

NOTAN DESIGN

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Notan is a Japanese term that means harmony or balance between light and dark. It is a design concept that looks at how light and dark elements of a composition interact. I was first introduced to it in an art class in a version involving paper cutting. Like many things in my life, I wondered if I could make a quilt using the concept. Turns out I could, and I would love to share with you some ways to use this concept in a quilt.

Notan Workshop Supply List

Fabric:

9 inch squares for backgrounds (at least 4, but I would bring fabric to cut more if needed)

4 1/2 inch squares for the center design (at least 4 if batik or 8 if you have fabric that doesn't look the same on both sides) and again I would bring fabric to cut more if needed.

Backgrounds can be any fabric you wish. After the design is attached to the fabric, I trim the block to 8 1/2 inches, and after the small square is treated and ironed, I trim it to a 4 inch square.

Center designs can be any fabric you wish as well. However, if you use a fabric where the front and back look the same (like batiks or some solids), you only need one 4 1/2 inch square. If you use a fabric where the front and back look different, you will need to cut two squares of the same fabric, and you will end up with two almost identical center designs.

You can come with precut squares, or bring fabric to cut in class. I encourage experimenting with design, and if you have a different idea you want to try after the basic instruction, go for it! (Like a different size or a different shape.) So bring fabric to play with. *If you think you will want to put a top together, bring fabric for sashing and/or borders.*

In the workshop, we will be learning to create the blocks using this technique and depending on what you want to do, you may be putting them together into a top for a wall hanging.

Other Supplies You should bring.

*Good scissors for cutting small details on paper.

*Good scissors for cutting small details on fabric.

I actually use my “Karen K Buckley Perfect Scissors” for both – the paper hasn’t seemed to hurt them. I will have paper scissors to share, and a couple pair of the “perfect” scissors to share, but bring your best cutting, pointed, small fabric scissors if you have a pair.

*Light and dark marking pencils/pens I use a regular #2 pencil for light fabric, and a Bohin or Sewline white mechanical pencil for dark fabric.

*Glue Elmer’s school glue works. I use either Roxanne Glue Baste It, or Acorn Seam Align Glue. I like the last two because of the skinny metal applicator tube that makes it easy to control. I like Elmer’s because it is inexpensive.

Things we’ll use, but you don’t need to bring unless you want to, because I will provide.

Construction paper, Parchment paper, Terial Magic (liquid fabric stabilizer), tweezers, light boxes, card stock.

Feel free to email me if you have additional questions.

Colleen