

# Fussy & Fabulous: Magic Squares

*Kelly Ashton / Kellyquilter Designs*



## SUPPLIES

**Sewing machine:** clean, oiled, ready to sew.

-1/4" patchwork foot

-bobbin(s)

-power cord

-foot control

-machine needles 80/12

**Thread:** Neutral color machine-piecing thread, 50 wt

**Notions:** pins, seam ripper, seam roller (optional, yet helpful), thread snips, any other favorite notion

**Rotary cutter:** 28mm recommended

**Cutting Mat:** ~17 x 24" mat or larger

**Sta-flow Liquid Starch:** 1 bottle - may need to order online (like Amazon).

**Rotary Cutting Rulers:** A "medium-sized ruler such as 6x12" or 8x12" or 3x12"

**Wrights EZ Acrylic Template Companion Angle 10" Ruler:** Please bring **THIS** brand. I like how it's marked, and it will make your life - and cutting for this project - easier. :)  
-make sure your Companion Angle ruler makes up to 10" finished blocks.

**Fabric:** "Focus Fabric" for the blocks: 3-4 yards. There is no way to know for sure how many blocks you'll get from your fabric because there are too many variables (scale of print, distance between lengthwise repeat, number of crosswise repeats, etc.). Therefore, you'll purchase **only your regularly-occurring, repetitive print fabric (see examples on the next page) before the workshop.** We'll discuss setting options in class, and fabrics will be purchased after you have made the blocks and get a sense of how you want the blocks to be set.

The key factor in the "Focus Fabric" is that the motifs must occur at regular intervals across the fabric AND, if you split the motif vertically, the right and left halves would mirror-image one another. If you find a fabric and wonder whether or not it would work, feel free to text a photo to me (913-484-5496). I'll get back to you as soon as possible! I'd much rather we "vet" the fabric before you buy so you know it will work well for your project.



## Fabric (continued):

**Regularly-occurring repetitive prints:** *The vertical yellow lines illustrate how, if the motif were split vertically, each side of the motif is a mirror image of the other side. These are the types of print fabrics necessary for this technique.*





## IMPORTANT: Prepping your fabric:

There are two methods. **READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE DOING!!!** Choose the one method you wish to use:

**Method 1)** Clean your kitchen sink, then fill halfway with fairly hot water (not hot enough to burn you!!!). Add 2 cups Sta-flo liquid starch. Add fabric and use long spoon to squish and stir fabric until it is saturated. Remove fabric and wring it out, removing as much starch water as possible from fabric. **DO NOT RINSE THE FABRIC!** Place fabric in dryer on cotton setting and dry thoroughly. You have just pre-shrunk your fabric AND added stability / mild stiffness to your fabric.

**Method 2)** Washer setting: hot water, delicate cycle. Fill washer ONLY ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO SUBMERGE FABRIC AND GET IT ALL SATURATED. **BEFORE adding fabric, add 2 Cups Sta-flo starch to the water. Place fabric in washer and squish down fabric with long spoon until it is saturated. DO NOT ADD MORE WATER OR ALLOW CYCLE TO COMPLETE (because it'll rinse out all your starch!!!). Set washer to spin, and spin out starch water. Dry fabric in dryer on cotton setting. Now your fabric is pre-shrunk and has added stability.**

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As I mentioned previously, since we don't know for sure how many blocks you'll end up with, **I recommend purchasing your setting fabric AFTER you've made all your blocks and determined a layout.** We'll talk about settings and fabric amounts at the workshop. However, if you find setting fabrics that you absolutely love that go with your "focus fabric", if you get 2 yards of the primary setting fabric (my blue), and 3/4 yard EACH of the two accent colors, you should have **plenty .....** and will likely have some left over for your stash. :)

I'm excited for our workshop, and I look forward to seeing you and your fabrics! We'll make some magical blocks and have a great time! If you have other questions, or if you'd rather email a photo to vet your focus fabric, my email address is [kelly@kellyquilter.com](mailto:kelly@kellyquilter.com).

See you soon~

**Kelly**