

<u>Sew-cial Topics:</u>
Session 1: Get Organized!
- Messy Room contest
- Sewing room organization tips
- Non-traditional sewing tools
Session 2: Up Your Game!
- Tips on improving sewing accuracy
- Cutting tips, rulers, other helpful tools
- Perfect 1/4" Piecing
- Pressing
- Needles, Threads
Session 3: Feeling Stuck?
- How to fix a problem
- Design questions
- Color help
- Favorite Sewing tips
- Inspiration Ideas
Session 4: Now What?
- Finishing tips
- Pieced Backing options
- Prep for Long Armer
- Binding options - Big Stitch Binding - Face Binding - Piping
- Hanging (sleeves and other options)

	Session 3: Feeling Stuck?	
	- How to fix a problem	
	- Design questions	
	- Color help	
	- Favorite Sewing tips	
	- Inspiration Ideas	
	Aug 10th	
		Breathe and Relax
		Stash Busters
		Choosing Color

Agenda:

Below Topics

Choose Christine Barnes Class (headcount as to how will come in person at the Hampton vs Zoom)

Survey Questions

Feeling Stuck?

Clean your quilting area. Get into the quilting area or studio and start tidying, putting stuff away and sorting stuff out.... can give you a real sense of control over your environment and a feeling of satisfaction with a job well done.. and it feels so good to have everything nice and tidy again and often leads to finding something that sparks your interest.

Play with your scraps. Organize fabrics or by patterns. Make some simple patchwork blocks. Before you know it, you're creative juices will start flowing and you're scraps may turn into some gorgeous. Just the handling of your fabrics should trigger a new idea too.

Invite a friend(s) over. Connecting with fellow quilters will surely give you the spark you're looking for. Sharing what each other is working on often leads to new projects.

Call Carol Esch. Carol has a ton of great ideas and a personal library overflowing with inspiration ideas.

Make small projects such as a potholder, pillow, table runner etc. Make some tried and true patterns like a string quilt, scrappy nine patch or log cabin

Start with a fabric you love. Use this fabric as a jumping off point for the quilt - a foundation. When selecting the rest of the fabrics for your project, pull colors from your foundation. You may not even end up using in the quilt....maybe it just becomes the backing. Choose colors that complement the foundation fabric. The colors and shades don't need to be exact matches, just something that goes well together.

Use quilt fabric collections as inspiration.

Find color palettes. Pinterest has a ton of color combination - similar to paint chips found at a paint store

Use a painting or photograph that you like as inspiration.

Get another set of eyes on your fabric selection. Someone else will always see something different than you do.

Take a cell phone photo. Edit into black and white and look to see if there's enough contrast.

The making is in the pressing.

The inside should be as neat and finished as the outside." --Cathy Z.

Measure twice, cut once!

Pin each intersecting seam before sewing.

Press, do not iron all seams.

Quilting is about love, not perfection.

Always buy a little bit more fabric than the pattern calls for

Trim all your threads as you sew so the underside of your quilt doesn't look like a rat's nest.

Rulers are not created equally! Stick with the same ruler throughout the project

Stop when you get tired, that's when you make mistakes, tomorrow is another day.

If it looks good from three feet away, leave it alone

If things are not going well-turn off the machine and iron, leave the sewing room, and go get wine.

If you're not going to do it right then don't do it at all.

Sew what you love, because if you don't like what you're working on then you won't do your best work

If it is worth doing, it is worth doing well.

Don't decide to not use a fabric because it is too special, or because you might need it later or because you might not have enough. Use it, enjoy it, then go buy something new and different.

When you are totally frustrated with the project go take a walk or some kind of break. When you come back the problem usually solves itself." --Marti B.

Don't compare your worst with some one else's best!

Never sew a stitch smaller than your smallest seam ripper

Buy the best fabric and tools that you can. You put a lot of time and effort into making a quilt

Close the rotary cutter after every cut.

Never sew over a pin, pull it out when it gets close to the pressure foot.

Always remember, people who never do anything...never make mistakes!

Those who don't sew...don't know.

Treat each step like it is the most important step.

Enjoy the journey.

Local Quilt Shops, Youtube, Pinterest, Instagram, Facebook, Facebook Clubs, Podcasts, Local Library, and Nobel, Missouri Start Quilting, Library, Carol Esch's Library, A Quilting Life, SAQA

Christine Barnes November Workshop - Help Choose:

<http://www.christinebarnes.com/lectures.html>

Sewing Accuracy
American Patchwork &
Quilting

**Selecting Fabrics by Sherri
McConnel of *A Quilting Life***

Up Your Game!

The answer to the Big Debate.... Do you wash your fabric before using or simply starting working with it? Well, it's a tie.... About half the members who dialed into the call revealed they always wash their fabric and the other half... well.. they dive right in and start cutting. ***Ary Anderson mentioned that she using Orvus as Quilters Soap - has not dyes or additives to harm your fabrics. Retayne is color fixative helping Joan Lasota cuts a small corner in her fabric helping her identify that its' been washed.***

[Orvus Soap](#)

[Retayne Color Fixative](#)

Make sure that your fabric is free of wrinkles and creases by pressing it. Wash or not, press it using steam. Instead of steam, use starch or a starch alternative product like Mary Ellen's Best Press, Flat Iron, now has a Premium Quilting & Crafting Spray Bottle. ***Gina Krejsa mentioned she uses Terial Magic***

[Terial Magic Stabilizer](#)

Ary Anderson mentioned that using starch helps improve cutting.

Fold the piece of fabric in half lengthwise.

Bring the fold up to the selvage edges.

Align the folded edge of fabric with a horizontal measurement line on your cutting mat.

To make handling the fabric more manageable, you can fold the left edge of the fabric yardage back.

Align a horizontal measurement line of a rotary cutting ruler along the folded edge of the fabric.

Rotary cutters:

- 28mm Rotary Cutters are designed for cutting small pieces and curved pieces.

- 45mm Rotary Cutters are perfect for cutting through one or two layers of fabric. This is your best rotary cutter.

- 60mm Rotary Cutters will cut through several layers of fabric at one time. ***Some gals seem to think dull fast. Here's a few suggested rotary cutters***

[Martelli Rotart Cutter](#)

[Ergonomic Rotary Cutter](#)

Cutting Mats:

- 24" X 36" Double-Sided Cutting Mat is your best option as long as you have a place to store it flat and handle almost any sized project.
- 12" x 18" Double-Sided Cutting Mat is another great option. Most quilt pieces aren't that large and quilting needs and can easily be stored.

Rulers:

- Creative Grids 6.5" x 24.5" ruler will give you the most bang for your buck; The 4" x 14" ruler makes sense because you're not wrangling a long ruler around a tiny scrap of fabric.
- Quilters Select has a unique non-slip coating
- Debbie Tucker Rulers are great for trimming. CHQ Library has a complete set for members to borrow.

Lots of Great Recommended Rulers

<https://deb-tuckers-studio-180-design.myshopify.com/>

<https://quiltersselect.com/products/Select-Tools/Select-Quilting-Rulers>

[Non-Grip/Slip Spray for Rulers](#)

[Easy Square Ruler](#)

[Slotted Ruler](#)

Eva Paige Accordion Cutting Technique - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eB-ITjPy2J4>

[Quick Quarter Ruler](#)

Check Your Stitching

- Cut three 1-1/2"-wide strips of fabric. Join two of the strips using a 1/4" seam; then add the third strip using a 1/4" seam. Press the seams away from the center strip. Turn patchwork to the right side of the fabric. It should measure exactly 1" wide. Reset your seam guide as necessary.
- Check the width of your machine's presser foot by sewing a sample seam with the raw fabric edge to the right of the machine's presser foot. Measure the seam allowance using a quilting ruler. (Alternative: use a piece of graph paper with a 1/4" grid or an index card with lines 1/4" apart to check if your seams are accurate.)

Adjust the Needle Position

Needles on many machines move right or left. Sew sample seams and check each seam size as you adjust in small increments. Jot down the needle position for each seam size so you can quickly set it as needed. Watch the guide and not the needle.

Change the Throat Plate

The start of a 1/4" seam is cleaner with a single-hole throat plate; threads and fabric won't sink into the throat. Change the plate before you zigzag-stitch, or the needle will break.

Start and End Seams with a Fabric Scrap

To prevent a patchwork seam from puckering or having incomplete stitches at the beginning or end, use a small piece of fabric to begin and end your seam. Feed the small scrap in first, then the patchwork fabric, and finally another small scrap. Snip off the stitched scraps.

Purchase a Specialty Foot

A 1/4" presser foot, whether it's generic or made just for your machine, takes much of the guesswork out of sewing curved seams. Run the edge of the fabric along the right-hand edge of the foot as you sew. Measure the seam allowance for each project. Some specialty feet have an attached edge guide, above, that prevents you from stitching too far from the edge.

Choose a Seam Guide

Most sewing machine companies offer an easily positioned, screw-in seam guide attachment that allows you to push the fabric to slide along. Magnetic guides, used on noncomputerized machines, also are available. You can make your own guide from a strip of painter's tape, masking tape, or adhesive moleskin. To set a guide, lower the presser foot, place a ruler or 1/4" graph paper against the front or back of the needle, and position the guide along the edge of the fabric.

Pinning Is the Secret

When you want the seam lines in patchwork pieces to line up perfectly, first pin the pieces together. With right sides together, pin one piece to another unit, aligning raw edges. Match seams by pushing the pieces together and pinning layers to check alignment.

Press For Success

- Almost every seam needs to be pressed before the piece is sewn to another. Pressing the seams is an important step in piecing. The direction you press is important in piecing and usually will be specified in the instructions. Press seam allowances toward the darker fabric. You'll usually press the entire seam allowance to one side or open.
- When two seams will be joined, press the seam allowances in opposite directions; this helps line up the seams and reduces bulk. Press seam allowances in each row in opposite directions so they abut when rows are joined.
- Press, don't iron: Don't know the difference? Ironing involves moving the iron while it is in contact with the fabric, which stretches and distorts seams. Pressing means lifting the iron off the surface of the fabric and putting it on another location.
- Setting a seam: Before pressing a seam open or to one side, press the seam as it was sewn, without moving the fabric pieces. This helps sink the stitches into the fabric, leaving you with a less bulky seam allowance.

Joining Pieces, Blocks, and Rows

- Precise 1/4" seams allow you to join units, blocks, and rows with ease. Use exact 1/4" seam allowance in quilt's construction. With the number of seams in a quilt top, little variances can quickly multiply.
- It isn't necessary to backstitch at the beginning of any seam that will be intersected by another seam in the making process. Use a stitch length of 10 to 12 stitches per inch (2.0- to 2.5-mm setting) to prevent unraveling before they're stitched over again. Secure seams that won't be sewn across again (such as corners) with a few backstitches.
- Squares and triangles in blocks should be sewn together from edge to edge. Save time and thread by chain-piecing whenever possible. To chain-piece, feed the pieces under the machine needle. Don't lift the foot or change lengths of thread will link the stitched patches. Cut them apart when you've finished sewing the unit.

Another BIG debate - Press open or Press to the side??? Which do you prefer?

Sewing-Machine Troubleshooting Tips

While it's a good idea to take your machine to a dealer regularly for a tune-up, here are a few fixes for common problems.

- Bad stitch quality: Before making any other adjustment, lift the machine's presser foot and rethread.
- Skipping or uneven stitches: Try replacing the needle with a new one. Although some quilters only change needles when it breaks, a smarter rule of thumb is to insert a fresh needle at the start of every project (or even at the start of every sewing session).
- Thread breaking: If you're using old thread, try a new spool; old thread can become brittle and lose strength.

Combo of both Straight pins and Wonder clips. For piecing, use straight pins - they are way more accurate. For quilt binding the clips use binder clips.

[Magic Pins](#)

[Amazon.com: Clover Wonder Clips, 1 Pack, Colors May Vary : Office Products](#)

Schmetz Universal needles in sizes *80/12, *75/11 for piecing and *90/14 for quilting

A walking foot will make a world of difference in your top quilting! It essentially ensures that all of the layers are passing through at the same time without getting bunched up or puckering underneath.

Two great books by Jacquie Gering:

WALK: Master Machine Quilting with your Walking Foot

WALK 2.0: More Machine Quilting with Your Walking Foot

Aurifil Thread - 50wt for piecing and 40wt or 28wt for quilting. It has amazing strength, doesn't shed lint, and comes in many threads (which is a bonus for your machine) and a lot of color options

Washi-style tape with 3 clear guidelines, a stitch line in red with a perfect 0.25" seam allowance or a line for stitching diagonal seams

[Diagonal Seam Tape](#)

Use a Curated Bundle or Pre-cut or Start with One Collection: The 80/20 Rule

Joanna Figueroa suggests you begin with one collection or curated bundle you should use that for 80% of your quilt. By adding 20% from other fabric collections or groups you can add even more variety and interest to your quilt. Curated collections often benefit from the addition of a little bit of contrast from other fabric collections.

Use a Specific Color Scheme or Theme

Another way to make the process of choosing fabrics for a quilt easy. Red and white quilts, blue and white quilts, Christmas and other holiday themed quilts are just a few examples of how to go about this. You can also make quilts entirely from one color palette along with a background, for example using a variety of shades of blue for your quilt.

Use a Variety of Collections from One Designer

Many designers have collections that work together—or at least have portions of collections that work together to create a scrap quilt effect. Using a variety of collections from one designer can allow you to mix and match while still staying in the comfort zone of a curated bundle. Additionally, collections by different designers can be put together beautifully together.

Use Scrappy, Low-Volume, or Dark Backgrounds

Using scrappy and low-volume background prints to create more interest. But using these fabrics for backgrounds can make it easier for the medium and dark prints to work together. Using a darker background like a teal or navy blue can also achieve this effect. You may love your fabric pull even more when paired with a more inspiring background.

Know the Power of Borders and Bindings

Border and binding choices can put the finishing touches on your quilt. Quilts can be a bit lackluster without a border and binding added those final frames and finishing touches. Often the colors of your border and binding can make the fabrics that are those colors to stand out more in your quilt.

Create Contrast with Color, Scale and Design

Make sure to include fabrics that not only coordinate with each other but also have a good amount of contrast. Creating your own fabric pull. You wouldn't want all of the fabrics in your quilt to all be the identical. Use contrast in scale and design as well as color - use a large floral in combination with smaller florals, solids, and other geometric designs.

Add Solids

Adding a solid or a few solids into your mix of fabrics for a quilt can also add a lot of depth and beauty. Many designers post lists of solids that work well with their fabric collections. Another idea is to be intentional with solid fabrics you love and find prints that work well with those solids.

Use a Camera

Taking a photo of a fabric pull for a quilt - sometimes we fail to see fabrics that might not really "fit" in a group after we've been looking at a group for an amount of time. Stand back at least 5-6 feet from the fabric pull and take a few photos with your phone. Then go over the photos to see if anything stands out.

Keep an Inspiration File

There are many ways to make note of quilts that inspire you: Create a Pinterest board of quilt inspiration; peruse quilt books and magazines making note of quilts where the fabric just “speaks” to you; utilize the saved photo feature on Instagram to save even more quilt fabrics that you love.





2/7/22	
	Goals
	Goals
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	Goals
	Getting Stuff Done
	Getting Stuff Done
	Getting Stuff Done
	Organize
	Organize
	Organize
	Organize

	General Rule of Thumb
	Great Tool
	OK Tool
	Great Tool
	Great Tool
	Great Tool
	Great Tool
	Resources

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Start 2022 Off Right

Set Goals & Put in a Jar & Randomly pick one and work to completion; Add a choice" then work on whatever you want

Penny mentioned the Declutter Challenge - see below link to listen

www.facebook.com/groups/declutterchallenge2022/

Pick a Creative Word of the Year

[Quilting Life Planner and Workbook https://www.amazon.com/dp/1683561514/ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_glt_i_36SYN494Y68DW05VGP5B](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1683561514/ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_glt_i_36SYN494Y68DW05VGP5B)

Break down the project into smaller task & commit to 1 thing a day; Leave re sewing table so when you finally get back into your room you can get started

Organize by like things - Works In Progress; Completed Tops needing Basting; ready for Binding - - Commit to working 15 - 30 minutes a day to move it along

Post your Projects on Sewcial; Use a Buddy system to keep one another accountable
YOURSELF!!!

Play Organization Bingo

<https://www.allpeoplequilt.com/how-to-quilt/organization/sewing-organization/>

Service / Clean Sewing Machine; Change your needle; Sharpen Scissors, Change Blade & clean cutter with Q-tips, Clean Cutting matt with either a lint roller, a Clean magic pad with water then dry; Clean iron (a dryer sheet works great)

Mary Scharzenberger mentioned Bryner Sewing in Doylestown PA will sharpen
Esch mentioned the Stangle Factory in Flemington also sharpens scissors. No haven't had the best of luck getting their scissors done at Joann's

[Softie Grip Grass Color: Dark Gray https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01BWYBSO?ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_glt_i_EEE4S00KGG57PM9S056H](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01BWYBSO?ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_glt_i_EEE4S00KGG57PM9S056H)

Jude McCormick mentioned Amazon sells Collapsible Fabric Storage Cubes w 6-Pack, Light Grey for @ \$22.00 a set

Lauren Lupica showed us a two tier plant stand she converted into storage for

Store Projects in clear bins - add a note as to where you're at a certain step supplies to make the project

Store UFO Quilt Tops on wooden or felt hanger

Quite a few gals showed us their stand up organizer and highly recommended Missouri Star sells the Sew Organized Pattern & Frame for \$16.

https://www.missouriquiltco.com/products/sew-organized-pattern-frame?variant=39281420337187&gclid=CjwKCAiAo4OQBhBBEiwA5KWu_4VvGqhyJ_GC8x8fQrBPJ9CLhoCFmAQAvD_BwE

Mary mentioned QR Smart Labels - Scannable Labels for Storage and Organization (Complete Android App). Amazon sells a pack of 48 for @ \$16

Another popular organizer was shared by Cass Gardner - it's the Tote Trivet by

https://www.fatquartershop.com/purple-dot-tote-trivet-the-gypsy-quilter?gclid=CjwKCAiAo4OQBhBBEiwA5KWu_5XVs5WY7aRhOBfqzHob8ZR8ZIW3EcNKsE5_DBWnhhttp01-vxoCSwIQAvD_BwE

Prize winner's names were pulled out of Anne's Gypsy Pop-Up Container. Amazon sells the wire refill separately. Both under \$12. (Note: I purchased mine at The Old Country

https://www.amazon.com/Fat-Quarter-Gypsy-Stacking-Pattern/dp/B01GLV4RC8/ref=pd_bxgy_img_2/134-1162213-3889247?pd_rd_w=KnAld&pf_rd_p=6b3eefea-7b16-43e9-bc45-2e332cbf99da&pf_rd_r=4D4MEPCK0J0C195C7K6S&pd_rd_r=fe2b7d87b4a08e240332&pd_rd_wg=34zpE&pd_rd_i=B01GLV4RC8&pvc=1

Coffee Mug Tree to hold scissors

Ice Cube Tray for small items such as bobbins, needle packs

Soft pony-tail holders (small child) to wrap around bobbins to prevent unraveling

Hang a Shower Caddy on back of door to hold Spray bottles etc

Expandable coupon file folder to hold your Applique or EPP pieces



Cable strips & wrap around binding strips

Chip Bag Clip to hold cut pieces

Mason Jars or Trident Gum or Ice Breaker plastic container to store buttons, packs and even used rotary blades

Old Jars to collect threads, needles and used blades that way when you throw one will get cut

Spice Rack at a Thrift Store and use for threads or as a shelf

Old eyeglass case / pouch to store your rotary cutters

Pool Noodle to roll your quilt around when bringing to Show n' Tell

Dermaplane razor (eyebrow) for seam ripping

Nancy Powell suggesting watching this Utube Video from Create with Claudia
Quilting Supplies - My Haul

[44 Dollar Store Quilting Supplies - My Haul - YouTube](#)

Cathie G mentioned she uses a plastic tub that strawberries come in to hold stack quite a few spools (flat circle disks) upright with the ribbon edge coming in seam for quick access

Nancy recommened making a design wall using insulation board found at Home Depot cover it with Kaffe Fassett Flannel Design Wall Grey, Fabric by the Yard at \$13

Cathie G mentioned sewing 2 felted tablecloths together for an extra large design wall. Fold in the top, thread an extension rod thru and hang on a wall.

Nancy suggested using paper plates to corral cut pieces and stack for your block to the machine and keep separated while you assemble

Other ideas are to use cookie sheets, cafeteria trays, paint trays - anything that works for your work

Ary showed us an extendable magnet she found at the hardware store. Great idea! Nancy found a similar one with a flashlight on it from Halo2Cloud.com Looks like you can find it on Amazon for under \$10

Organize fabric by color, solids, novelty, yardage

Organize scraps into bins & label:

1 1/2" - 2 1/2" Strips (can be cut into squares)

3" squares or strips

5" squares or strips

** Babette mentioned her guild will make dog beds using small fabric and ba
local SPA gladly accepts donations. Penny mentioned the nearby Last Char
Quakertown also accepts donations. Sounds like we shouldn't be throwing a

The Olfa Endurance Rotary Blade cuts twice as long as standard - Made from
tungsten steel, Endurance(TM) blades are manufactured with an exclusive m
process that delivers two times the cut life. More cuts with fewer blade chan
layers of cotton fabric. A bit more expensive at ~\$8 but last longer

Al mentioned you can sharpen your rotary blades with a TrueCut TrueSharp 2
although not necessarily worth the effort. Amazon sells @ \$74.

Lots of gals mentioned that the Karen K Buckley Serated scissors are great!! E
with the serated blade on top. They may run a bit high in cost but definitely

[https://www.amazon.com/Karen-Kay-Buckleys-Scissors-Serrated/dp/B07RQ7LGY2/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crid=3U8DOQAROR82Q&keywords=karen%2Bk%2Bbuckley%2Bscissors&qid=1644266635&srefix=karen%2Bk%2Bbuckley%2Bscissors&smid=A3NAG1Z2OBHSVZ&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUExN1dBtZU2TDc1NUdVJmVuY3J5cHRIZElkPUeWmJmNyeXB0ZWRBZEIkPUeWmJmNyeXB0ZWRBZEIkPUExMDQ4MzlwMVhRUzZXSDNXMThaSiZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPXNwX2F0ZiZlY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVU&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/Karen-Kay-Buckleys-Scissors-Serrated/dp/B07RQ7LGY2/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crid=3U8DOQAROR82Q&keywords=karen%2Bk%2Bbuckley%2Bscissors&qid=1644266635&srefix=karen%2Bk%2Bbuckley%2Bscissors&smid=A3NAG1Z2OBHSVZ&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUExN1dBtZU2TDc1NUdVJmVuY3J5cHRIZElkPUeWmJmNyeXB0ZWRBZEIkPUExMDQ4MzlwMVhRUzZXSDNXMThaSiZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPXNwX2F0ZiZlY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVU&th=1)

Mary and Al both mentioned using a drafting stool to sit at while sewing (esp
Dick Blick Art Store sells a real nice one for under \$150

[American Quilting Magazine - www.AllPeopleQuilt.com](http://www.AllPeopleQuilt.com)

Sherri McConnel - <https://www.quiltinglife.com>

Amazon

Harbor Freight

Dick Blick Art Store

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