

Five Day Machine Quilting Masterclass

Suitable for all levels.

Wholecloth Heaven. Create an original wholecloth quilt.

This five day workshop covers a wide range of skills and techniques including free-motion machine quilting, trapunto, corded trapunto, embroidered embellishments and composition.

Suitable for confident beginner to advanced students.

An opportunity to create a quilt in which stitch and a single piece of fabric tell the entire story. This story will be as individual as each student and will range from traditional to contemporary, and from controlled precision to free spirited and experimental.

We begin by discussing materials, looking particularly at suitable fabrics, waddings and how different types and thicknesses of threads might be employed. A range of samples (free-motion and with the feed dogs raised) will be stitched to build up a reference of ideas for the wholecloth work, to see how the threads perform and what effects can be created.

Trapunto (stuffed quilting) and corded trapunto will be investigated, both excellent methods of adding sculptural dimension to the work. After examining trapunto we will look at machine embroidery and see how free-motion and pre-programmed stitches might be added to the quilt top before layering it with the wadding and backing fabric.

Exploring all the techniques outlined above will help to inform each individual wholecloth design, enabling the students to move on to the next step - designing their wholecloth quilt. To do this we will create a master pattern, perhaps working initially with paper and scissors. An interesting, balanced and proportional composition will be important elements to be developed.

When the design has been created, and marked on to the quilt top fabric, sewing the quilt 'for real' begins. Students will formulate a sequence of work and be able to really get down to developing their technical skills.

Working with the sewing machine is not the only type of stitch that we will look at as we will also spend time discovering hand stitches that can be used to further enhance the work at any stage during the process. A small range of hand stitched samples will be produced using a variety of threads, beads and other trims.



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SUPPLY LIST

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS ON TWO PAGES

Equipment:

1. Sewing machine, extension cable, instruction manual, slide on tray table and knee bar if you have one.
2. Please bring all your machine feet with you! Definitely include quarter inch, free-motion (preferably open-toe) & satin stitch feet (preferably open-toe).
3. Selection of sewing machine needles to match chosen threads.
4. Cutting mat and rotary cutter with a sharp blade in it.
5. Quilt marking pens/pencils.
6. Long quilter's ruler and 1" x 6" quilter's ruler.
7. Quilters safety pins or alternative equipment/method of holding quilt layers together.
8. Plenty of large size sketch paper. This is to make a master pattern and templates.
9. General sewing kit to include fine pins, hand sewing needles etc.
10. Scissors for paper and fabric. Please include small scissors with sharp points for snipping threads.
11. Scotch/Sellotape.
12. Pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, coloured pencils, notepad and an eraser.
13. Teflon Free-motion mat (eg 'Supreme Slider') is optional but can be helpful for free-motion work.
14. Small amount of plastic template material or cardboard.
15. A 'Sewezi' type table is not essential but would really increase your comfort and control for free-motion work. If you already have one you might consider buying the light box insert and an Ott-lite type portable light so that you can use the table as a light box.
16. Optional extras - compass, circle templates, flexible ruler for drawing curves, iron and board.

Materials:

17. A piece of fabric for the background of your quilt. This can be plain or have a slight pattern on it. Stitching shows up better on paler fabrics but I do not insist that you have to stick to these. It could be a silk and cotton mix so have a look around and perhaps pop a couple of choices in!
18. A second piece of plain weave fabric the same size as the above piece to act as a stabilising layer in case you want to do any embroidery on your quilt top before layering.
19. A few unloved fat quarters of fabric - to practice techniques.
20. Four or five plain fabric quilt sandwiches of fat quarter size with low loft batting - for samples.
21. Quilt backing fabric.
22. Quilt wadding of your choice (I suggest low loft).
23. Additional wadding for trapunto (a softer higher loft wadding works well for trapunto).
24. Tearaway stabiliser.

Please see the next page to complete the supply list.

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25. Regular sewing thread and a good choice of threads for machine quilting (I use 50/2 cotton, Bottomline, silk and 40-weight polyester threads).
26. A reel of Water soluble thread.
27. Your choice of hand embroidery threads, yarns and wools. Also any beads, sequins and other trims that you have and think you might like to use.
28. Anything else you think you might want and that I have not mentioned!

Please follow the supply list carefully and make sure you bring the essential items in order to maximise your quilting success and pleasure. Do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions.

PAT Testing: Make sure your electrical equipment (sewing machine, iron, etc) has been recently PAT tested.