

Koos Collage Techniques with Marla Kazell – Supply List

To practice several of the Koos collage techniques in your afternoon class, you will create two small sample pieces, approximately 10 – 12” squares.

Start collecting fabrics for your samples. This is a great way to use up some of your scraps. You can be free to create some interesting or unusual color combinations.

For a preview and inspiration, go to www.marlakazell.com and click on the Photo Gallery where you will find collage garments and fabric and collage ideas.

Fabrics

Base fabrics – cut 2 approximately 10 – 12” squares

The wrong side of this fabric will be covered by your collage, the right side becomes the “lining” or “reverse” side of the collage. Quilting weight is fine, but you could also consider wool, linen, heavier cotton or a lighter weight home dec fabric

Collage fabrics – choose 3-4 fabrics for your collage – see Fabric Choices below for more info- approximately 1/3 yd each or use your scraps

Slicing fabric - for your slicing technique sample you will need an approximately 9 –11” square of fabric. Suggested fabrics include silk or polyester chiffon or georgette, rayon batik or crepe, cotton lawn or lightweight cottons.

Binding and bias tape fabrics – choose 2 -3 natural fiber fabrics – see Fabric Choices below Approximately 1/4yd each will be enough for your samples -quilting cottons and fat quarters are great, silk douppionni is one of my favorites, avoid slippery and wiggly fabrics, larger pieces will require less piecing

Other supplies

sewing machine

thread – bobbin thread to blend with your base fabric, top thread to blend with your bias tape and slicing fabrics

iron

straight ruler with bias line or triangle ruler with 45 degree angle

chalk marker or your favorite marker for fabrics

shears and/or rotary cutter

pins

½” bias tape maker

Optional supplies

Sulky KK2000 Spray adhesive (this is my favorite – other brands will work too)

newspaper or tissue paper to protect fabric when using spray adhesive

Clover Slash Cutter

Fabric Choices

Part of the magic of designer Koos van den Akker's fabric collage is the combination of fabrics. Prints, stripes, plaids and textures– often in “clashing” colors come together in marvelous combinations.

Where do you start?

Choose a piece of fabric that inspires you and gives you a direction. Then collect fabrics that harmonize and blend – they don't have to match exactly. Be adventurous! One common color in two very different prints can work together in a collage. Cut stripes and plaids on the bias or use only one motif of a print. Try different scales of florals, prints, plaids, and stripes. Choose fabrics with texture and pattern over solids – they blend together better. Silk chiffon and rayon batik are very effective for the slicing technique.

Cottons are an easy choice for your first collage project. But don't hesitate to combine any other fabrics – rayon, silk, wool, linen, and synthetics into the same project if the colors or patterns work for you.

Blending the fabrics together are bias tapes that outline the collage design. These can be solid or patterned. Small scale stripes, checks or prints work well. Choose colors that blend with your fabrics or tie together a rainbow of colors with black and white. Natural fiber fabrics that hold a crease well are best.