

The Swartz Creek Scrap Quilt

Inspired by a vintage Pennsylvania quilt

This scrappy pattern comes from an antique quilt made in Swartz Creek PA sometime between 1900 and 1915. It displays a wonderful array of printed fabrics. The quilt is assembled in rows rather than blocks-you decide how big you want to make the quilt at any time during the assembly.

You'll learn some basic color and design rules. Expect to decide on fabrics-cut shapes-calculate your quilt's size in the morning and then sew like crazy in the afternoon!

The teacher will work with each student individually and make suggestions for quilting, backing, and binding choices. Pepper will demonstrate some quick-piecing machine shortcuts in class. Although the original was sewn all by hand, we'll take advantage of our modern tools and get a lot done in one day's time. A fun class both novice and more advanced quilters will appreciate.

Please bring to class: Bring some colored pencils if you'd like to color in your quilt design before starting. Rotary cutter with new blade, smaller rotary mat, rotary square (Omnigrd or Creative Grid's 9" or 12" squares both good), straight pins, sewing machine with a filled bobbin of neutral-color thread (gray or beige), spool of same thread, scissors, thread nippers, seam ripper, five (5) paper plates, some Post-It notes, and LOTS of scraps.

Fabrics: pieces can be as small as 5" and of course larger. If purchasing all new fabrics, bring at the very least 16 FQ's. Strive for variety (darks and lights) and use up 'old and uglies.' Throw in some of your favorite color, several geometrics (stripes, checks, plaids), a batik or two, and even large-scale prints like those used in home decorating. Want a guaranteed antique look? Include some bigger pieces of light-color background fabrics that look like men's shirtings and if confused about color, remember that red-white-and-blue always works! Follow this strategy and you'll capture the charm of the original quilt. Larger-scale modern fabrics can work well in this pattern. Keep your fabric selection bright and light if you want a modern look. Don't forget solids! Of course individual creativity is encouraged and each quilt will be different.