

Magic Mirror Mandala Multi-Day

Workshop with RaNae Merrill

In this workshop, we'll explore the swirling, spinning world of spiral mandala quilts. Quilters of all skills levels are welcome -- beginning quilters will be amazed to discover how easy it is to design and sew these glorious kaleidoscopic quilts, while advanced quilters will still enjoy a challenge. (The designs are based on a variation of the very simple Twisted Log Cabin block.) We'll explore color and value, fabric choices, symmetry, flow forms, positive/negative space and more. As we get down to sewing spirals, you'll learn a few simple techniques that make paper-piecing easier and more fun than you ever imagined. By class end, you'll be able to see how the finished mandala will look, even if you have only part of it sewn; depending on your design and the length of the class, you may finish your entire quilt top.



This workshop is based on my book *Magnificent Spiral Mandala Quilts*, and it is required for the class. Copies are available for purchase in class. However, you will be better prepared if you get and read a copy before class. To order books and other tools before class, see the box at the end of this materials list.

Quilt size: This will depend upon your design: the pieced mandala can range from 20" to 40" in diameter; the finished quilt with borders can range from 30" to 60" square.

Class Materials fee, approximately \$30.00 depending on the size of your project: The class kit is required, and includes pre-printed templates and foundations. The book is not included in the materials fee.

Kits: I encourage class participants to create their own mandala quilt design. However, there will also be some kits for pre-designed mandalas with pre-selected fabrics available for sale in class.

Tools: (*Items marked with asterisks are available for purchase in class*)

For designing:

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| _____ *A copy of <i>Magnificent Spiral Mandala Quilts</i> | _____ 15-20 Q-tips, and napkis or tissues |
| _____ Scissors for paper | _____ Plenty of white paper for drawing |
| _____ Pencil | _____ Scotch tape |
| _____ Fine-point permanent black pen | _____ *A pair of mirrors <i>at least 8" x 10"</i> , taped together along one edge to make a hinge (if they are rectangular tape them along the shorter edge). Smaller mirrors will NOT work! Mirrors available in class are non-breakable. If you bring glass mirrors, cover the entire back of the mirrors with tape, so that they will not shatter if dropped. |
| _____ 12" Ruler | _____ Permanent markers or fabric markers in colors of your fabrics (optional) |
| _____ At least 4 clear plastic page protectors | |
| _____ A digital camera | |
| _____ Dry-erase markers or crayons in a variety of colors. If possible, they should be similar to your fabric colors. (See notes below. Test before class to make sure they will mark on the plastic page protector and can be erased.) | |

For sewing:

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| _____ Sewing machine | _____ 40-50 medium binder clips (see below) |
| _____ Basic sewing tools: pins, scissors, etc. | _____ 4-5 large ziploc bags |
| _____ *1-2 packages (10-50 sheets, depending on your design) translucent foundation material (purchase this in class - see below) | _____ Two highlighter pens in different colors (Pink, orange or yellow are best) |
| _____ Thread for sewing in a color that will blend with all your fabrics | _____ Double-sided tape, at least 2 rolls (permanent, <i>not</i> the removable kind. Scotch brand in the yellow & red box is best. Buy it fresh; old tape breaks.) |
| _____ Rotary cutter (45mm or larger), ruler and mat (Please bring one that with a blade guard, preferably one that closes automatically.) | _____ Masking or painter's tape |
| _____ 100-150 small binder clips (see below) | _____ *Add-a-Quarter tool and/or Add-an-Eighth tool |
| | _____ *Seam roller (optional, but really helpful) |

Markers, Binder Clips & Ziploc bags:

Bring dry-erase markers or dry-erase crayons in variety of colors, if possible colors that correspond to your fabric colors. (Water-based markers don't work on the plastic page protectors that you'll be using to color your quilt design.) Markers can be ordered from www.Staples.com: Items #643515, #829386, #567488, #554359. Dry erase crayons are Item # 833842. Binder clips and ziploc bags are essential for keeping all your pieces of fabric organized once they are cut. Small binder clips (3/4" wide): Staples Item # 480114; Medium binder clips (1-1/4" wide): Item # 831602. (Type any of these numbers or the name of the item into the "Search" field to find them. Hint: If you are travelling, have them shipped to your address at the workshop.) Ziploc bags can be purchased at any grocery store.

Fabric:

Fabric #1: Select one multi-color large-scale print fabric (symmetrical designs are a plus, but not essential).

Fabric Group #2: Pull from the first fabric a palette of 3-5 colors, then add 2-5 shades of each color. Fabrics in this group should read as a single color: solids, tone-on-tones, small textures or tiny prints.

Fabric Group #3: Several multi-colored fabrics in small to medium prints that combine colors in Group #2. The colors should be evenly distributed throughout the pattern.

Fabric #4: A light or dark neutral to use as the background of your mandala. It can be the same color as the background of Fabric #1.

You will be creating your own design, so yardages will depend on how you place colors in your quilt (you probably will not use all the fabrics that you bring). To give you an idea, for a 30" square quilt you will need approximately 1/8 to 3/8 yard of each color in the mandala, 1 to 1-1/2 yards of the background color, and 1 yard of fabric for borders and binding. For a 54" square quilt you will need approximately 1/2 to 1 yard of each color in the mandala, 1 yard for background, and 1-1/2 to 2 yards for borders and binding. Width-of-fabric (WOF) 1/4 yards are better than fat quarters for this project, but either will work.

Sewing Machine Set-up:

Bring your machine ready to sew with a 75/11 or 80/12 needle. Use a foot that allows you to clearly see lines on the foundation, such as an open-toe foot or a clear foot with a center-line mark. Prepare bobbins ahead of time and know how to set your stitch length to 1.5. Please make sure your machine is in good working order before bringing it to class.

Items available for purchase in class:

Mirrors, \$25.00: Each person needs their own set of hinged mirrors for the design portion of the class. Mirrors *must be at least 10" long on the side that sits on the table - smaller mirrors will not work.* Mirrors available for purchase in class are non-breakable and lightweight so they are safe for travel. It is recommended that you pre-order your set by sending an email to ranae@ranaemerrillquilts.com. In the "Subject" line write MIRRORS, YOUR NAME and your GUILD, STORE OR EVENT NAME. Emails must be received no later than 10 days prior to class to guarantee your order. Extra mirrors will be available in class on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to order a set of mirrors and have it shipped to you before class, please order through the online store at www.ranaemerrillquilts.com. (Standard shipping charges and shipping times apply. Please note that if I am travelling, orders through the store may not be shipped until I return home, which may be after your class, so it is best to pre-order and pick up the mirror in class.)

Fabric kits, (Optional, prices vary): Kits include all the fabric necessary to make a quilt top as shown in that kit, including borders and binding (but not backing). To see what kits are available, go to my website, click "STORE" and click on "Patterns & Kits." If there is a particular kit you want for class, it's best to pre-order it -- follow the instructions above for pre-ordering mirrors.

Books (\$30.00 each, or both for \$50.00): *Magnificent Spiral Mandala Quilts* (required for class) and *Simply Amazing Spiral Quilts*. Each book includes the basic drawing and sewing techniques for spirals, though *MSMQ* has been updated a bit. The books cover different aspects of designing with spirals: *SASQ* pays more attention to *individual* spirals and how to use them in a variety of quilt settings. *MSMQ* pays more attention to *combining* spirals and applies them specifically to the round, mandala-style quilts we'll make in class.

Other tools, notions and translucent foundation material: In the tools list above, items marked with an asterisk will be available for purchase in class. About foundations: If you create your own mandala design entirely from scratch you will need blank sheets of translucent (see-through) foundation. Or, you may opt for pre-printed foundations. Both will be available for purchase in class. Packages of blank EQ Printables Foundation sheets are \$10.00 per pack of 25. Complete sets of pre-printed foundations are available in two sizes: 20" diameter are \$20.00; 30" diameter are \$40.00. Each set will make two complete mandalas in different designs.

To order *Simply Amazing Spiral Quilts*, *Magnificent Spiral Mandala Quilts* and other supplies, go to www.ranaemerrillquilts.com -- click on "STORE"

Join RaNae on Facebook -- become a friend!

Visit the Spiromaniacs blog (more on *SASQ*) at <http://spiromaniacs.wordpress.com>

Visit the Spiromandalas blog (more on *MSMQ*) at <http://spiromandalas.wordpress.com>

Sign up to receive the Spiromaniacs newsletter and a free pattern at www.ranaemerrillquilts.com/join

For more information about Spiral Quilt workshops and lectures, go to www.ranaemerrillquilts.com/teaching, or contact RaNae at ranae@ranaemerrillquilts.com or 212-316-2063

Corrections, suggestions, questions? [ranae@ranaemerrillquilts.com/contact](mailto:ranae@ranaemerrillquilts.com)

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