **3 inches** square so they fit nicely on our borders or use instructor templates.
- **Sewing machine** – good working order – feed dogs should drop or be covered.
- **Darning/Embroidery foot** – for free motion quilting.

- **Extra bobbins**
- **Machine needle** –130N 80/12 topstitch or large eye quilting needle of your choice.
- **General Sewing Supplies** – sewing kit you are comfortable with.
- **Marking Pencil** – For light and dark fabrics. I use chalk or a dressmaker pencil.
- **Graphite and red pencil** – For design layouts
- **Safety Pins** –For pinning quilt sandwiches.
- **Rotary Cutter/Ruler & Mat**
- **Quilting Gloves** for ease of machine quilting – **NOTE:** I cannot stress the importance of quilting gloves to achieve a steady free-motion stitch!
- **Iron and mat** – There will be irons on hand but it is always good to have your own supplies handy.

INSTRUCTOR WILL PROVIDE

- Design element patterns/templates (eg.orchid, daisy, heart, shamrock, leaves, etc.)
- Small beads selection
- Stippling Tips handout
- Butcher paper for design layouts