

Magnificent Mandalas with Mel Beach

Let's add some zen to our free-motion quilting. We'll warm up designing mandalas on paper, before learning how to use minimal marking to free-motion quilt a Wholecloth original mandala design. Watch your mandala bloom as you add layers of texture and color!

This workshop is geared towards experienced quilters who are comfortable with free-motion quilting.

Materials/Supplies Needed:

- Sewing machine with free motion/embroidery foot and extension table.
- Quilting sandwich (18"x22") and 20-25 curved safety pins for pin basting
 - I recommend using a solid fabric for your quilt top so your quilted mandala will pop and an 80/20 batting such as Quilter's Dream or Warm & Natural
- Variety of threads that contrast with your quilt top fabric and play nicely with your sewing machine
 - Good quality threads (solid, variegated, metallic). I highly recommend either Aurifil and/or Superior. Consider bringing 4-7 analogous colors to create an ombre. Metallic accents can add some wonderful sparkle.
 - Machine needles appropriate for the threads you bring (top stitch, metallic, etc)
 - Extra bobbins
- Thread Snips, tweezers and self-threading needle to bury thread tails
- 1 yard of 18" wide freezer paper and paper scissors
- Chalk or ceramic marking pencil that will show on your quilt top
- Tape (clear and/or blue painter's tape)
- A plastic sheet protector OR ~12" square piece of vinyl plastic OR ~12" square piece of acrylic plastic
- Fine Tip Dry erase marker, 5-10 Q-tips and a small (2" square) scrap of batting)
- Drafting Tools: Straight Edge Ruler (24" and 12") and Adjustable Compass that can create large circles
 - I will bring 2-3 with me for participant use, but you may want to consider purchasing your own:
 - Dasco Pro Giant Circle Compass with Rod (~\$8 at Home Depot/Amazon)
 - Lowe's carries a similar product: Stanley FATMAX Chisel Compass (~\$7)
- 5-10 sheets of photocopier paper, pencil, eraser and fine-tipped black permanent markers (ie. Sharpie/Micron)
- Optional (but not required) Items:
 - Digital camera/phone camera
 - Journal and/or books containing doodles/sketches of your favorite free-motion quilting motifs/designs
- If you would like to try the cut away option (Crayon Etched Mandala featured in Bottom Photo):
 - Bring a fat quarter of contrasting print to layer under your solid quilt top for cut away work (bright batiks, hand dyes, ombres, rainbow prints all work well)
 - Curved tip embroidery snips (ie. Havel's Snip Eze 4 3/4" Embroidery Snips)
 - Seam Ripper



More pictures of Magnificent Mandalas are posted on my website: melbeachquilts.com/teaching

Questions/concerns? Feel free to contact me at melbeachquilts@yahoo.com