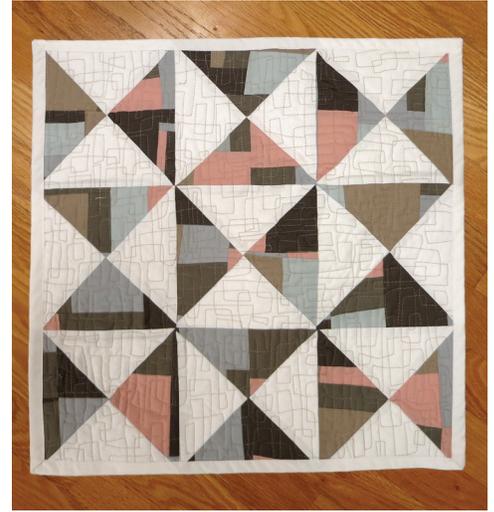


Improv meets *Traditional*



Materials

For one mini quilt or wallhanging top:

- About 2 yards total solid fabrics for improv piecing (see ***Improv Fabrics***)
- 1 yard solid background fabric (see ***Background Fabric***)
- 50 wt. cotton thread for piecing
- Sewing machine (and extension cord/surge protector if needed)
- Iron and pressing surface (it can be nice to have a small table-top pressing surface near your machine if space permits)
- Rotary cutter, ruler, and cutting mat
- Basic sewing supplies
- Instructions/patterns for your favorite ***simple*** traditional quilt block, enlarged to finish between 6" and 18" (see ***Patterns***)

Improv Fabrics

Working with a mix of fabrics is part of what makes improv piecing fun and serendipitous. For this project, it works well to select a narrow range of harmonious colors and values (light, medium, dark). While it is not strictly necessary to limit yourself to solid fabrics, I recommend minimizing your use of prints--especially highly contrasting ones--to avoid results that look too chaotic. Scraps work great for this, although you can also bring larger pieces. Don't be afraid to throw in some colors or fabrics that seem unexpected--they can add just the right pop of contrast to your final composition.

Background Fabric

The solid background fabric/s in this technique give your eye a place to rest from the busyness of the improv sections. In order to make your overall composition pop, you will want your background fabric to contrast strongly with the palette of colors and values you select for your improv fabrics (a very light or very dark solid in a neutral color works well with a variety of improv palettes).

Patterns

In this workshop, we will use improvisational piecing to build one or more panels of fabric, then cut up those panels to construct a traditional quilt block. This process works best for simple block patterns that use large-scale pieces and finish at a minimum of 6" square. Feel free to bring along measurements and instructions for piecing your favorite block, or select from one of several provided patterns.