



“Improv Gems” (3-Hour Class; Quilts Inc. 2024)



MJ Kinman, maker of giant gemstone quilts, will show you how to create sparkling gem blocks in a whole new way using the power of improvisational piecing.

Learn how to use improvisational strip-piecing techniques to create emerald-cut, baguette-cut, and Asscher-cut diamonds. These are diamonds that feature long, lovely facets – the “hall of mirrors” that highlight the interior clarity of a gem.

During class, MJ will discuss color selection for gems. (Hint: there is no wrong answer!). She’ll show you how to make your gem sparkle with value contrast, and how to make your gem glow with saturation contrast. Finally, she’ll demonstrate simple assembly techniques to piece together your lovely creation.

Activities include:

- Creating a color palette that brings you joy.
- Playing with high value contrast and saturation contrast to incorporate sparkle and glow into your gem.
- Strip-piecing the interior facets of your gemstone.
- Assembling the strip-pieced facets to create your own unique gemstone.

Length of Workshop: 3 hours **Skill Level:** Confident Beginner

Supply List:

- **Note: MJ will bring basic freezer paper templates 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.
- 18” ruler & Small ruler with a ¼” measurement
- 6-8 business-size envelopes
- 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.
- 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:

MJ Kinman, 709 Fairhill Drive, Louisville, KY 40207

Cell Phone/Text (Eastern Time Zone): 502-287-3034

Email: mjkinman709@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.mjkinman.com>