

Welcome to a Gualala Arts workshop
Beginning Free Motion Quilting with Bonnie Toy
On April 13 & 14, 2011
From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Payments can be refunded until the "register by" date; after that date, no refunds
- If the class does not fill, you will receive a full refund.

Please check that your class has filled before the first meeting date.

If you would like to receive monthly workshop email announcements, please go to our website, GualalaArts.org. Go to the left menu and click "Email sign up." After signing in with your current email address, instructions will be mailed to you for updating your email choices. If you need information on food and lodging in the Gualala Area, go to our website and look under "Visitor Info".

MATERIALS

Supply list:

Sewing machine: cleaned, serviced and in good working condition. Bring your owner's manual, screw driver for adjusting bobbin tension, sewing machine oil, straight stitch foot, extra bobbins, etc.

Usual sewing supplies – scissors, seam ripper, etc.

Power strip/extension cord if needed.

A table or surround for your machine to give you a large quilting space.

Free motion (mending) foot. I especially recommend an open toe foot such as the #24 Bernina foot.

Straight stitch (single hole) throat plate if you have one.

Optional, but highly recommended: A Supreme Slider (www.freemotionslider.com), which allows your quilt to move smoothly and easily over the machine table.

Marking tools: Fabric markers such as blue washout markers, white markers for dark fabrics if needed, such as Clover's White Marking pen. Optional: I also use both blue and white pounce pads for quickly marking stencils, and I will bring mine for you to try.

Safety pins for pin-basting your quilt samples

Table top light if your eyes require it.

Quilting gloves, pads, etc if you use them.

Threads: Bring a selection of the threads that you would like to use for machine quilting. I would avoid threads that often are somewhat difficult to use, such as metallics. You can't go wrong with Aurifil #50 cotton or Mettler silk finish, or a number of the excellent threads from Superior or YLI. For beginners, a thread that is a match or near match for the color of your quilt sandwich is a good choice. Threads in a contrasting color or a very heavy thread will tend to show up your "boo-boos" more than a matching thread of a medium weight.

Ideally, the backing for your quilt sandwich will be similar in value/color to the quilt top, so that you can use the same thread in the bobbin as in the needle. This will avoid many worries caused by minor tension difficulties.

Needles: For most medium-weight threads I use 80/12 Jeans Denim or Microtex Sharp needles. You can also use Universals, but the Jeans Denim or Sharps will give you a little cleaner hole.

Fabric: You will need several warm-up and practice sandwiches, about 18" square. If you would like, you can put together a sampler in advance. I suggest a simple 9 patch with 6" finished squares and a border. Or, you can use individual sample pieces, but do use nice material so that you will be proud of your finished product. Prewash your fabrics if you want to avoid shrinkage or bleeding. Press your fabric and starch lightly if you like.

I recommend a fairly plain soft cotton for the top of your sandwich(es) (tone on tone, fossil fern, a nice muslin, etc) – you want to be able to see your quilting. However, a small print for the back can hide many sins. Do not use a backing fabric that has a raised printed pattern on it such as you sometimes see on white-on-white fabrics. The extra thickness of the printed areas can cause tension problems.

The type of batting you use will definitely affect the appearance of your quilting. A very flat batt will show your quilting less well than one that has a little loft. A very thick batting such as some of the poly batts makes quilting more difficult. Remember that you are machine quilting, so what you may have learned about selecting batting for hand quilting does not apply. You don't really care how the batting "needles". What you care about is how it puffs and how it drapes. I like to use Quilter's Dream Select Cotton or Hobbs 80/20 for everyday projects. For something special I usually use wool, as the loft is very nice and it drapes beautifully. I haven't used Bamboo, but I understand that it also drapes well. For that VERY SPECIAL project, there is nothing like silk.