In Independent Study, you choose what project or projects you want to work on for the session. Empty Spools provides the classroom space and creative environment. My role is to serve as a resource, problem-solver and quilting coach. I can provide as much or as little assistance as you wish. Your job is to envision what you want to accomplish and establish your goals for the session. You can concentrate on design, develop a particular skill, or work on (finish?) a work in progress.

If you wish, you can choose to do my “Storm at Sea/Snail Trail” workshop during this session. I will teach a piecing method using my TRIMplate tools. These are “trim-after-you-sew” rulers. (You do not need to purchase these in advance; I will provide TRIMplates for you to use in class.) It is important for you to contact me before the seminar so I can help you select a project that you are interested in making, and that is appropriate for your skill level. I can work with you to develop a design and create a pattern if necessary.

The best way to contact me is by email: wjmathson@gmail.com. If you prefer snail mail, my address is 14030 Saddlewood Drive, Poway CA 92064. You can reach me by phone (as a last resort, I hope) at 858-486-2184.

I’m looking forward to see what you all have planned for our session together!

What to Bring to Class

- Patterns, books, tools, etc. as needed for your specific project(s). I have an extensive library, so please let me know if there might be a particular book that would help as an additional resource for you.
- Sewing machine if needed for your project. (Contact Empty Spools to find out about renting a machine instead.) If you bring your own, double check that you have:
  - Foot pedal
  - Power cord
  - Instruction manual
  - Appropriate feet or attachments as needed
  - Extra bobbins and needles
  - Extension table (if you have one)
- Basic sewing supplies, such as scissors, pins, seam ripper, marking devices
- Rotary cutter, extra blades
- Cutting mat and any rulers you may need
- Sheet or large piece of fabric to cover your work space when you are away from classroom

- Large flannel-backed tablecloth, or piece of flannel, or cotton batting to cover the foam core design board provided in the classroom. This is very helpful. Without it you need to pin every piece to your design board.
- Heavy-duty pins for use on the design board.
- Iron with auto shut-off feature, and table-top pressing surface (optional). Irons and boards will be provided, but you may wish to have an ironing station at your table.
- Table-top sewing lamp (optional)
- Some students like to bring their own chair. I highly recommend a comfortable cushion if this is impractical for you.
- Fabric and thread as needed for your project(s). When in doubt, bring it all! There is a fabric store on site and one in town, but time spent shopping is not spent in the classroom, so just plan ahead.

If you are flying in and need to borrow some larger or hard-to-pack items, please let me know. I may be able to bring them in my car.