Stunning Improv Sunbursts

quilting chemistry

required materials

¼ yd of inspiration fabric*
¼ yd each of 6-8 supporting solid or blender fabrics*
¼ yd contrasting fabric (darkest dark or lightest light)*
matching or neutral thread
rotary cutter
fabric & paper scissors
painter's tape or washi tape
small (~6-8″) square or rectangular acrylic ruler
10-12″ or larger **SQUARE** acrylic ruler
small cutting mat (~12″x18″)
sewing machine

you may also use a fat quarter for these fabrics

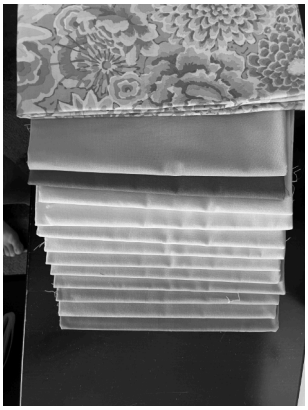
recommended supplies

Large rectangular ruler (6″x24″)

selecting a palette

When curating a palette for a quilt, I often lean on the color inspiration of a fabric designer I enjoy - I pick a large graphic print that has a color story that I *love* and that evokes a feeling I want to have in my quilt. This fabric is really just my inspiration for picking my colors - though I often incorporate my inspiration fabric in small amounts. I then use that fabric to select colors from my stash (or use a color card to identify any colors I need to order).

After your initial fabric pull, lay out your fabrics and take a picture with your smart phone. Use the filters option to turn the photo into black and white in order to get a better idea on the value (light/dark) range of your fabrics. I will often flesh out this initial pull with several lighter or darker values of the colors I've selected. My goal is to have a variety of light, medium, and dark values, though I try to focus on medium and light values for the improv blocks, with only 1-2 darks. You will want 6-10 colors in your palette. Here's my pull for Solar Eclipse shown in color and B/W:



You will also need a contrast color for the center of your sunburst and the plain wedges - this fabric should either be your darkest dark, or you lightest light, and preferably one that you will not use in your improv blocks (or use very sparingly).

prework - complete BEFORE class

Cut **ONE** of each of the following WOF* strips from **EACH** fabric (**EXCEPT** your contrast color):

- ¾"
- 1"
- 1 ½"
- 4"

**if you're using a fat quarter, a 22" WOF cut will suffice*

You may wish to sort these strips into separate baggies by color so you can easily find strips in class. I like to use one of the ArtBin Double Deep SuperSatchels to organize my WOF strips for improv. Please also bring any left-over yardage after you've cut these WOF strips just in case you want extra of a particular color in class.

Please let me know if you have any questions as you are working on your palette and/or prework for this class project!

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