

Taking a Photo for Color Doesn't Matter

With Lynne Pullis

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Bio

Lynne Pillus has been a quilter for thirty years. She started, as many of us have, the old fashioned way – with templates and a needle and thread, hand piecing her first quilt. When the quilt shop opened nearby, and classes offered in rotary cutting and strip piecing, she was there.

Lynne has taken many classes since then and enjoyed many retreats. She has tried many new techniques, unusual fabrics and interesting combinations, all in a search to find her own voice.

Then Lynne, who lives in the farm community of Oroville, went on a Farm City Tour at CSU Chico. She took a photo of a piece of farm equipment, printed it out, and wondered if it was possible to reproduce that feeling of depth and motion in fabric into a quilt. It was. Hence, she has become known as the “mechanical quilter.”

Class Description

“Color Doesn’t Matter” is a two-day class in which students will create a pattern from their own photograph. They will make a quilt with their pattern, learning an easy fused raw-edge appliqué technique. Quilts can be any subject including portraits of people or pets, landscapes, buildings or mechanical objects.

Taking a Photo for “Color Doesn’t Matter”

My college photography teacher told us the best photos should be taken on a cloudy day, or in subdued light. For the purpose of our class we want to do exactly the opposite. Take a photo of your subject, whether it’s an old truck, a pile of tools or a portrait, in bright light. Full sunshine is great. You want your photo to have a wide range of values from dark to light. Take several photos from different angles. Try to have your subject fill the frame. If you are doing a portrait, make it a close-up of the head. If you are doing a truck or tools, consider a close-up of a portion of your subject. Perhaps have just the hood and bumper of a vehicle or a few hammer heads in the picture.

Bring two or three different photos (or more if you like) and we can discuss which one will work for you.

In my classes I have had people make quilts of machines, trucks, flowers, lighthouses, pets and children. There is no limit to what you can use to make a pattern for your Color Doesn’t Matter Quilt.

Supply List

18 mm rotary cutter (important)

Saral or Transdoodle transfer paper, white (Most commonly this is available in packages of 5 different colored sheets, but we need just the white. I have this on the roll in white. It will cost \$4.50 plus tax per student for the smaller quilts or it is available by the roll from Amazon.)

Craft knife (for example, X-acto knife)

Cutting mat (use an old one, or plan to use the back. This cutting technique is very hard on mats.)

Freezer paper

20" x 30" Foam Core Board (Available at the Dollar Store, Michael's or Walmart)

Pencil

Pen

Pins

Parchment Paper

White fabric marker

Seven 1-gallon size zip lock bags

Large ruler

Sticky notes

A pair of craft tweezers is helpful, although not necessary

Fabric Requirements

2/3 yard solid black fabric for base fabric

Batik fabrics in a wide range of values are needed. A layer cake is a good starting point, especially if you can find one that has a wide range of values, from light to dark. Scraps are great. If you are taking the class with friends, perhaps you could plan on sharing. If you plan to make a quilt in a particular color, you will need the color you choose in a wide range of values. You will want to have a few different fabrics in each value.





