

Second Saturday 2026: Dancing with Dresdens

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Dresden plates are such happy blocks! Not only are they fun to stitch, but they can be made into so many useful items, from full-size quilts to throws to table runners to pillows to totes. We'll be working from Candyce Copp Grisham's book, *Dresden Quilt Blocks Reimagined*, to make Dresdens with different edge finishes, plain and pieced wedges, and different sizes. These Dresdens have turned edges, so they are super-easy to machine-stitch into place. Each Dresden can stand alone or be layered for a fun, dancing effect.

To make a sampler quilt (like the example), we'll show you how to pre-quilt a sandwich with your walking foot, appliqué the Dresden into place, and assemble the quilted blocks using the quilt-as-you-go gusset & cover strip method.



Course Outline

January	Introduction to the blocks, selecting fabrics, rounding up notions
February	Straight-edge Dresdens and center circles
March	Pointed-edge Dresdens, with single and double wedges
April	Curved-edge Dresdens, with single and double wedges
May	Three-sided Dresden wedges and alternating pointed and curved wedges
June	Symmetric pieced wedges, with two and with three fabrics
July	Asymmetric pieced wedges: Cogwheel (2 fabrics) and Bull's-Eye (4 fabrics)
August	Split Wedge Dresden and Compass Rose Dresden
September	Sawtooth Dresden and Flying Geese Dresden
October	Layout and layering; quilting the background; appliqueing the blocks
November	Quilt-as-you-go gusset & cover strip method
December	Year-end roundup

The Club

Club members can make the sampler quilt, or they can make blocks and use them for other items. The monthly club meeting provides information on current and upcoming quilt shows, classes at Capital Quilts, and other learning opportunities. We share photographs of Dresden blocks-in-progress, to get ideas and inspiration from what other club members are doing. We present the current month's tasks and finished with show-and-tell, so members can share their finished projects.

Skill level: Confident beginner and up

Class format: The Second Saturday Club meets at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month. In 2026, the club will meet via Zoom. Each session will be recorded and made available for club members to view and download.

Technology

Zoom: Meetings will convene on Zoom (download the Zoom app/client: <https://zoom.us/client/latest/ZoomInstaller.exe>). You will need a laptop or tablet with a camera/webcam, microphone, and speakers, plus an Internet connection.

Photos: To share your work-in-progress and your show-and-tell projects, you'll need to be able to take and email digital (cell phone) photos of your work on a design wall.

Supply List

This supply list is based on making a sampler quilt like the one in the photograph. Students should feel free to adapt this list to what they want to make.

Dancing Dresdens Sampler

Finished quilt: 66 in. x 66 in.

Block sizes: twelve 16½ in. x 16½ in. blocks and one 33 in. x 33 in. block.

Dresden plates: 18 to 20 Dresdens, using 4 in., 5 in. and 6 in. wedges, plus one Dresden with an 8 in. wedge.

Pattern Requirements

- *Dresden Quilt Blocks Reimagined*, by Candyce Copp Grisham
- Creative Grids 18-degree wedge ruler with acrylic circle template, to make Dresdens with 20 wedges (if you already have a 15- or 20-degree wedge ruler, you can use it, but you'll have to calculate for Dresdens with 24 or 18 wedges).

Fabric Requirements

Second Saturday alumna know that we recommend waiting until the January class to purchase fabric and supplies.

- Fabric for Dresdens: 20 to 24 fat quarters or fat eighths, plus ½ yard cuts of at least two fabrics. You can start with a fat quarter bundle and add to it, or you can pull material from your stash. Look for a mix of lights, mediums, and darks. Try to include at least one striped fabric.
- Background: 4 yards for a single-fabric background. You can try 16 fat quarters (or 18 in. x 18 in. squares) for a scrappy background.
- Backing: 4 yards for a single-fabric backing. Or use assorted 18 in x 18 in. squares.
- Binding: ½ yard (or use leftover background fabric)
- Gussets & cover strips: ¼ yard for gussets on the back and ⅜ yard for cover strips on the front. (You can also use leftover background or backing fabric.)
- Fusible Interfacing: about 3 yards of Pellon 906F (sheerweight), Pellon P44F (lightweight) or Pellon 931TD (medium weight) (yardage or 15-in. wide rolls)

Helpful Tools

- Pressing bar or strip stick (for pressing seams open)
- Nonstick pressing sheet (parchment paper or Goddess Sheet)
- Point turner
- Clover Hot Hemmer (6 in. x 5 in. with notch or 2.5 in. x 10 in. rectangle)

General quilting supplies

- Sewing machine with power cord, foot pedal, open-toed foot, ¼ in. seam foot, and walking foot, plus the manual
- Cutting mat, acrylic rulers, rotary cutters (45 mm and optional 28 mm) with replacement blades
- Design wall
- Notions, including snips, awl or stiletto, seam ripper, marking pens/pencils.

Questions?

Contact the instructors, Jan Wisor and Betsy Kulamer, at cqsecondsaturday@gmail.com.

Capital Quilts Policies for All Classes

- Please do not bring visitors to class.
- If you must cancel the class, your fee can be refunded ONLY if you have notified us at least seven days before the class. The refund will be a store credit. If someone on the waiting list can fill your place, you will receive store credit for the fee, even if you have not notified us by the deadline.
- If Capital Quilts cancels the class for any reason, including inclement weather, you will receive an email advising you of this situation. We also post store closings on our website, www.capitalquilts.com, and on Facebook. If the class is rescheduled, you will be invited to come to the new class before the class is opened to public registration. In the event you cannot take the rescheduled class, you will receive a full refund of the class fee.