



One Block Wonder mini-workshop for London Modern Quilt Guild

**** This is intended to be a demonstration. You absolutely are *not* expected to find and purchase yardage! If you have an OBW, please bring it! If you are making an OBW, or have fabric for one (or three – they are addictive) please bring that along!**

“One Block Wonder” quilts are not a pattern. This is a process, developed by Maxine Rosenthal. She has excellent books available and I encourage you to borrow the LMQG copy! I will be demonstrating the process and will have samples in various stages of construction. In respect of Maxine’s copyright material, I will not provide handouts.

- “One Block Wonder” is frequently shortened to “OBW”
- There is **no** fussy cutting involved
- There are **no** y-seams to fuss with
- There is very little waste
- The entire quilt is generated from one large swath of fabric. Filling in the edges, adding cubes, or adding a slash of background will need additional yardage, which can be a complementary fabric.
- There are some awesome modern designs you can achieve this this process
- Really “ugly” fabrics can be great candidates for OBW’s.

Tools:

- Your usual quilt-making tools (rotary cutter, self-healing mat, sewing machine with a good straight stitch, thread, iron).
- Fresh blades in your rotary cutter. You will be cutting six pieces of fabric at a time – you want your blades to be really sharp and slice through these stacks cleanly and accurately. If you have a 60 cm cutter blade, these can be easier to cut through the stacks than smaller blades.
- A ruler with a 60* angle.
- A Design Wall of some sort is indispensable!
- A camera to photograph your arrangement on the design wall, and convert to monochrome or black/white photo will be very helpful in working with your design.
- Flower pins are really helpful for this process.
- Folding mirrors can be helpful to preview what hexies may result from your fabric
- A fun app for your phone is “KaleidoLens” to preview possibilities
- An online site <http://oneblockwonder.com/design-helper/> will allow you to take an image of fabric and slice/dice it for you, including changing the size of your triangles.
- There is a Facebook group for OBW’s: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1435295876732150/> or search Facebook for “One Block Wonder Quilt Forum”

Choosing fabric:

- Choose fabrics with colours you love
- Fabrics with large, swirly designs work well.
- Fabrics with small areas of background work well. "Movement" in the background works really well – swooshy backgrounds rather than one flat colour.
- Fabrics with varying sizes of elements work well.
- Fabrics with limited colours work well – it's easier to design with 3 / 4 / 5 colours than with 8 / 9.
- Stripes can be very interesting but also add complexity and extra precision is needed.
- I personally find it difficult to cut up faces!
- Do *not* prewash the fabric! Even if you always prewash. Just this once, don't!
- Don't starch the fabric <mini-lesson: dealing with wavy borders using starch = shrinking>
- Buy your fabric in one large piece, from just the one bolt.
- Panels have been used to make terrific OBW's

Yardage requirements:

- Yardage needed is based on the repeat of the design in the fabric. I use the repeat along the selvedge edge. You need *six* repeats for this process. I usually purchase enough fabric for at least one extra repeat. Some will purchase enough extra to create borders.
- Repeats are often between 8" to 24". I would be cautious and buy a few more inches to account for cuts that may not be straight. Examples (minimum yardage needed):
 - If the fabric has an 8" repeat, you need 8" x 6 repeats, or 48"
 - With a 12" repeat, you need 12" x 6 repeats, or 72"
 - With a 24" repeat, you need 24" x 6 repeats, or 144"
 - Plus some extra to in case you or the store makes a cutting error
 - Plus extra if you want to have the original fabric in the border or back.

Here are some fabrics that I would purchase for OBW's:

