

Empty Spools Seminars Session IV  
April 15-20, 2011  
Friday – Wednesday

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## **Impressionist Flower Bouquet**

Learn how to make a beautiful Impressionist Flower Bouquet all out of fusible fabric and thread. For hundreds of years artists have used flower arrangements and bouquets as subject matter.

The class will cover the history of the flower bouquet over the years, the masters who painted them and how they laid out their designs. It is really all about the color, design and values. Students will bring a photo for inspiration. They will learn Melinda's fusible technique and how color and values make the flowers look real.

Learn how to use Renegade Thread Play to finish and add sparkle to your flower bouquet quilt.

Some students will work from their own photo and others may choose to use one of Melinda's flower patterns.

There is a \$25 lab fee which will allow the class unlimited use of Melinda's flower patterns.

## **Supply List**

### *Before Class*

#### **1. Choose Flower Bouquet Pictures and Photos for Inspiration**

Start looking through books, magazines and your own photos for inspiration. Bring many pictures to work from for your own bouquet. Look carefully at the flowers in the bouquet and the container. Also, what is the setting that you want your bouquet to sit upon? We will be drawing inspiration from these pictures or it can be just one picture.

If your picture is small, you may want to enlarge it to at least 8 1/2" x 10" so you can get a good look at your flower and subject matters.

#### **2. Start Collecting Your Fabrics**

When pulling fabric for your flowers, remember that you will need different values in your fabric.

EXAMPLE: If you are making a pink rose, you will need at least 5-7 pinks that range from pale, almost white pink, to the deepest red or burgundy. Remember, the more colors and values you have the better your flower will look. You don't need a lot of yardage, scraps and fat quarters work well.

### *For Class*

#### **Drawing supplies**

Tracing paper 8" x 10", sharp pencils, a fine tip **Sharpie** marker, and clear tape.

#### **Background Fabrics**

Look at your picture to determine what colors of fabric to bring. What color do you see in the background?

That is the color or colors you should bring. Bring a couple of choices to play with. I will be helping you

with this decision, so don't worry. The size of your fabric is determined by how much you can handle under

your sewing machine. A yard is a good size to start with.

Continued on back

### **Steam-A-Seam 2 (Not the Lite)**

This is the fusible that I use and there is a reason why I use this. Please try and bring the right fusible to class. You will need at least 10 yards or more. **Yes, I said 10 yards.** Steam-A-Seam 2 comes in different widths, as well as in packages. Bring what you can find. I will have some in class for purchase, if you need more.

### **Straight pins**

**Rotary cutter, mat and ruler.** I will bring one we can share, if you can't get that in your suit case.

### **Scissors**

Paper and fabric scissors. Large and small, comfortable and sharp.

### **Teflon pressing sheet**

**Iron (must have auto shut off), ironing pad, and a multi-plug extension cord with surge protection.**

**Table top light and sheet to cover your work at night.**

### **Sulky 30 Weight Thread**

This is the thread that I use because it is thicker than most threads. While you may not get far enough in class to use this thread on your flowers we will be doing a sample thread play project in class. I will be bringing some to play with and packages will be available for sale. Sometimes it is hard to find. You can find it on the web at [www.speedstitch.com](http://www.speedstitch.com). Remember, it is Sulky **30** Weight.

**Bobbin thread** In a color that matches your backing fabric. **Don't** bring Bottom Line, it is too thin and will not work with the heavier 30 weight thread. I use **Aurifil** in a 50 weight in my bobbin or a regular cotton 40 weight.

**Needles** Jeans Denim 90/12 or 90/14 or Top Stitch 90/12 or 90/14.

**Sewing gloves** These help when we are doing the free motion thread play. There are a lot of different gloves and finger cots on the market and you may have a favorite that you prefer. Bring what you like.

**Sewing machine** Please have your sewing machine in good working order before you come to class.

Please know how to work your sewing machine before you come to class.

### **Free motion foot or closed toe darning foot**

This is used in the Renegade Thread Play.

## **Renegade Thread Play Day**

One day will be devoted to thread play. I want you to feel confident about your thread play and that means you need to practice before you attack your flower. We will not have these flowers complete by the end of the retreat but we will have them pretty close. I have developed a project that will help you learn the techniques while building up your confidence and working out the kinks with your machine.

Here are the supplies needed for this project, **Renegade Thread Play**

### **You will need:**

We will be making my **Pansy Book Cover** to practice the thread play on.

You can use leftover scraps from your bouquet for this and the big pansy can be in any color.

2 pieces of fabric size 11" x 24", one is for the outside book cover and one is for the lining.

1 pieces of low loft cotton batting 11" x 24".

We can also get these supplies on campus.

This is an optional project. If you know how to do thread play, you can choose to keep working on your flowers.

**Important note:** I will bring flower and vase patterns that you can use for your Flower Bouquet.

\$25.00 lab fee for unlimited use of all the patterns. Any questions please email me.