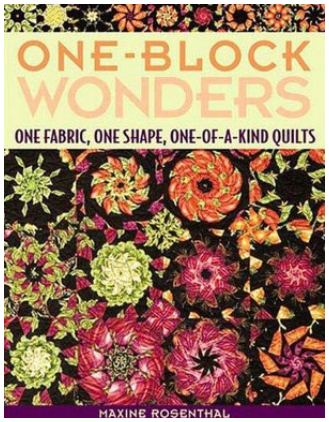

SUPPLY LIST
One-Block Wonders
Teacher: Kathi Miller

In this class we will use a single large-print fabric to create kaleidoscopes. Kaleidoscope blocks – each one unique – are produced by aligning the printed design on several layers of fabric and then cutting and sewing triangles together. Once all the blocks are made, the kaleidoscopes are used to "paint" a watercolor-like quilt. These quilts look complex but are actually easy, easy, easy – and fun to make besides.

Tools and notions needed:

- Sewing machine in good working order with a ¼" quilting foot or ¼" sewing guide for accurate piecing. Know how to operate your machine. If you have the machine manual, it's a good idea to bring it along.
- Basic sewing supplies: machine needles, neutral color thread, pins, several full bobbins, seam ripper, rotary cutter with a new blade, 17" x 23" cutting mat, 6" or 6½" x 24" ruler. You will be cutting 6 layers at one time so you might want to use a "jumbo" 60 mm. rotary cutter.
- Other sewing supplies:
  - Flower head pins. These lay flat enough for a ruler to be over them and do not shift when you are cutting. You will also need a good supply of smaller quilting pins, i.e., .5 mm. 1½" Clover pins.
  - Design wall – piece of flannel or batting that your fabric will stick to without being pinned so that the kaleidoscopes can easily be moved around. The shop has several design walls in the classroom. However, if we have a full class some of you may need your own design wall that can be taped to a wall or pinned to a quilt hanging in the classroom.
- **Special tool:** 60-degree ruler with a pointed tip. Clearview and June Tailor make rulers with pointed tips. A ruler with a blunt tip will not work for these blocks.

Pattern or book: *"One-Block Wonders"* by Maxine Rosenthal. A book is required. The shop will have books available. Maxine Rosenthal actually has several One-Block Wonder books available and any of them will work. They all include the basics.

Fabric requirements:

If you are using yardage, you need 6 repeats of a large-print fabric. Some suggestions:

- Choose a fabric with very little background. Too much background gives you blocks with little design and the blocks tend to look alike.
- A background that is not a solid color works better than a solid background but solid backgrounds can be used.
- Stripes and straight lines that run parallel or perpendicular to the selvage should be avoided.
- Swirls work well.
- I avoid fabrics with animals and/or people as you can end up with eyeballs and other body parts in strange places! This is totally my personal opinion. I've seen One-Block Wonders from a rodeo print with cowboys, horses and livestock and another from an Asian print featuring Koi and both were great.
- The larger the print, the less the finished blocks will look like the original fabric. This is the result you want!
- Try to limit the number of colors in the fabrics. Designing with fewer colors is much easier than designing with 8 or 9 colors.

You'll find lots of examples of suitable fabrics in the *One-Block Wonders* book. Larger prints usually feature a repeat about every 24". 4-5 yards will make a very comfortable lap quilt. If the distance between repeats is closer to 12" (which is a short repeat), you will end up with a very small project. For short repeats, buy 12 repeats instead of 6. Add an extra half-yard or yard to have a piece of the original fabric as a reference. I like to include a piece of the original fabric on the quilt back so it can be compared to the kaleidoscopes.

If you are using pre-printed panels, you will need seven (7) panels that have been cut from the same bolt. You will stack and cut six of the panels to make the kaleidoscope hexagons. The seventh uncut panel will be framed with the hexagons you make from the other panels.

When shopping for fabric, you might want to bring two mirrors with you. Arrange the mirrors in a V shape and move them around the fabric to get an idea of the kaleidoscopes it will form. There is also a great website called oneblockwonder.com/design-helper that shows what hexagons will look like when cut from a particular fabric. You will want to access the website from your cell phone so you can use your phone's camera to take a picture of the fabric(s) you are considering.

A couple more things:

- DO NOT PREWASH THE FABRIC.
- DO NOT BUY FABRIC FROM MORE THAN ONE BOLT. There is no guarantee that the colors or print of a pattern are exactly the same from bolt to bolt.
- If you are using panels, you can cut them apart.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. My cell number is 360.798.6218. Email is miller1623@comcast.net.