

Fabric Collage a la Koos Supply List

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. Combine fibers – wool, cotton, rayon, linen, silk and synthetics.

Blending the fabrics together are bias tapes that outline the collage design. They 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.

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

You will be designing and sewing your collage on a large piece of fabric – approximate 36” by 36”. From this piece you may create an apron, tote bag, pillow or the start of a garment. Cottons work well for your first collage project. You may also combine any other fabrics – rayon, silk, wool, linen and synthetics. Your bias tape fabrics should be natural fiber fabrics that hold a crease well.

Supply List

- Fabric – 1 yard base fabric – prints or textures work best, quilting weight is fine, a heavier weight makes a nice base for a tote bag
- 5 or more fabrics for collage ¼ – 1 yard each
- fabric for bias tape – ¼ – 1 yard each
- Thread - choose colors that blend into your base fabric and bias tape fabrics
- Sewing machine and accessories
- Basic sewing supplies including: shears, pins, chalk marker, straight ruler (with a bias line if possible),
- spray adhesive (Sulky KK 2000, 505 Spray and Fix, Spray n Bond Basting Adhesive)
- newspaper – one or two sections

Optional Supplies

- rotary cutter and mat if you prefer over shears for cutting
- triangle ruler
- book – Koos Couture Collage: Inspiration and Techniques by Linda Chang Teufel
- bias tape makers – 1/4”, 1/2”, 3/4” 1”
- Clover Slash Cutter
- Steam-A-Seam or other fusible web for applique
- yarn, narrow ribbon or trims for couching
- your favorite pattern for an apron (try Simplicity 5154) or tote bag (try Burda 7158 or Vogue 8802)

Books, bias tape makers and slash cutters along with other notions and tools will be available for purchase at the workshop. Cash or checks only.