

Paula Nadelstern Workshop: THE FULL KALEIDOSCOPE: Sixty Thirty Plus SunStar

October 1 -3, 2026 at The National Quilt Museum

The workshop covers unique machine-piecing techniques and color and fabric guidelines for creating the complex and mobile reflection of a kaleidoscope. While gaining insight into the nature of symmetry and intricately printed fabrics, students will learn to create a design that sews together successfully and renders a kaleidoscopic image filled with luminosity and dramatic impact.

On Day 1, students learn to draft a perfect angle and the template techniques I use to create complex images by sewing a pattern called Sixty-Thirty. The next days will explore more advanced themes (ie: piecing curves, innovative use of fabrics, learning to identify and join divergent angles) while using a pattern called Sunstar. This product and process class culminates in the creation of a unique and fabulous kaleidoscope block. Often effects more wonderful than you imagine occur, making you both the one who makes the magic and the one who is surprised.

Why take a 3-day workshop? In a longer format, the instructor doesn't need to oversimplify. Time is provided for both process and product and for setbacks -- which often turn out to be the takeaways, the lessons that occur when a misstep needs to be fixed. Skills get cemented and integrated, making the processes richer and layered. Consider time and space to create among like-minded peers a rare gift to be much appreciated. In the classroom context, seeing what others make is almost as good as making it yourself.

SUPPLIES

Fabric/Supply List Questions can be directed to Paula at: Needlestar@aol.com

NOTE: *An asterisk means that this important item will be available for sale in the classroom so do not waste time finding it on your own if not convenient.

1. Graph paper with an eight-to-the-inch grid and a bold inch line; will be provided by instructor.

*2. Sheets of see-thru plastic template material with an eight-to-the-inch grid and a bold inch line. **PREFERRED AND AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CLASS : Visi-Grid by Paula Nadelstern**

3. Thin rulers PREFERRED AND AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CLASS: C-Thru 6"

4. Sharp pencils with ample and accessible erasers

*5. Extra fine-point permanent marker. PREFERRED AND AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CLASS: Multimark S/Faber Castell Fine point

*6. Method to mark dark fabric. PREFERRED AND AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CLASS: Uniball Silver Gel Pen)

7. A sharp fabric scissor (consider Karen Kay Buckley's 6" Perfect Scissors)

8. Template/paper scissors: A template scissor should not be the discarded kitchen shears or shaped for a five-year-old's hand. It is the essential, indispensable tool from which all other acts follow. I use OlfasCS-1 multipurpose scissors.

9. Set-up for rotary cutting, including a rotary cutter, ruler and mat.

10. Sewing machine with well-defined quarter-inch seam allowance guide + single hole throat plate when available

11. General sewing supplies including fine pins and black thread

12. Ziplock baggies to hold templates

13. Simple, inexpensive compass

FABRIC

NOTE: BILATERALLY SYMMETRICAL fabric designed by Paula Nadelstern will be available for sale in the class.

Fabric: If it catches your eye, bring it! The palette of fabric does not have to match. Diversity is the key. Remember, more is more! Important: Multi-colored cotton fabrics printed with at least 8 or 16 on-grain motifs which are identical and bilaterally symmetrical; in other words, the motif can be divided into identical halves by a line passing through the center. Also good: symmetrical patterns and mirror-imaged motifs printed off-grain (ie: paisleys).

See examples: <http://paulanadelstern.com/fabric/fabric-intro.php?line=12>

<http://paulanadelstern.com/fabric/fabric-intro.php?line=10>

Also: a variety of 1/4-1/2 yards of small to medium all-over prints, textures, gradations, stripes, marbled and stuff speckled with gold (a black splattered with gold is excellent). Include rich, saturated jewel tones and painterly fabrics that evoke luminosity, translucence, iridescence. Black and white all-overs such as dots or dashes are useful.

Important: Black or dark saturated color that reads like a solid but isn't. Can be a batik as long as it doesn't read blotchy.

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