

Shimmering Triangles

Jenny Bowker

This class is fun, easy and productive.

You will learn to make quick sets of triangles and then a way to put together a quilt that gives the effect of water rippling over pebbles in a creek.

It is also a wonderful class to use collections of big print fabrics – cats, Japanese fabrics, big florals or Kaffe Fassets – all the fabrics you buy because you love them – but which often sit unused as it is hard to put them together.

IMPORTANT In a two day class you will not get a lot done. You do not need to bring 25 big prints and 40 plainer fabrics to class as you will not use all that in two days.

Requirements

Cutting mat - at least twelve inches wide

A quarter inch foot for your machine

Sewing machine in good condition

12 1/2 inch square ruler if you have one **and a smaller ruler** – I like a 12” x 6” or something like it for trimming. A six inch square will also be useful.

Rotary cutter with a sharp blade

Thread to work with your fabrics. I prefer a medium value to very light or very dark

Painter’s tape (if it is permitted) to attach your design wall to the wall.

Small sharp scissors

Pins and your usual sewing accessories kit

Pencils or a Frixion pen (if you like them) for marking lines on your fabric

A piece of fabric, batting, felt or a furry backed tablecloth to use as a **design wall**

Extension power cable unless you know that this is supplied by the organiser

A Peephole viewer like the one in front doors is useful to look through to reduce the design if you have one - or binoculars or a digital camera

Fabric Requirements for Shimmering Triangles



Two versions of the option with toners shown here.

Toners are quieter fabrics – batiks or tone on tones or small prints to give a resting space between the main features.

This is a planned quilt and the design wall is essential for this exercise. If you wish you can precut A FEW of the fabrics you will use for this to save time in class. If unsure – wait and do it in class! You have two alternatives – one with toners (in-between quieter fabrics which I usually use as four smaller squares) or one made with all big prints. The option with toners is shown in the two quilts above, and the option with just big prints is below.



Option with all big prints (or any prints of your choice) shown here.

Feature fabrics

This quilt can use collections of big or feature prints, and each is combined with two toner fabrics – usually I use the same colour but slight different prints or values. The main fabrics can be Kaffe Fasset or batik sarongs like mine but all sorts of things will work that are not easy to put together otherwise. Try collections of fabrics – like Japanese fabrics with toners in navy, terracottas or taupes, or your cat fabrics with toners that pick up key colours, or autumn leaf fabrics with autumn toners that will mix and match. Even big bright kids' prints can work with colours that co-ordinate.

Fat quarters are very useful. **You need to be able to cut one square 8 ½ inches, and four squares 5 ¾ inches or slightly bigger from each fabric.**

FOR BIG PRINTS ONLY (NO TONERS)

A good selection of prints – be sure you have very different values from light to dark.

Fat quarters are very useful. **You need to be able to cut one square 8 ½ inches, and four squares 5 ¾ inches or slightly bigger from each fabric.** Don't precut as you might change your mind about what you are using.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO PRECUT A FEW FABRICS:

From each large print–

1 piece 8 1/2 inches square

4 pieces - 5 3/4 inches square

This does not include border and corner pieces so bring extra fabric.

FOR THE OPTION WITH TONERS

A selection of larger or feature prints in varying levels of light and dark.

ALSO a selection of toners – see below.

Fat quarters are very useful.

From each FEATURE FABRIC You need to be able to cut one square 8 ½ inches, and four squares 5 ¾ inches at least.

For each TONER you need to be able to cut two 4 ½ inch squares AND two 5 ¾" squares. Don't precut as you might change your mind about what you are using.

Your toners should be a selection of colours that look good with your larger prints. My toners were a mix of tone on tones, batiks, hand dyes, smaller prints and things that gave an impression of being mostly one colour. Spots work but avoid stripes.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO PRECUT A FEW FABRICS:

From each large print–

1 piece 8 1/2 inches square

4 pieces - 5 3/4 inches square

From each toner-

2 pieces 4 1/2 inches square

AND 2 pieces 5 3/4 inches square

I suggest you do not try to match prints to toners – just select a range. Each print needs four toners – and those toners go with four prints too – so it's best to do this part in class. Just choose and cut a pile of prints and a pile of toners and do not think too hard about it. **I used sixteen prints in the top photographed on the right, and forty toners** – so that might give you an indication of what you might need for a whole quilt but you do not need all this in class. Some toners I used in more than one place, but I did not repeat big prints.

The class is fun and it is an intriguing new way to design a quilt. Write to me if you need help at jenny.bowker@gmail.com

See you soon!