

Course Description: Laura's Wedding Quilt

Inspired by reading the Little House series as a child, I remember searching for years to find the Doves in the Window pattern that Laura told of making for her wedding quilt. I too had started sewing at an early age, and loved that Laura made quilts out of fabric scraps to keep warm. But what was the Doves in the Window pattern? The quilt she made did not survive the fire that destroyed their home just before their 4th anniversary. I learned that there were several patterns called Doves in the Window. The only clues I had as to which version Laura made were bits of descriptions she mentioned in her stories. She made a quilt block with bias edges that were so tricky, Ma made her take it apart and re-do it until she got it right.

A visit to the Laura Ingalls Wilder site in Burr Oak, IA sent me down a path that has led to what I believe may have been the pattern Laura made for her wedding quilt. Join me in this one day workshop where you will learn how to draft this unusual patterns, make your own templates, and use a combination of machine and hand piecing to create this unique Doves in the Window pattern.

In celebration of the spirit of Laura, I have created my version of her Doves in the Window quilt, combining this intriguing block with the nine patch blocks she and her sister Mary learned their piecing skills on.

Proficiency:

All levels. Students should be comfortable with their sewing machines.

Class covers perfecting hand and machine piecing skills with an emphasis on accuracy.

Workshop Format:

This is a Skills workshop rather than a Project workshop. You will learn how to draft your pattern, create your templates, create one Doves in the Window block. This may be framed, made into a pillow, or used as the start of your next quilt. The emphasis of this class is to teach drafting and precision piecing skills rather than teaching a project. Students will, however, receive the pattern and directions for making the quilt shown.

Date / Time:

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. includes 30 minute lunch break

Come early enough that you can be all set up and ready to start at 9 a.m.

Class Size:

Limited to 20 students

Handout Fee:

\$5 per student: pay instructor in class

Students Bring:

- Pencil and paper for note-taking
- Sewing machine in good working order (remember your power foot and cords)
- Extension cord / multiple plug outlet strip
- 3-prong adapter if needed
- Table light (such as an Ott light or something similar. This is optional. Some students have found they enjoy having extra light at their work station.)
- Sewing machine needles: size 75/11 for machine piecing
- Thread for piecing: neutral thread to coordinate with fabric (NOT quilting thread)

- Quilting Needles for hand piecing segment: size 9 or 10 recommended
- Template Plastic
- Fabric scissors + scissors for cutting template plastic
- Seam ripper
- Rotary cutter, Mat, and Ruler
- Iron, ironing board or mat: irons may be shared if desired
- Straight pins (as fine as possible, about 1f long)
- FABRICS : quilters quarters of the following:
 - 2 different background fabrics
 - 5 different colored patterned fabrics: We will use 3 in the block: bringing 5 will give you choices.

Note: fabrics must have strong contrast with each other in order for the pattern to be successful. Contrast can be achieved by different values (light, medium, dark), by different colors (orange, green, brown, for example), by varying the type of patterns on the cloth, or a combination of all three.

