

Louisa L. Smith

A New Twist on Strips 'n Curves

We have taking Strips 'n Curves to another dimension. If you have enjoyed the book Strips 'n Curves I promise you this will have you creating even more wonderful and dynamic quilts.

Your choices are many:

For template free quilts we have:

The Free Form Curves, The Strips 'n Circles,

For new templates sets we have:

The Half Clamshell and the Swirl,

For new designs with the old favorites template sets we will explore:

Overlapping and Crosscutting, Strips 'n Curves with paper piecing,

Or simply using *mixed sets of templates.*

Check out my website for pictures: www.Quiltescapes.com

Supplies are:

Several different colors Sharpie Ultra **Fine Point** pens

- Sheet to cover your work table at night
- Silk pins (Swiss Iris Silk Pins are great) and large quilter's pins
- Note paper and pen, sharp fabric scissors and paper scissors and seam ripper.
- A piece of cotton batting, felt or flannel backed tablecloth for a large design wall.
- Spray Starch (I like the regular Niagara)
- Multi-plug extension cord with surge protection
- Table top light
- Small rotary cutter (28 mm), largest board possible and ruler.
- For embellishments: embroidery floss, beads, anything to go with your theme, Fraycheck (optional), masking tape.
- Sewing machine (if you plan on sewing your strata in class, versus at home have several bobbins filled) **DO NOT FORGET YOUR FOOT PEDAL!**
- Freezer paper (optional), Wonder Under or Steam-A-Seam II.
- To draft your own templates only: Gridded template plastic and an 18 inch flat, plastic ruler by Collins. (WalMart carries these rulers!) and push pin.
- The templates available for purchase are: The 9" Basic Set \$29.95, The Basic Set II \$24.95, the Negative/Positive Set \$29.95, The 6 inch Beg 'n Borrow Set \$24.95, The 8" Flowing Ribbon Set 8" \$9.95, Flowing Ribbon Set 6" \$6.95, The Advanced Set (9 pieces) \$49.95.
- As well as our new sets: The Half Clamshell and the Swirl!!

The fabrics:

- Many, many fabrics in lots of different textures and colors; fat quarters are OK, but you will have to piece them to get an approx. 42" long strip or 1/2 yd. or 1/18 yd. pieces. Just note: the strips are 1/2" wide!)
- Whatever color schemes you may decide on, you will have to collect lots of gradations! Lights, mediums and darks are needed to create the right effect.
- At least 1 yd. of a good background fabric or "focus" fabric that will work with all your fabrics, could be a batik type, a hand dyed or an interesting print. Make sure it has lots of color in it a tone on tone does not work here. If you have trouble picking your fabrics ask your local quilt store to assist y'ou. Refer to the book to get a good idea of the type of fabrics that will work here. If your background fabric needs to be fussy cut buy extra yardage. I prefer to have many background fabrics!
- If you prefer you could try to stay more monochromatic and collect all kinds of fabrics in one color family.

Need more info? Talk to Louisa L. Smith. 970 593-1265 or email: Quiltescap@aol.com

Cutting & sewing directions prior to class:

- From all your fabrics cut at least one 1/2" wide stripe (I always cut two!) That means that each strip is about 42" by 1/2". If you have fat quarters, cut two and sew to each other so that it will be about 42" long also.
- Cutting hints:
 - First of all have your fabrics nicely pressed; fabrics that are wrinkled are sure to distort your strips. Be careful. Read up on cutting with a rotary cutter if you are a beginner.
 - Make sure your fabrics are ironed and lay flat on your cutting table, we don't want to end up with "V" or "s" -curves instead of a nice straight 1/12" wide strip.
 - If you are experienced and always fold your fabrics twice (4 layers!) then make sure the main fold is clearly visible and still use it as a guide for the horizontal marks of your ruler. (The main fold is the fold in the fabric when it is rolled up on a bolt)
 - Please put the horizontal lines of your ruler on the fold to keep your strips straight and keep the fold near you (next to your body versus away from you so that you can clearly see it!
 - The use of spray starch may keep your long strips from stretching when sewn to each other. So I advise you to spray your fabrics before cutting.
 - You need to cut your strips correctly, that means that all your strips have the exact same width.

- To save precious class time you could sew your strips to each other. My advice is to play with them on a work wall until you are happy with the color flow. You want to create waves of color so you will have many light, medium and dark sections. Remember it takes about 13 strips for one template, so if you want a light section you need to have a lot of lights.
- When you are satisfied with your set up you can start sewing the first two strips to each other. Press the seam open and put back on your design wall.
- Take the next two strips (#3 & #4) and sew these to each; press open and put back on the wall. Do this to all your strips. Then go back to the first two sets and sew them into sets of 4! ! !
- Please use good thread and a small stitch about 1.5 to 2 in length.

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