

Treasure Hunting



MJ's class is perfect for any quiltmaker who wants to create a design in which every piece is a different shape and size. This is NOT foundation paper piecing. Instead, MJ calls this powerful technique "traditional piecing using freezer paper as templates".

Using images of gemstones – or your own inspirational image – MJ will show you how to transform it into a quilt. Create sparkle and glow using value and saturation contrast; evaluate fabrics' impact on design; learn MJ's fabric-painting techniques; create a coded pattern; and discover new finishing techniques. At week's end, you'll have created a gorgeous, faceted quilt.

SUPPLY LIST

- Three 8.5" x 11" sheets of poster board (preferably black) or one larger size (Note: enough to cut out at least 3 squares 6" x 6")
- A roll of commercially available 18" wide freezer paper. Freezer paper is a product that has a waxy substance on one side, but regular paper on the other side. It can be either white or brown. (Note: Regular waxed paper or parchment paper will not work with this technique.)
- A roll of double-sided tape or Washi tape (if you wish to create a finished product larger than 18" x 18")
- Approximately a dozen letter-size envelopes (12" x 9") OR large zipper-close plastic baggies
- Permanent marking pen or ball-point pen
- Regular pencil (must be erasable)
- Eraser
- Highlighter (bright color such as yellow or pink)
- Rotary mat
- Rotary cutter(s) (Note: We'll be cutting paper and fabric with our rotary cutters. If you prefer to use separate cutters for these 2 materials, please bring 2 rotary cutters. Another alternative is to bring extra rotary blades.)
- Rulers in various lengths (example: 24", 12", 6"). All must have a clearly marked 1/4" measurement line.
- Sewing machine (Note: We'll be discussing free-motion quilting techniques, so if you wish to join in on this aspect of the class, please be sure your machine is capable of this technique such as being able to lower the feed-dogs and that you have a free-motion foot or open-toed darning foot.)
- Iron
- Ironing mat
- Table-top light and a multi-plug extension cord with surge protection
- Something to cover your work at night
- A pad of white paper or about a dozen sheets of copy paper (for practicing free-motion quilting designs)

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Basic sewing supplies:

- Pins and/or clips (such as Wonder Clips) to hold fabric together
- Optional: If you prefer to use fabric glue instead of pins, please bring!
- Fabric scissors
- Thread (top and bobbin) in a neutral color and/or colors that correspond to your fabric choices
- Extra sewing machine needles (just in case you break one!)
- Hand-sewing needle(s)
- Seam ripper
- Tweezers (Note: eyebrow tweezers do just fine)
- Fabric marking pencils to mark both light and dark fabrics

Fabric:

- The fabrics best suited to this project include commercially-produced solids and ombres, hand-dyed fabrics, and hand-painted fabric.
- Prints are not as well-suited to this technique as those listed above, although some students have created stunning pieces with well-placed prints. If you have a favorite set of prints, bring them and we'll talk through how best to use them.
- White and black fabrics increase the sparkle of any gem quilt, so be sure to bring a bit of both.
- It's best to limit your colorful fabrics to just two or three hues (i.e., blue, purple, red) with a few values of each (i.e., light blue, medium blue, dark blue). This typically results in a palette of no more than 9 fabrics (not including white and black). However, if you don't want to limit yourself, bring your favorite fabrics and I'll help you "audition" them during class time.
- Batting (crib quilt size); preferably a thin cotton/poly blend like Warm & White
- Backing (crib quilt size)
- Approximately 2 fabric sandwiches (top, batting, backing) about 14" square (for practicing free-motion quilting designs)



SESSION 4

Sunday to Friday, April 14–19, 2024

Mail: 5306 Springridge Court, Fairfield, CA 94534-4005 | Phone: (707) 864-1170 Fax (707) 864-1345
Email: info@emptyspoolsseminars.com | Website: emptyspoolsseminars.com