

Polygon Quilts

From *Polygon Quilts Pattern*

By Jennifer Sampou

Class Description:

PRECUT FRIENDLY! Uses 5" charm packs.

Polygon Quilts are unique and super easy to make. Let loose and learn how to play between improvisation and structure. Machine or hand appliqué charming polygons and create a dynamic layout. Nine idea options are included in the pattern booklet, with specific measurements for two projects. Try out variety of layouts! Images on pp. 4, 10, 11, and 15–18.

Skill level required is strong beginner. There is no fussy measuring for polygons, yet accurate layout and final placement on the ground is important.

By the end of class, each student will have created a stack of 105+ split color polygons and will have a layout on their background fabric. The most enjoyable aspect of class is using simple precut charm packs to create wonky, playful polygons, where no two are alike. Have fun folding shapes and playing with color, value, and texture. Jennifer's patterns are about sheer enjoyment and getting awesome results in a relaxed manner.

Concepts covered:

- Half-square triangles—quick and efficient construction, pp. 6–7
- Combining solids, prints, and wovens in one project, p. 6
- Moving back and forth between structured and improv quilting, pp. 7–9
- Continuous chain piecing
- Three techniques to create polygons—glue, hand sew, and hot iron
- Measured and spaced chalk marking for polygon layout
- Relationship of positive and negative space
- Color and value in repeated patternmaking
- Creativity—explore a variety of layout options

Class Length:

There are a variety of options for class length.

- Two-day weekend, 10 am–4 pm. This option is intensive, and most likely students leave with much of the top (43" × 43") done and possibly quilted.
- One day, 10 am–4 pm. In this option, students would get all the HSTs sewn, all polygons made, and would have the beginning of a layout. This layout is an important part of understanding pattern, so be sure to reserve the last hour of class to focus on layout options and exploration, even if all the polygons are not finished. Another possibility for a one-day class is to make a pillow or table runner using the same technique.

- Series of 2–3 classes. This option gives students time to ponder and come up with a variety of sizes of polygons (mini charms, for example) and layouts. 3 hours per class is the minimum meeting time.

Class Supply List:

- ***Polygon Quilts Pattern*** by Jennifer Sampou
- 3 packs of precut charm squares, 40–42 each per pack (vary color and value)
- 45" × 45" piece of solid or woven fabric for background (if making 43" × 43" quilt; see pattern booklet to determine which project you would like to make)
- 5 glue sticks OR needle and thread OR iron (depending on preferred polygon method)
- Spray starch
- Sewing tools one usually takes to any class: pins, machine, extra needles, cutting mat, fabric chalk/pencil, rotary cutter, scissors, small iron and mini ironing board, design board (if not provided in class), rulers
- Mistyfuse for setting polygons on background
- Painter's tape
- Mono poly thread and gray piecing thread
- Smart phone to take pictures of your layout (helps with design/layout)

TIP: If students don't have supplies at home, be sure to have them on hand in the shop. Get some ideas of selling points below.

- Everyone who may machine appliqué should have a spool of MONO POLY. It's invisible thread perfect for machine appliqué work. I love the results. Make sure to have the little white net that slips over the spool to keep it from unraveling.
- Treat yourself to new fabrics! THREE packs of CHARM SQUARES make the entire quilt! Grab some new Jennifer Sampou prints, exciting solids, or Jennifer's wovens to spiff up your selection.
- Glue stick cumbersome/sticky? Try Aleene's slim-tip fabric glue. No mess, accurate placement, and tips can be changed out.

Classroom Preparation:

At least 4' × 4' design boards for all. Ironing stations. Bright light. Room to spread out.

Class Agenda:

Determine which layout you would like to teach and adapt any instructions, if necessary. Follow the pattern booklet step by step.

Notes for the teacher:

- Talk about color, value, and texture in the beginning of the class by showcasing a variety of charm packs—don't rely on just one line. Mix it up!
- Making HSTs for this quilt is not fussy work. Keep it flowing by getting students sewing and not stressing about perfect accuracy. It all gets folded wonky anyway.

- Demonstrate how to make polygons with hot iron, glue, and hand sewing early in the class.
- Demonstrate a variety of appliqué techniques.
- Demonstrate marking technique for the placement of polygons.
- Encourage sharing of charm squares. Scrappy polygons and lots of variety can give wonderful results. Since every HST made yields two, students can swap.

To see more examples of all of Jennifer's patterns and her students, follow Jennifer on Instagram @jennifersampou, #PolygonPlayQuilts, #Jennifersampou #PolygonPlay, #PolygonQuilts. Also, sign up for her newsletter at jennifersampou.com. Robert Kaufman supplies wholesale fabrics, C&T Publishing prints all of Jennifer's patterns and products.