

# AN IMPROV-ABLE DREAM PILLOW

## Fussy Cutting and Improvisational Patchwork

From *Fussy Cutters Club*

By Angie Wilson

### Class Description:

This class makes the perfect introduction to fussy cutting and improv patchwork. Students will learn how to fussy cut motifs for maximum impact in improvisational patchwork, as well as attaching embellishments to the edge of a pillow and basic walking-foot quilting. Participants will leave the class with a finished pillow. Project can be found on page 75 of *Fussy Cutters Club*. Intermediate skill level.

Please note: for students to finish this project within the class time frame, they may need to skip the quilting stage of the project construction.

### Class Length:

Full-day class. Alternatively, the class can be split into 2 shorter classes (make the pillow front in one class and return for second class on how to construct the pillow).

### Class Supply List:

#### Mandatory Supplies:

- *Fussy Cutters Club* by Angie Wilson
- Sewing machine
- Sewing machine manual
- Walking foot
- Basic sewing supplies: rotary cutter, ruler, cutting mat, seam ripper, fabric pen, cotton thread, scissors, spare machine needles
- Fabric:
  - Assorted fussy-cut fabrics to make a fussy-cut panel measuring 22" x 22"
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  yards fabric for pillow front backing
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  yards fabric for pillow back
  - 25" x 25" batting
  - 18"–20" zipper
  - Pillow insert 21" x 21"

#### Optional Supplies:

- Edge embellishment: 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  yards x 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " width (students can use rickrack, piping, pom-poms, etc.)
- From Marti Michell Perfect Patchwork 6.5" Fussy Cut Ruler
- Flatter by Soak

- Notions and books on quilting your projects

**TIP:** This is the perfect opportunity to walk students through different types of fussy-cut fabrics, directional fabric, and complementary fabrics. Use fabrics from within the shop to show students the wide range of printed fabrics and how to select prints that complement and do not compete with their fussy cutting. A great opportunity to sell panel motifs for students to use.

See Cloth Tales chapter (p. 13) of ***Fussy Cutters Club*** for information about fabric selection.

### **Classroom Preparation:**

Supplies for Communal Use:

- Ironing board, iron, and starch
- Large cutting mat
- Large ruler
- Design wall

Class Preparation:

- Have at least 3 fabric bundles made up from your store that show different scale motifs and complementary fabrics. Use this as an opportunity to show students how they can use a complete fabric line by fussy cutting select prints in the line and complementing these with the blenders in the line. See Cloth Tales chapter (p. 13) of ***Fussy Cutters Club*** for information about fabric selection. This is a great opportunity to sell your stock to your students.
- Prepare examples of the project using different fabric combinations. Use these examples to show how using directional prints and ditzy prints can make different impacts to the design. These examples can also show how the improvisational patchwork can be used with a limited color palette or one designer fabric line to make an impactful pillow.
- Prepare an example of a quilt sandwich and how to attach embellishments (as per p. 79 of ***Fussy Cutters Club***) to show students these techniques.

### **Class Agenda:**

1. **Welcome Students.** Introduce yourself to the class—provide a brief history of your sewing skills and experience with fussy cutting. Have students introduce themselves and provide some insight into their experience with fussy cutting, what skills they're hoping to learn during the class, and any concerns they have in relation to fabric selection and fussy cutting.
2. **Discuss Fabric Selection for Fussy Cutting.** Provide students with examples of fabrics that can be used for fussy cutting with this project. Show alternative examples of how the project can be made to look with different fabrics.

- a. See Cloth Tales chapter (p. 13) of ***Fussy Cutters Club*** for information about fabric selection.
3. **Discuss Fussy-Cutting Techniques.** Provide students with examples of how to isolate and highlight print motifs in their work. Talk about how seam allowance impacts fussy cutting. Discuss the options for motif placement within improvisational patchwork.
  - a. See Tools of the Trade chapter (p. 23) of ***Fussy Cutters Club*** for information about possible tools that can be used with fussy cutting.
  - b. See How to Be a Fussy Cutter chapter (p. 35) for information about how to fussy cut.
4. **Make the Project.**
  - a. Use the project pattern on page 75 of ***Fussy Cutters Club*** to make the project.
  - b. Remind students about where seams will fall in the pillow construction so they don't cut off prized fabrics.
  - c. Please note: for students to finish this project within the class time frame, they may need to skip the quilting stage of the project construction.

For more information or assistance with planning this class, please contact:

Angie Wilson

W: [www.GnomeAngel.com](http://www.GnomeAngel.com)

E: [hello@gnomeangel.com](mailto:hello@gnomeangel.com)