

Chicken Challenge

Chickens have often found their way into the quilt world – small wonder given the astonishing variety of plumage in chicken breeds. Join us in poultry piecing to celebrate these barnyard wonders! In this class, you will select from several patterns to create your chicken wallhanging. A brief discussion introduces the methods and techniques of freezer paper templates. You will then prepare a freezer paper template for your chicken pattern and begin the process of selecting fabrics for your design. We will also discuss sewing methods and sewing order to complete your wallhanging.

Level of Skill: Confident Beginner to Advanced

Supply List

Pattern

Select one of the chicken patterns available for this class. Patterns will be available for purchase prior to class.

Fabrics:

You will see that my patterns combine a wide selection of fabrics that enhance the look of the quilt. The image (such as a chicken, flower or bird) will use anywhere from 6-15 different fabrics, mostly in small pieces. Some fabrics will be repeated in the quilt, others may appear only once. The backgrounds will also typically feature 3-6 different fabrics that have a similar look. In some instances we will be looking for specific features in a patterned fabric — for example something that suggests the shape of an eye, or feathers, or fur or a stem. Patterned fabrics with multiple colors add texture and dimension to the quilt. We will be playing with different combinations to see how these fabrics look next to each other. Having lots of patterned fabric choices from which to choose is part of the creative process for these quilts and helps bring these designs to life. It's the seemingly odd combinations of fabrics that bring texture and depth to your quilts, and will work well.

BRING LOTS!! Lots and lots of patterned fabric. A fat quarter or less is probably as much as you will need of any one fabric. Bring you largish patterned fabric scraps (though the strips found in jelly rolls are often too narrow). I routinely pull 50 or more fabric choices from my stash for the main subject of my quilts and additional fabric choices for the background. Having a wide variety of fabric choices to key to this style. When choosing colors, keep in mind that a red poppy will also have bits of orange and yellow, and perhaps hints of purple and gold and green in it, so look for fabrics that have

hints of other colors. **BRING YOUR STASH!!** However, note that we will **NOT BE USING** solid or tone-on-tone fabrics that “read” as solids.

Large prints, medium prints, small prints, batiks, plaids, stripes, prints with many colors, bold fabrics as well as pastels — I pull them all. Each different kind of print will add something different to the overall look of the quilt. **Look for printed fabrics where the print clearly contrasts with the background.**

Before class, visit my website and spend some time looking at the range of patterned fabrics used in my quilts to get an idea of what to bring. www.AnnShawQuilting.com Also look at Ruth McDowell’s website to look at the fabrics she uses in her gorgeous quilts. www.RuthBMcDowell.com

Note: items marked with * will not be carried at either The Stitchin’ Post or the school store at the high school.

For Freezer Paper Template:

Freezer paper – 18” wide

*Pencils/Eraser/Pencil Sharpener

Ruler (18” plastic is ideal)

*Paper Scissors

*Blue Masking Tape

*Sharpie brand Ultra Fine-line permanent marker (Black only!)

*Highlighters (several colors)

*Color pencils (7 distinct colors for making tick marks)

(NOTE: Ink pens, Gel pens, Sharpie Markers or Crayons will not work for tic marks)

***Design Wall:** Bring to class a foam design board. A 20” x 30” foam board will work for these patterns. A 30” x 40” foam board is helpful and gives you more space to pin. They are inexpensive and can be found at your local office supply store. You will be pinning your Master Design and template pieces to this as you audition individual fabric selections. Its then easy to carry your project home. **Note: Using a piece of batting or flannel alone does not work well – please bring foam board it at all possible.**

Sewing Supplies:

Rotary cutter, 14” or 18” rotary cutting ruler and cutting mat

Pins (LOTS!! Pincushion overflowing with 200+ pins!! 1” ball head pins or longer are ideal)

Fabric scissors

Basic sewing kit

*Several Ziploc bags (quart and gallon size)

Paper and Pencil to take notes

Optional: Sewing machine and Supplies: (bobbins thread, needles etc).

Depending on the pattern you choose, you may or may not reach the point of beginning to sew your design together. Most students will be completing fabric selections but I find very few begin sewing by the end of the workshop. Bringing a sewing machine is optional. You should be comfortable using your machine.

Before coming, check to be sure that it is in good working order.

Optional Supplies: Digital Camera

If you have a small digital pocket camera, bring it!

Using the camera on your phone or tablet will work as well to audition fabric selections.