

MACHINE QUILTING LANDSCAPE QUILTS

Supply List (2 pages) (revised 4/6/23)

Instructor: Helene Knott 503-631-8806 Email: helene.m.knott@gmail.com

Website: www.heleneknott.com

This class is designed to assist you in quilting your landscape quilt. The focus will be choosing suitable quilting patterns or designs for your individual quilt and then quilting it on your domestic machine. This is not a beginning quilting class, some familiarity with the basics of machine quilting is recommended. That said, quilting landscapes is more forgiving for a novice than more traditional quilting. If you have not done any machine quilting before, you may want to take a basic machine quilting class as a prerequisite to this one. This class is aimed at quilting a smaller quilt but if you have any landscape quilt you are ready to quilt, you may bring that project, you will probably not get your project completely done by the end of the class, but you will leave with the quilting well on the way and a clear plan of how to quilt it. Instructions for layering your quilt prior to class are at the end of this supply list, or contact instructor for more information.



Example of Landscape Quilting Textures

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:

- **Sewing Machine:** A good basic home machine, preferably with feed dogs that can be dropped. A Singer Featherweight is not a good choice for machine quilting for a number of reasons. Please bring your **owner's manual** if you have one and are not familiar with all the functions of your machine **as well as the utility tools kit** (small screwdrivers, brushes, etc) as you may need to perform some minor maintenance on your machine during class.
- **Sewing Machine Accessories:** You need to bring a free motion or darning/embroidery foot for free motion quilting (this is absolutely necessary). **Make sure you have the right foot! I have seen a number of students come in with an open-toed embroidery foot which is intended for zigzag stitching and will not work for free-motion quilting!** It's also a good idea to fill and bring extra bobbins so you don't have to interrupt your flow to wind bobbin thread.
- **Sewing Machine Needles:** Bring a package each of quilting and topstitching needles in size 11/12 and/or 14 suitable for your machine. If you plan to use rayon or metallic thread, you may need machine embroidery and/or metallic needles as well.
- **Landscape Quilt:** Please come to class with your quilt already layered, pinned or spray basted, and ready to quilt. Instructions for proper layering are included at the end of this supply list. **NOTE:** one of the problems often experienced in machine quilting is puckering and tucks on the backside of the quilt. Choosing a backing fabric that is slightly heavier than the top may help alleviate this problem.
- **Stitching Test Swatch:** two 12" - 14" squares of fabric layered and pinned with the same batting as your quilt. You will use this to test quilting designs and tension before stitching on your quilt.
- **Regular Straight Pins**

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- **Thread:** Sewing thread in the desired colors for your quilt. These can be cotton, polyester, or rayon. Metallic thread is nice for highlights but is temperamental to work with. How much thread you need will be dependent on the size of your quilt, the number of different colors you wish to use and the density of the particular patterns you choose for your quilting. I do recommend bringing a generous amount and color options though. If you are opting for invisible thread, try to find one made from polyester as opposed to nylon.
- **Freezer paper:** Optional but it is better to bring some and not need it than need it and not have it. 1-2 feet should be enough.
- **Tracing Paper or ‘Golden Threads’ quilting paper (opt.):** Available at quilt shops or art supply/craft stores. Choose a brand that is inexpensive and very transparent. Do not buy vellum, as it is too tough to tear away. Note: This is an optional supply; you may or may not end up using it.
- **Quilters’ chalk pencils:** to mark temporary designs or guidelines
- **Scissors or thread snips**
- **Seam Ripper**
- **Pencils:** To draw on your freezer/tracing paper
- **Paper:** a few sheets of 8½” x 11” paper to do some practice drawings on.
- **Machine Quilting Gloves:** Help you grip the quilt more effectively and give you greater control of your stitching. ‘Machingers’ is my favorite brand.
- **Design inspirations:** If you will want to do any fancy touches such as adding a quilted bird in your sky or a fish in your water, bring pictures from a book or magazine that you could adapt the design from.

As we will want to spend as much time as possible with the actual quilting, you will need to have your quilt layered and pinned before coming to class. The following directions will help you do this properly.

Choose a fabric for your quilt back that is the same weight or slightly heavier than your top. This makes your back stable and reduces the puckers and tucks that can occur on the backside of the quilt while machine quilting. Iron the top and the back before layering to remove any wrinkles or creases. Secure the back (wrong side up) to a work surface such as a table or floor with tape or clamps stretching the back just enough to ensure it lies flat and even without overstretching it. If working on a table that is not big enough to secure the entire quilt at once, you may work on sections at a time, securing, layering and pinning one area before shifting and securing the next area. Take extra care when shifting and securing if working in sections as there is a greater chance of developing slackness in the quilt back during these shifts and you must be careful to secure the next area with as much consistency as the first. When the quilt back is secured, spread the batting over the back smoothing it out carefully. Do not stretch it artificially tight or it may contract after your quilt is pinned and distort your quilting. After the batting is in place, position the top (right side up) in the center of the batting. Smooth it out carefully as you did with the batting and start pinning the top with safety pins spacing them about 5”-6” apart in each direction., or you can spray baste if preferred. Don’t forget to pin the edges too. **DO NOT STITCH OR SEW THE EDGES OR ANY OTHER PART OF YOUR QUILT AT THIS TIME.** If you have an excessive amount of batting and backing extending beyond the edges of your top, trim it down to a couple of inches. Ideally, you want your backing and batting to be just a little larger than your top so that you don’t start quilting and find that you run out of backing as you approach the edges of your top. Pre-layering and pinning your quilt will save valuable quilting time in class.