



Half-Day Class (For Shows) Improv Gems

Length of Workshop: 4 hours

Skill Level: Confident Beginner



MJ Kinman, maker of giant gemstone quilts, will show you how to create sparkling gem blocks in a whole new way using the power of improvisational piecing.

Learn how to use improvisational strip-piecing techniques to create emerald-cut, baguette-cut, and Asscher-cut diamonds. These are diamonds that feature long, lovely facets – the “hall of mirrors” that highlight the interior clarity of a gem.

During class, MJ will discuss color selection for gems. (Hint: there is no wrong answer!). She’ll show you how to make your gem sparkle with value contrast, and how to make your gem glow with saturation contrast. Finally, she’ll demonstrate simple assembly techniques to piece together your lovely creation.

Activities include:

- Creating a color palette that brings you joy.
- Playing with high value contrast and saturation contrast to incorporate sparkle and glow into your gem.
- Strip-piecing the interior facets of your gemstone.
- Assembling the strip-pieced facets to create your own unique gemstone.

Supply List:

- **Note: MJ will bring basic freezer paper templates for members to use.**
- 18” ruler & small ruler with a ¼” measurement
- 1 baggie or large envelope to hold your paper facets once they are cut apart.
- Scissors and rotary cutting tools (cutter and small personal mat). Bring 2 rotary cutters if you want to cut paper with one and your fabric with another.
- Fabric – Fat Quarters of cotton solids, gradients, or swirly prints. Consider bringing a range of values (light, medium, dark) within two or three colorways. This project works best when you have a very dark value, a very light value, and a range of 2 or 3 medium values. White and black also work well to bump up the “bling” in your gem.
- Pins or clips
- Show will provide irons and sewing machines

Instructor Contact Information:

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