

Bargello is formed by sewing stripsets, cross-cutting them into varying width slices, and recombining these slices to form a pattern. This project is suitable for all levels of quilters, if you can sew a consistent seam allowance. (Stripsets are strips sewn together on long edges.) This heart pattern looks complicated but is sewn in sections, and the right half is mirror image of the left half. The project is approximately 53", without the borders. If you have, or can borrow, the book "Bargello Hearts" by Nancy Podolsky, it will be helpful. Merrill-Lee is available to consult on fabric choice.



**Fabric:** Read though completely! There is "homework!" (See page 2)

There are a lot of seams in this project, and it is best to use cotton fabrics until you master the technique. It is recommended that you spray starch and press your fabric before cutting, especially if you pre-wash your fabrics. **Please do this before class - there is neither room nor time for 20 students to do this in class, and extensive spraying will have to be done outdoors (in the patio.)**

This project requires 12 fabrics, but this is easier than it sounds: select a "bridge fabric" (a print that you like), and pick 2 color families from this fabric. Then select 6 values of each color, from dark to light, incorporating your bridge fabric into one of the colors. There should be a definite change of value between the fabrics, so they do not blend together and look flat. These fabrics need not be mono-colored, but each should primarily feature one of your two colors. Selecting fabrics in a variety of prints adds interest.

You will need to cut at least 5 strips, 2-1/2" wide, selvedge to selvedge, from each fabric. Depending on how wide your fabric is, and how straight you cut, you may need a 6<sup>th</sup>! You will need 1/2 to 5/8 yard of each fabric, depending on whether you pre-wash, how straight the fabric is cut at the store, and how straight you cut (6 strips at 2-1/2" wide = 15" if everything is perfect.) The bridge fabric is frequently used in the border.

You will need extra fabric for your border treatment, but we leave that up to you!

### **Supplies:**

Basic sewing machine supplies (machine, power cord, feet, etc.)

Basic sewing supplies (pins, thread, scissors, etc.)

Rotary cutter (w/new sharp blade!), long cutting ruler, mat to accommodate ruler

note: there will be lots of cutting, so it is better if you bring your own mat

note: if your ruler slips around, get some "invisigrip" film and put on the bottom

"design wall" - bring a 36" piece of batting, flannel, or something similar to set on your table

Good seam ripper - once stripsets are cross-cut into slices, you will need to open the ring

Irons - this technique depends on proper pressing. There is insufficient power to let each student have an iron, so we will be sharing. If you wish to bring an iron to share...

There will be two or three Guild ironing boards, and a few guild irons at the workshop.

See page 2 for directions on cutting and pre-sewing.

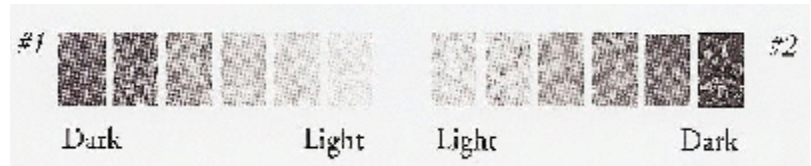
**Homework: Prepare your fabrics and cut your strips in advance of the workshop.**

You may want to get advice from Merrill-Lee before you cut your fabric! Not to panic - Merrill-Lee will be available to review your fabrics after the meeting on Thursday, Feb 19 - or you may arrange your fabrics as described in the next paragraph, take a photo and email it to her, or send her a photo by cell phone at any time between now and then. Her cell number is 916-208-8801 and her email is [MLQuilts@gmail.com](mailto:MLQuilts@gmail.com) Let her know it is for SRQG Bargello Heart workshop.

If you send her a photo, arrange your fabrics in an overlapping stack, showing about two inches of each one. Then, pin a piece of paper to the edge of each slice of fabric showing, and number them from 1 to 12. That will make it easier for her to give you advice regarding the replacement or re-positioning of fabric.



First, divide your fabrics into color family groups, then sort each family by value from dark to light. The standard arrangement is to place one group on your left, shaded from dark to light, and the other group on your right shaded from light to dark. Step back and check to make sure there is definite value change between adjacent fabrics, and a contrast between the first and last (dark) fabrics (which will end up next to each other.) If these two dark fabrics do not play well together, you may want to make one of your “darks” a “transition fabric,” a print which will connect the two colors, while still providing contrast.



**Cutting** Once you have your fabrics in the desired order, record this somewhere - either by photo, or by numbered swatches, and number the fabrics from 1-12. Then press your fabric with spray starch or sizing, and cut 2-1/2" strips the width of your selvedge. If you are cutting with your fabric folded, make sure your strips do not form a “V” or a “W”. You will need 5 or 6 strips for the project - but you may only need 3 or 4 strips in class.

**Sewing (optional)** If you have time, you may want to sew some of your “strata” before class. Sew them together in the order described above, or the order resulting from your consultation with Merrill-Lee. Since fabric is not all the same width, keep one end even. Sew with a consistent seam allowance - 1/4" is good, but close works! Sew the strips together in pairs. Press each seam after it is sewn, before adding more strips: set the seam with the iron, then press from the front, careful to open up any little pleats that might appear at the seam line. Do not pull or stretch the fabric while pressing. Press all seam allowances to the even numbered fabrics. Sew the pairs together, then sew these 3 units together. You will need at least 5, probably 6, of these strata for the project.

If you don't get as much done in class as you would like, don't worry - Merrill-Lee is willing to come back and guide us through the rest of the assembly process!

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Questions about supply list: Phyllis Gallaway 573-8749 [pmgallaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmgallaway@sbcglobal.net)