

Stunning Improv Sunbursts



required materials

¼ yd of inspiration fabric
¼ yd each of 6-8 supporting solid or blender fabrics
sewing machine
matching or neutral thread
rotary cutter
fabric scissors
small (~6-8") square or rectangular acrylic ruler
small cutting mat (~12"x18")

recommended supplies

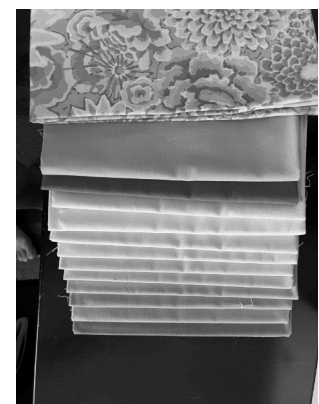
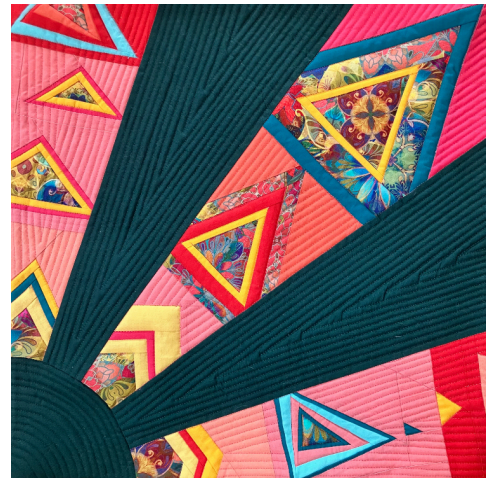
Large rectangular ruler (6"x24")

selecting a palette

When curating a palette for a quilt, I often lean on the color inspiration of a fabric designer I enjoy - I pick a large graphic print that has a color story that I *love* and that evokes a feeling I want to have in my quilt. This fabric is really just my inspiration for picking my colors - though I often incorporate my inspiration fabric in small amounts. I then use that fabric to select colors from my stash (or use a color card to identify any colors I need to order).

After your initial fabric pull, lay out your fabrics and take a picture with your smart phone. Use the filters option to turn the photo into black and white in order to get a better idea on the value (light/dark) range of your fabrics. I will often flesh out this initial pull with several lighter or darker values of the colors I've selected. My goal is to have a variety of light, medium, and dark values, though I try to focus on medium and light values for the improv blocks, with only 1-2 darks. You will want 6-10 colors in your palette. Here's my pull for Solar Eclipse shown in color and B/W:

You will also need a contrast color for the center of your sunburst and the plain wedges - this fabric should either be your darkest dark, or your lightest light, and preferably one that you will not use in your improv blocks (or use very sparingly).



prework - complete BEFORE class

Cut the following WOF strips from each fabric (except your contrast color):

- $\frac{3}{4}$ "
- 1"
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- 3-4"

You may wish to sort these strips into separate baggies by color so you can easily find strips in class. I like to use one of the ArtBin Double Deep SuperSatchels to organize my WOF strips for improv.

Please let me know if you have any questions as you are working on your palette and/or prework for this class project!

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