

Bite-Size Gems Workshop

Length of Workshop: approx. 6 hours

Skill Level: All



Using the design and piecing techniques I rely on to create my giant gemstone quilts, students will create their own singularly beautiful work of faceted light. Freezer paper piecing techniques are powerful techniques that can transform any quiltmaker's ideas into reality. This is NOT foundation paper piecing! Instead, this is *traditional piecing* using freezer paper as your template.

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 18"-square mini-quilt of faceted color.



Activities include:

- Prepare an 18" square freezer paper template.
- 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.



Supply List:

- 36" length of freezer paper (standard 18" width); white or brown will work fine
- 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
- 18" ruler & small ruler with a ¼" measurement
- 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 – Cotton solids or gradients. Let's keep it simple and bring one or two colors, but include a range of values within each color. 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.