

Sunset at Sea Quilt

Welcome! In this class you will learn how to make a quilt featuring the sun setting over the sea. This project will introduce the following skills/techniques:

- Cutting and piecing shallow improv curves
- In-set circles
- Porthole windows

Design Options

Whilst the main class is focussed on teaching the main quilt pictured (below left): a square with circular porthole window, there are a couple of other options that you might like to make instead, or as well as. You could opt not to add the porthole window square frame and instead simply make a circular quilt. Or you might opt not to make a sunset and opt for a long skinny rectangle of blues. The options really are endless and these are just a couple of extra ideas.



Choosing Fabrics

If you are going for the standard sunset option then you'll need a mix of fabrics. I used: 8 blues; 2 yellows; 2 oranges; 2 reds; 3 pinks; and 3 purples. I've used quite bright, vibrant colours as I really wanted it to 'pop', but you could absolutely choose a softer palette.

Whatever fabrics you go for you ideally want them to flow into one another gradually. Blender fabrics are going to work the best. By that, I mean colours that 'read' as a main colour i.e. red on red prints etc. Sometimes you might find a pink on red that will be fantastic at bridging the transition between red and pink. You'll find this sort of fabric as modern or traditional designs. Batiks are also perfect for this, with the added bonus that they fray less than quilting cottons or linens. I would avoid fabric that is heavily patterned with various colours in it as this won't translate well into a sunset picture.

Materials Required

This project is largely improv and therefore it is always difficult to specify a definitive list of materials. In the class we will be making up a small size quilt of between 15" – 24" square (or round!). If you want to go bigger then of course you will need more fabrics. With that in mind you will need:

- **15-20 strips of fabric** in colours of the sunset and sea. Ideally these strips will be between 2"- 4" wide and around 20" long. Shorter strips can be worked in as partial rows, so if you have the perfect colours but the piece is a bit small then grab it anyway. This is the minimum required so you might like to have extra to practise with. This will also mean you have a selection to choose from when piecing. (For reference I used: 8 blues; 2 yellows; 2 oranges; 2 reds; 3 pinks; and 3 purples.) **Make sure that one of the yellow fabrics is at least 6" x 4" for the sun.**
- **Background fabric** – I will be showing a sample that has background fabric that creates a circle porthole window shape and will finish as a square on the outside edges. But I will also show you how you can finish your piece without the 'window', so just as a circular wall hanging. So if you opt for this latter option then you will use this fabric as a facing instead of using it on the front. Size will depend how large you make your improv piece, but two pieces of around 26" square should be sufficient.
- **Backing fabric** – size will depend how large you make your improv piece, but a piece of around 26" square should be sufficient.
- **Batting** - size will depend how large you make your improv piece, but a piece of around 26" square should be sufficient.
- You will need fabric for the **binding or facing** if making the square option. Size will depend how large you make your improv piece, but a ¼ - ½ yard will be sufficient.
- **NOTE:** I **don't** recommend starching the fabric prior to piecing as this can prevent you from being able to ease around the curves when needed.

Tools Required

- Usual Sewing kit
- Small 28mm rotary cutter - makes cutting curves just a little easier than the standard size (45mm) rotary cutter
- Flatter spray - helps get a lovely flat finish on the curved seams
- 50 weight (or thinner) thread – good quality such as Aurifil or Wonderfil - thin thread takes up less space in the seam, ensuring it lays nice and flat
- Circle Templates - provided in the class
- Freezer Paper
- Fabric marker (chalk pencil, disappearing pen or Frixian)
- Roxanne's Glue Baste-it Glue - a temporary, wet, fabric glue that is applied via a fine metal nib
- I use curved applique scissors for some steps to help protect the fabric underneath the cutting area, but normal ones will be fine too
- Iron - a travel size one is easier to work with on the shallow curves.
- A wool ironing mat is great for pressing curves
- Tailor's Clapper (or heavy book!)

