

One Block Wonder – overview, supply list

Join us on November 17 to make One Block Wonders! This technique has us cutting identical 60-degree triangles to make a kaleidoscopic hexagon. Terrific fun, and the results are almost always dramatic and unexpected. *There are no partial or “Y” seams in this method* – simple half-hex rows or columns make construction pretty easy. Class will be held 10:00-4:00pm at Cate’s Sew Modern; we’ll hold a followup/finish-it-up class if participants desire it, or you can just holler. I (Sally Murray) can be reached at grendelskin@gmail.com.

Supplies Needed:

Book: “One Block Wonders: One Fabric, One Shape, One-of-a-Kind Quilts” by Maxine Rosenthal, or “One Block Wonders: Encore!” also by Rosenthal, which explains how to build cubes for accents in addition to the regular instructions.

Probably 4+ yards of a large-scale print – see notes below. **You’ll need six repeats.** I like to purchase extra fabric to incorporate the original into the borders or backing. See your book; ideally you want a large repeat, at least 12 inches.

Ruler with clear 60-degree mark. You may use a specialty 60-degree ruler if you wish, but your standard ruler probably has a clear 60 degree marking you can use. I use a Creative Grids 60 degree ruler; you may prefer a truncated top since it helps reduce bulk in the kaleidoscope centers. Do NOT use your Tri-Recs triangle ruler, it’s not 60 degrees.

Flower-head (flat headed) pins

Standard sewing supplies: rotary cutter, mat, thread, etc. NEW rotary cutter blade strongly recommended.

Sewing machine you’re comfortable using.

Reducing glass or phone/camera to review layout

Forked pins helpful for final assembly

Notes on fabric selection: you want to look for a LARGE scale print! The bigger the better, including full-width panels. Look for color first, then pattern: you want 3-5 colors you love in the print, and lots of movement; no large blank areas. Blowsy florals work well, as do novelty fabrics like undersea fish, Asian cranes and geishas, prints featuring large animals and the like. Head for the Kaffe section. Panels work well also; I suggest buying 7 so you can build hexes around a complete panel. The clearance table is a terrific resource for OBW fabrics. If you’re unsure, email me a picture (grendelskin@gmail.com) and I’ll offer an opinion.

Here’s a great tool just for OBWs: <http://oneblockwonder.com/design-helper/> upload an image and it’ll give you a good idea what your kaleidoscopes will look like.

You can buy what the shops call “design mirrors,” intended to let you preview your fabric in a kaleidoscope setting. Here’s a brief tutorial (and good tips page) that shows the mirror in use: <http://www.jankrentz.com/weblog/?cat=323>

And don’t forget the value of the Net: do a lookup for “one block wonder” on Google Images, Flickr or Pinterest and you’ll get lots of inspiration!

Here are some fabrics I have used successfully:



More pinup girls – fabric is Les Elegantes. I appliquéd extra girls around the edges.



Heron panel – in progress. This requires 7 panels, one for the center and six for hexies. I cut mine funky-like but most folks work around the straight edges of the panel. It'll be more cohesive after quilting.

