

Exploring Curves - Designing and Drafting Quilts with Complex Curves

Email audrey@cottonandbourbon.com with any questions on the supply list

Workshop Description: This class begins with lecture and drafting exercises on my methods for drafting quilts with complex and irregular curves. We'll discuss how I assemble quilts from the drawings, and I'll share the best practices I follow for this process. The class will continue using the Exploring Curves Quilt as practice for sewing complex curves. This quilt is a wall hanging made from one large block that uses curved piecing to create the illusion of transparency from overlapping circles. We'll discuss building a palette and tips and tricks for stress-free curved piecing. Take the guesswork out of color selection by using one of the published color palettes inside the pattern! The Exploring Curves Quilt finishes at 24 x 24 inches.

Supplies:

- **Drafting Complex Curves Booklet** - Digital download available on www.CottonandBourbon.com
 - The Exploring Curves Quilt pattern is included in this booklet download.
- Notebook and pencil for taking notes
- Drafting Supplies: [Compass](#), 8.5x11 printer paper, small ruler with ¼ inch marking (an Add-A-Quarter Ruler or 1x12 could easily be used for this purpose! A small 4x4 or 6x6 square could also be used), ruler that will stretch across the length and width of the paper. Pencil and fine tip sharpie. I use my quilting rulers to draw on paper.
 - You can also draw curves without a compass or circle object and have slightly wonky circles. I'll show you how to piece these too!
- Sewing Supplies: Sewing Machine with 1/4 Inch Foot, Basic Sewing Supplies, Neutral Piecing Thread, Rotary Cutter, Cutting Mat, Marking Tool, Iron, Printer Paper, and Clear Tape (I like the red package of Clear Scotch tape)
- Recommended: Paper Scissors, Fine Glass Head Pins, Cut Resistant Glove

Link for cut resistant glove: [click here](#)

Link for pattern weights: [click here](#) (I'll also have these in the classroom)

Fabric Requirements - Exploring Curves Pattern:

The colors you select for this sewing practice isn't critical, as we're using this pattern to reinforce concepts learned from drafting and designing with curved seams. This is a good chance to use the remnants in the scrap bin! If you decide to choose color carefully, please use the chart below as a guide for collecting the fabrics.

Fabric Requirements ¹		
Quilt Template	Fabric Amount	Color Reference
Background & Borders	1 yard	Snow
Assorted Colors - Overlapping Circles	1 Large Scrap, Fat Eighth, or Fat Quarter of Each Color ²	Palette Option 1 (Illustrations): Gold, Ochre, Creamsicle, Foxglove, Gumdrop, Moss, Zinc ² , and Shitake Palette Option 2 (Cover Quilt): Flame, Nectarine, Creamsicle, Gumdrop, Foxglove, Berry, Navy ² , and Surf
Quilt Backing	1 yard	Snow
Quilt Binding / Facing	3/8 yard	Snow
Quilt Batting	32 x 32 inch	N/A

¹ Pattern assumes yardage is 42" wide and seam allowance of 1/4 inch. Please note, these are fabric estimates.

² Template C (pictured Zinc/Navy) requires a Fat Quarter. All other fabrics can use a large scrap or fat eighth.

Prework:

- Download and open the Drafting Complex Curves booklet. You don't have to print this document for class, but students often find it helpful to have a printed copy (or a digital copy via iPad, etc) available for notes/reference.
- Read the Exploring Curves pattern. Print the pattern template pages and complete the steps 1-3 on page 3 under section **Template Printing Instructions & Pattern Preparation**. The sewing exercises done within the class use the Exploring Curves seams to illustrate the concepts learned. The colors you select for this sewing isn't critical, as we're using this pattern to reinforce concepts learned from drafting and designing with curved seams. This is a good chance to use the remnants in the scrap bin!