



“Bite-Size Gems” (6-Hour Class)



MJ Kinman will show you how to create sparkling gem blocks using the design and piecing techniques she relies on to create her giant gemstone quilts. During this fast-paced class, students will create their own singularly beautiful work of faceted light.

Freezer paper piecing techniques are powerful techniques that can transform any quilter's ideas into reality. MJ's inspiration is gemstones, but yours might be landscapes, florals, portraits, abstracts, or any other kind of inspiration.

MJ is quick to point out that this technique is NOT foundation paper piecing. There's no sewing to paper or tearing paper out of the back of your quilt block when finished. Instead, this is *traditional piecing* using freezer paper as your templates. If you can put two pieces of fabric right sides together with a quarter-inch seam allowance, you can do this!

Over the course of a single day-long session, students will learn how to:

- Create a freezer paper pattern based on a mock-up of a bite-size gem that I provide.
- Understand how different types of fabrics impact the flow of light and color across their design.
- Assemble the fabric facets to create their own block of faceted color.

Activities include:

- Prepare square freezer paper template (recommended size: 18”).
- Transfer the mock-up design to the freezer paper by using a simple grid technique.
- Create a color palette.
- Code the facets in their template to designate position, color, and adjacency.
- Cut apart their freezer paper template and sort by color code.
- Iron freezer paper facets to their painted fabric according to the color codes.
- Cut the facets and organize them by section code.
- Learn techniques to piece facets.

Length of Workshop: 6 hours

Skill Level: Confident Beginner

Supply List:

- **Note: MJ will bring freezer paper for members to use.** However, if students wish to purchase their own, they can do so by purchasing it at their local grocery store OR from Amazon. The freezer paper should be 18” wide.
- Colored pencils in the colors of the gem they want to create.
- Highlighter



- Regular pencils
- Ball point pen or permanent markers
- Eraser
- Bic Wite-Out tape or similar brand (Please do not purchase a bottle of Liquid Paper/Liquid Wite-Out since it will make a mess on your iron.)
- 18” ruler & Small ruler with a ¼” measurement
- 6-8 business-size envelopes
- Domestic sewing machine and thread assortment (neutrals or colors that match your fabrics)
- Scissors and rotary cutting tools (cutter and mat) Bring 2 rotary cutters if you want to cut paper with one and your fabric with another.
- Iron and ironing pad (or board)
- Fabric – Fat Quarters of cotton solids or gradients. Consider bringing a range of values (light, medium, dark) within one or two colorways. This project works best when you have a very dark value, a very light value, and a range of 2 or 3 medium values. White and black also work well to bump up the “bling” in your gem.

Instructor Contact Information:

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