

Transparency supply list, Christine Barnes

The special effect of layered transparency—the illusion of layers of see-through color—is surprisingly easy to achieve when the values are just right. (Value is about the lightness or darkness of color.) In this modern, minimalist quilt, light center squares seem to float above the darker shapes. Sections of gray ombré fabric appear to flow underneath the blocks, enhancing the sense of light and movement.

We begin with a crash course in color, followed by evaluation of your fabrics to ensure success, plus tips for cutting and piecing to make the process easier and more accurate.

Fabrics (for 8 blocks)

- 6½" squares of **eight different** lighter-value colors. (It's not necessary to cut these ahead of time; you might want to wait and listen to the class intro.)
- 1/8 or ¼ yard of **eight different** darker-value colors (¼ yard allows for a cutting mistake, but you can get by with 1/8-yard pieces.)
- If you want to make the quilt as shown: 1½ yards of gray ombré (Gelato #714) fabric, available from Christine's online Store, www.christinebarnes.com, or on the day of the class.

Eight blocks are the minimum for the quilt shown, but making a few more will give you more options when you “whack,” arrange, and sew the blocks together.

I used shot cottons by Kaffe Fassett, but plain solids (Pure Solids, Century Solids, Kona solids, Bella solids, etc.) are wonderful. They are also more stable than Shot Cottons. Patterned fabrics won't work.

Tip: Pair a light value and a darker value **of the same or closely related color**; for example, a light-value orange (peach) and a darker-value orange (burnt orange). The colors don't need to be exactly the same, just related.

Important note: As much as you can, maintain a consistent *intensity* among your fabrics. (Intensity refers to the brilliances or dullness of color. It's different than value.) That is, **don't mix** bright and muted colors; stick with fabrics that are the same degree of brilliance of dullness

Tools

- Sewing machine and basic supplies
- Rotary equipment: 6" x 24" ruler and 18" x 24" or larger (24" x 36" is ideal) rotary mat for cutting the squares and strips. Also bring another ruler, approximately 4" x 14", to “whack” the basic blocks. (A 6" x 12" ruler is too short.)

Tip: A *rotating* mat, 17" x 17", is very helpful in cutting the blocks but not necessary.

Note: My “Transparent Squares” pattern is required; \$8.