

Floral Tapestry Supply List and Advance Preparation

Supply List:

BASIC SEWING SUPPLIES:

- 1) Sewing Machine -- all stitching may be done with a straight stitch, however you need to be able to operate the machine free-motion style (i.e. drop feed dogs)
- 2) Basic Sewing Kit to include scissors, seam ripper, machine needles, straight pins (in case you want to pin something before gluing), etc.
- 3) Regular cotton thread that blends with the backing fabric (fill two bobbins before coming to class). Clear monofilament thread (.004 weight polyester) for stitching the flowers and leaves. (I **highly** recommend Superior Monopoly clear polyester monofilament thread over nylon.) Regular cotton thread to match the background for quilting around the bouquet and cotton thread for quilting the "table" fabric.
- 4) Power strip/Extension cord

MUST HAVES:

- 1) ADVANCE PREPARATION IS A MUST!!! (see **NOTES)
- 2) Approximately 9"x12" piece of fabric for vase (do NOT cut vase before class). Vase can be any color or design, but should harmonize with your choice of flowers, leaves and the background. Consider: Toille, Oriental print, mottled or shaded fabrics, or a textured solid. Also consider that you could also use a cornucopia, watering can, or something other than a vase to hold your floral bouquet.
- 3) Two to five sheets of plain paper 8.5"x11" for vase pattern.
- 4) Pencil if you wish to draw vase outline -- it can be cut freehand as well.
- 5) Paper Scissors
- 6) Embroidery (or sharp point) scissors for cutting out flowers/leaves.
- 7) Two good, fresh glue sticks -- Test glue stick on fabric before coming to class to be sure it will hold fabrics together.
- 8) Safety Pins or Spray Baste for basting layers together. Sulky KK2000 or a similar temporary adhesive is preferred. You will NOT want to have to wash the basting spray away later!
- 9) A stiletto or similar small tool for holding down delicate petals and leaves as you stitch.

NICE TO HAVES:

- 1) OPTIONAL: 8.5"x11" sheet of fusible in case you want to fuse vase to background. You also may wish to bring freezer paper to make a pattern and turn edges under and applique vase by either hand or machine.
- 2) Iron and ironing surface in case you need to press creases from your flower fabrics or to fuse vase. (NOTE: For classes taken at conferences where irons are provided, please skip this and leave your iron and surface at home.)

- 3) You may want to try some smaller machine needles (70/10 or 60/8 sharps) as they will leave smaller holes.
- 4) Pen and paper for taking notes.

****NOTES:**

1) Advance Preparation: Before coming to class, you are requested to prepare the background, backing and batting (instructions below) and cut out a good selection of flowers and leaves from your choice of printed fabrics. I will bring a selection of floral fabrics to share.

Background: A rectangle of dark fabric 18"x23" for "wall"; a rectangle of lighter fabric 18"x6" for "table" on which the vase will rest. Stitch the "table" piece to the dark background and press seam open. Background may be any color, but a patterned or "leafy" dark green is especially nice. Try a dark, mottled hand-dyed fabric for a textured look. The background is dark to allow the flowers to stand out; a lighter background will draw the attention from the flowers. The "table" fabric should be a print that simulates wood, marble, a lace tablecloth, etc. (If you are unsure of your fabric choices for the background & table, bring your options to class & we can discuss. Be sure to bring rotary cutting supplies or trim the potential fabrics down to the proper size before class.)

Flowers and Leaves: There is an abundance of fabrics with realistic flowers and leaves printed on them – fabrics by Philip Jacobs or Kaffe Fassett in particular. Please cut out a selection of flowers and leaves in advance from these printed fabrics. Also bring the fabrics with you to class in case you need to cut some more flowers or leaves for your piece. Cut out the flowers and leaves **WITHOUT** a seam allowance. Don't reject a flower because the entire flower is not visible. The layering technique we will use enables you to use portions of flowers. Please cut out at least five large flowers, six or seven medium sized flowers and some spiky, airy clusters of small flowers along with a dozen or so leaves. Decorator cottons are also a great source of flowers & leaves. Don't worry if they are a little heavier than regular cottons, but do make sure that they don't fray easily. Florals on a dark background are easier to work with, so that if a little background is visible, you won't have to worry about cutting it away -- it will blend in with your dark background of the piece.

Note: As we sew to attach the flowers, the edges will fray. I prefer this and think it adds texture for a more natural looking bouquet. If you would prefer smoother edges, look into using Terial Magic, or similar fabric stiffener before cutting out your flowers. Keep in mind that we will not be washing this wallhanging once completed.

Backing and Batting: Cut backing and batting 4" larger than your constructed top. Decorator cottons or clothing fabric such as poplin or lightweight denim work well as backing as they are slightly heavier than regular cottons and tend not to distort as you stitch. Regular weight cotton is also fine for the backing. A busy print will disguise the abundance of stitching which will show on the back. Batting should be lightweight and stable rather than puffy -- cotton batting is **HIGHLY** recommended.