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Quiltmaking: An Introduction

Materials List

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Required

- sewing machine with:
 - standard presser foot
 - bobbin
 - needles (size 75, 80, or 90)
 - don't forget your power cord and foot pedal
- acrylic quilting ruler — size suggestions: 4" or 6" wide by 12," 14" or 24" long
- small scissors for snipping threads
- quilting/sewing straight pins, 1 1/2" is a good length
- thread (100% cotton recommended)
 - off-white, cream or light gray work well for piecing most fabrics, blending in well. You may also use a thread that matches your fabric.
- rotary cutter
- self-healing cutting mat, 12" x18" minimum (larger is easier to work with)
- seam ripper

Optional

- personal iron and pressing mat
- fabric sizing or pressing spray

Fabric Requirements

- Background: 1 3/4 yards
- Colors 1 - 7: 1/4 yard or FQ of each color (FQ = fat quarter)
- Color 8: quilt center square; 1/8 yard or scraps



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About choosing fabric:

Quilt-makers traditionally use 100% quilting cotton fabric. It's easy to work with and provides a quality finished piece. This is a smaller quilt with mostly small pieces, so a large-scale fabric design is not ideal. Small patterns or solids will look better. Note: Stripes can be tricky to work with! A fun way to choose your fabrics is to first select a design for your focal fabric, a pattern with multiple colors. Then use the colors you see in that design to choose your remaining fabrics. For this quilt top, consider 3-4 shades of 2-3 colors (again, solid or small pattern). It's OK to mix and match patterns, like checks and floral, for example. The background fabric in this project is a contrasting (lighter or darker color) color that is not only the background in most of the quilt blocks, but also the fabric between the blocks and around the border. For the center square, consider a special design that could be highlighted.

Local quilt shops are dropping like flies that last few years, so the idea of supporting them is even more important. There is still a number of stores in the Salt Lake Valley, and Davis, Weber and Utah counties. Pop in and touch the fabric in person, even ask for help choosing your fabrics. They'd be happy to assist and get a new quilter started.

