



Ruth Ohol - Intro to Domestic Machine Quilting with Rulers Friday, October 25, 2019

Rulers have long been a staple in the long-arm quilter's bag-of-tricks. As these artists move towards computer generated and guided work, domestic machine quilters have started to embrace the use of these tools to improve their quilting.

Ruth will concentrate on work that can be done on a domestic machine using a straight ruler, circle rulers and some specialty rulers. Students can bring as many rulers as they like or make the purchasing decision after seeing how they are used.

Hopefully this class will help those who may have purchased rulers for a domestic machine and who have found them difficult to use, or are not using them at all, more comfortable using them.

SUPPLY LIST

- Machine in good working order. You need to know how to drop the feed dogs.
- A plexiglass or other sewing machine extension for your machine.
- Free motion **RULER** foot for your brand of machine. This is a special foot, not the one used for normal free-motion sewing.
- Walking foot or all purpose foot.
- A few extra needles. Recommended needle are a sharp or quilting needle. You may want to bring a couple of sizes (70, 75 or 80). Some needles will be available in class.
- 3-4 empty bobbins.
- One spool of water soluble thread.
- Masking tape and some safety pins for prepping quilt sandwiches.
- Blue water soluble marking pen or a Frixion pen.
- 2-3 fat quarter sized quilt sandwiches. When you make your fabric choices choose top fabrics that are easily marked. The back can be any fabric.
- In addition, bring a quilt sandwich the size you would use for a baby quilt. This is a great size to really get the hang of quilting with rulers. This does not need to be a pieced top. Use a plain fabric or small print which can easily be marked up a bit and then turned into a small and very simple whole cloth quilt.
- Scissors to nip threads.
- 24" ruler for marking purposes.
- 3-4 spools of Aurifil thread to coordinate with your fabrics. Threads that contrast with the fabric will work best. If you are bringing muslin, bring some light colored threads like pink, peach, lavender. It will be easier to see your stitching than if you work with cream. What you don't want is high contrast thread like a primary color, navy, brown or black.
- Machine quilting rulers. Bring what you have. If you have not purchased any yet, my suggestions are:
 - Accents in Design straight rulers. These can be purchased in a set of 6", 8" and 12" or individually. I use my 8" size the most. These rulers have a great gripping system and are available from accentsindesign.com
 - Westalee makes various kinds circle rulers. I really love these circle rulers. One on line source is qualitysewing.com (search for circle template set). Or check out Leroy at the Bernina dealer in Penn Yan. Call first to see if they have them (607-243-7879).

- Quilters Apothecary (quiltersapothecary.com) also makes very nice rulers. For a straight ruler you would want what he calls a Mystical 45. For small circles, he sells several sizes of “inside circle rulers” that I particularly like. I also have his curved ruler set which I like for curved crosshatch.

There are some rulers that I suggest you NOT buy. These are the Bernina Branded rulers and the Quilter’s Rule brand. They lack some of the registration lines which makes placing your quilting difficult.

Participants who have not acquired a stash of rulers may want to come with just a straight ruler and make their purchasing decisions after they see how some of the other rulers are used.

In addition, Westalee and Quilters Apothecary both have really good on-line videos on how these rulers are used. They are easily found on youtube. They are great inspirations!