

Course Description **MEXICAN CROSS WORKSHOP**

Cheery colors pop in this fun version of the Mexican Cross block. Not only is it a great pattern for using up lots of different fabrics in one quilt, but the construction technique cleverly creates a bonus quilt out of the cutaways. This complex looking pattern is a snap when you make it with my shortcut techniques. And, as is the case with many of my scrap quilt patterns, the construction technique results in cutaways that are used to make a Bonus Quilt that you are sure to love.

Proficiency Good for all levels of experience. Fine tune your piecing skills with this two-for one project. As you construct the Mexican Cross quilt, you will get cutaways that can be used to construct the Bonus quilt (shown on pg. 2)

Date/Time Friday, March 14, 2025 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Includes 30 minute lunch break.
Arrive about 15 - 20 minutes early so you can get set up for an 8:30 a.m. start.

Class Size Limited to 16 students

Handout Fee \$7 per student: pay instructor in class



Students bring

- _____ Suitcase full of a variety of scraps: **see Fabric Guidelines on Pg. 2**
- _____ Pencil and paper for note-taking
- _____ Sewing machine in good working order (remember your power foot and cords)
- _____ Extension cord / multiple plug outlet strip
- _____ 3-prong adapter if needed
- _____ Table light (such as an Ott light or something similar. This is optional, but past students have found they enjoy having extra light at their work station.
- _____ Sewing machine needles: size 75/11 or 70/10 for machine piecing
- _____ Thread for piecing: neutral thread to coordinate with fabric (NOT quilting thread)
- _____ Fabric scissors
- _____ Seam ripper
- _____ Rotary cutter, Mat, and Ruler (*I suggest you bring 2 rulers if you have them. They can range between 3" -6" wide, and 12" - 24" long*)
- _____ **ALSO:** a small ruler, such as a 5" - 7" square, that has a 45 degree angle coming from the corner
- _____ Iron, ironing board or mat: irons may be shared if desired
- _____ Straight pins (as fine as possible, about 1" long)
- _____ Masking tape
- _____ 1 yd. white flannel (for flannel wall)

Remember, your quilt is only as good as the fabric you put into it. Use good quality fabric.

It will behave better for you, and you will be much happier with the results.

LABEL ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT PLEASE

Frequently Asked Questions for the MEXICAN CROSS SCRAP QUILT WORKSHOP:

What is a Scrap Quilt?

Just because a quilt is a scrap quilt does not mean there isn't a plan. We will not be reaching blindly into our stash and sewing whatever we happen to grab. I like to have more control over what I do than that. Therefore, bring fabrics that you love. Also, include fabric that you haven't been able to figure out what to do with. Bring the suitcase of fabric mentioned below. The fabric selection segment of the class will help you see your fabrics in a new way.

This class will work with a broad range of colors, so bring lots of colors. Don't forget to include fabrics for the background. I used several different white-on-white prints for the background on the class samples.

Also, please bring pieces of fabric large enough to work with. While I call these scrap quilts, bringing tiny odd-sized pieces of cloth may not work for the sewing techniques I have in mind for you. I do want to encourage you to use your scraps, but you will enjoy their usage more if you have some larger pieces to combine them with. Quilters Quarters (18" x 22") are fine.

How will I know what fabrics to use where?

Your fabric will be divided into 'backgrounds' and 'patchwork pattern fabrics'. For example, for the background area of the designs, you may want a variety of whites that have no other colors in them. Any of your other fabrics may go into the patchwork pattern position as long as they have enough contrast with the backgrounds to show distinctly.

Visit the gallery on my website www.lindahalpin.com to see examples of scrap quilts that I have made. This will give you ideas on fabric combinations.

How do I know what fabric to bring?

The class begins with a brief segment on what fabrics to use for scrap quilts. You will actually be 'shopping' from the selection you bring. You might use a little of everything, but more often, you will choose from your selection and supplement it with either other fabrics from home, the fabrics you swap with classmates, or new fabrics you purchase on the day of the class. (I will have Quilters Quarters available for purchase).

Be sure that what you bring includes both background fabrics, and fabrics for the patchwork pattern. Include a variety of scales of designs (solids, small prints, medium prints, large prints, checks, plaids, stripes, batiks, etc.). *By background fabrics, I mean, for example, whites that have no other colors in them.* We want something that will stay in the background and not compete with the patchwork pattern fabrics.

How big is the quilt we are making?

The Mexican Cross quilt is 44" square.

The Bonus Quilt is 35.5" square.

You will receive complete directions for both quilts, with the option to make your quilts any size you choose.

The resulting quilt you make can range from table-runner size to a bed quilt. Your instruction packet will have information for multiple size options, PLUS directions for a second quilt made out of the cutaways.

How much fabric should I bring?

I recommend that you bring a suitcase of fabrics. Be aware that we won't be finishing the quilt in class. The style of the quilt is such that you can add other fabrics from your stash at home later if you decide to, so while you want to bring a well-rounded selection to choose from, you don't have to bring everything you own. Again, be sure you include background fabrics as well as patchwork pattern fabrics.

Do we swap fabric with other classmates?

The choice to swap is yours. Some students enjoy the process of sharing. It is up to you.

Should I precut anything prior to class?

No. All cutting will be done in class.

If you have any questions on the Fabric Guidelines, contact me, Linda Halpin, at 608-485-1853 or e-mail at wihalpin@mwt.net

