

Button Fantasia

Supply list (2 pages)

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If you sew, sooner or later you end up with stray buttons. They may be a couple left over from a garment project or something you inherited from your grandmother's sewing basket; some quilters actually collect unusual or antique buttons. Most of the time, you end up with an assortment of different buttons that don't match. What to do with them? They can be worked into a Crazy Quilt – if that's your cup of tea; or – you can make this lovely embroidered medallion sampler with stitches that embrace each button in a delicate frame hand embroidered on a ground of appliquéd wool. Though they appear intricate, the embroidery is made up of simple compounded stitches. Make a single large medallion for a special button or assemble a collection of smaller medallions in blocks to showcase an assortment of buttons.

Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-631-8806 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.

Thank you, Helene

TOOLS/MATERIALS:

- **Wool Squares:** For a sampler consisting of 5" – 6" blocks, pieces of wool or wool/rayon bled felt that measure about 3" square (or larger for over-sized buttons). The number of squares will depend on how many blocks you intend to make. NOTE: You can also make a single larger medallion on a 10" square of wool or felt if desired.
- **Background blocks:** these are simple individual 4-Patch pieced blocks that will finish at either 5" or 6" (raw blocks will measure ½" larger for seam allowances). As these will be used as a backdrop for your wool squares, they and the wool squares should be of a size to showcase your buttons and embroidered medallions nicely so you may want to make larger blocks and wool squares if you are showcasing over-sized buttons (anything over 1" in diameter). I would recommend medium-light weight fabrics for the pieced blocks as wool is too bulky to piece unless it is very light weight. Linen, Yarn-dyes, stable quilter's cotton, and/or homespun or flannel, are all good choices for the background blocks, I even used denim for my Steampunk sampler. If you are uncertain of what pattern or size of blocks to make, you can embroider the buttons straight onto the wool squares and appliquéd them to the background later. The amount of fabric for the blocks will depend on how many and what size you intend to make but ¼ yard of each color/texture will be enough for quite a few blocks.
- **Embroidery stabilizer:** whether or not you need this will depend on the weight of your wool squares and/or if you will be applying them to your background before adding the stitchery or after. Most semi-felted wool will be stable enough on its own but if the wool is lightweight you can either stabilize it prior to stitching or appliquéd it to the background block before embroidering it. If you opt for a stabilizer, choose a light weight one (cut away or tear away) that irons onto the fabric
- **Fabric marking pencil/pen:** in a color that will show up on your fabric.
- **Buttons:** A selection of buttons of an appropriate size to fit on a 3" square leaving adequate room around it for surrounding embroidery. If your buttons are larger than about 1", you can use them on larger squares of wool. The flat style of buttons pierced for application are easier to use but shank style buttons can also be used though they are less stable with their tendency to tilt to one side.
- **Heavy Sewing thread (optional):** To attach the buttons, but as they will not be under any stress, regular thread or embroidery floss can be used instead if you wish.
- **Embroidery floss** 6 strand or pearl cotton in a variety of desired colors.
- **Hand sewing needle:** A crewel embroidery needle, bring a package of various sizes to ensure you can handle various weights of floss.
- **Sewing pins**
- **Embroidery Scissors**

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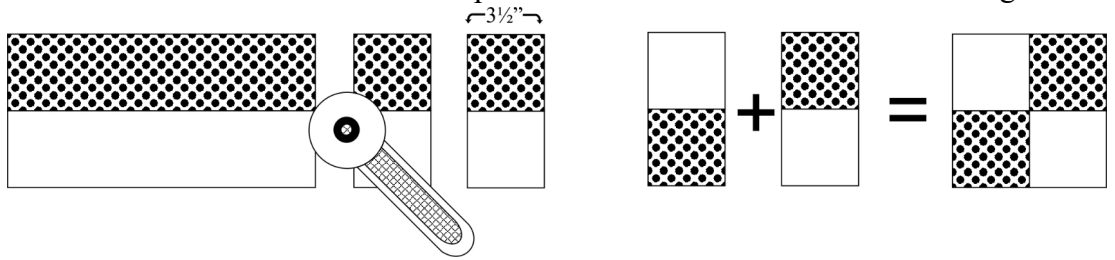
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- **Embroidery reference book:** The stitches you will use are fairly simple but a stitch guide will provide many options to explore. The 'Pocket Guide Embroidery' (a laminated accordion fold booklet) is an inexpensive excellent choice but any good basic embroidery stitch guide would be fine.

Piecing the 4-Patch blocks: To get to the embroidery in class straight away, pre-piece your 4-Patch blocks ahead of time.

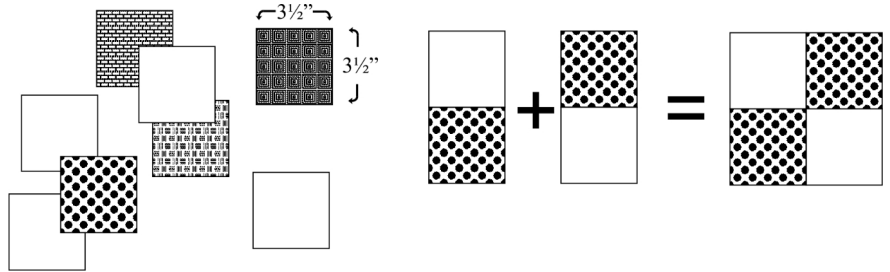
4-Patch Blocks from selvedge to selvedge or Fat Quarter cuts:

For quick strip pieced blocks cut a 3 1/2" wide strip from two fabrics – a lighter fabric and a darker fabric and sew together along the long edges. The length of each fabric will depend on whether you are working with selvedge to selvedge cuts or Fat Quarters, for fat Quarters, cut two strips from the 22" side (for each color); from yardage cut one selvedge to selvedge strip of each color. After sewing, press the seam towards the darker fabric and slice each band into 3 1/2" 'units'. You should end up with a dozen units. Sew two of these together rotating one of them to make a block; there will be enough from this process to make six 4-Patch blocks, repeat these instructions to make as many blocks as you need.



4-Patch Blocks from scraps:

If you want to make scrappy 4-Patch blocks you will need to cut four 3 1/2" squares of fabric for each block. Two of them should be light and two should be dark. The blocks can vary in color from one another but the overall quilt will look best if the two light fabrics and the two dark fabrics be the same in each block. If you want to make each block scrappy, at least make sure the values of the two



lights and two darks correspond with each other. The blocks will finish at 6", if you want to have smaller blocks, they can be trimmed down to whatever size you wish.

