

Silk and Salvage Workshop

Basics of Working With Silks in Quilts

GOAL: Learn how to—

- Identify silk fabrics and distinguish them from those made from other fibers.
- Evaluate what is in your stash, and identify materials that may work well together.
- Stabilize fabric if necessary and choose construction techniques that will suit materials in hand.
- Learn a few basic piecing techniques and develop some variations.
- Familiarize yourself with “production line” methods where appropriate.
- Construct basic components with confidence— we’ll share several simple block and border techniques.

SUPPLY LIST:

- Selection from your personal stash of silk; a bag of scraps, pieces of garments, neckties, small yardage, orphan blocks and left-overs from previous projects are all acceptable.
- Good quality thread for piecing in a “neutral color”— Dual Duty Plus is one choice, but any quality cotton-wrapped polyester or your preferred piecing thread is fine.
- Your favorite scissors, thread snips and seam ripper.
- Rotary cutter with a good blade! (We recommend Titanium blades—a bit expensive, but super sharp & long-lasting).
- Small cutting mat (12x12, 12x18, or 18x24 are recommended) and 12” or 18” ruler for rotary cutting.
- Iron and small ironing surface. Your workshop host might provide enough of these.
- Sewing machine in good working order—remember to bring the cord and pedal!
- Extended table/sewing surface for your machine, if you own one, is recommended.
- Extra machine needles (size 10, 11, or 12 are OK) and extra bobbins.
- 1/2-inch pressure foot or walking foot if you own one.
- Notebook/Sketchbook and pen/pencil.
- OPTIONAL: Camera or phone/tablet with camera.