

Painted Quilt Pattern

Christmas Poinsettia

By Cindy Walter – JWD Publications

Instructor's Lesson Plan

The purpose of this lesson plan is to assist you in successfully teaching students how to use the Painted Quilt patterns. Along with the lesson plan, you'll find a newsletter description, supply list, and source information. Before you make your own class samples be sure to completely read the pattern instructions along with the tip boxes.

Class Length

Class length is all day (6 hours). If you need to shorten the class to 3 hours than you should pre-draw the poinsettia pattern on the cotton so they have enough time for painting step. This is a large undertaking as you first need to cut the cotton to the right size before tracing the pattern.

Classroom preparation

The best cloth for the students to use is Cindy Walter's Stabilized Cotton because the liner on this cotton prevents paint from bleeding through on the table and therefore substitutes as a drop cloth. If you are unable to use the stabilized cotton and are using plain white cotton, then first line the tables with an inexpensive plastic drop cloth. A restroom nearby is handy to wash brushes at the end of class. A flip chart of paper, or something similar, is handy for a quick demonstration of color theory. The classroom will also need a window available (to use as a light source to trace) or a light box.

Description for Newsletter

Painted Quilt Pattern workshop (6 hours)

Fabric painting is easy, fun and extremely rewarding. It is as easy as "painting by number". Also, painting is a much faster method of making a project than piecing or appliquéing. This class will teach you how to paint a Quilt Pattern. A quick introduction will cover the types of fabrics, brushes, and an elementary introduction to color theory. Your painted placemats will dazzle your friends. They won't believe that you created them in such a short time. A painted table set is a wonderful Christmas present.

Supplies

Eliminate students from having to bring these unusual supplies by creating the below kit:

- Painted Quilt Christmas Poinsettia Pattern (www.JWDPublishing.com 800-442-0455)
- 2yds Cindy Walter's Stabilized Cotton (makes 4 placemats) (www.jacquardproducts.com)
- Textile paint - Painted Quilt Exciter Pack (www.jacquardproducts.com)
- 1 - # 6 flat, short shader brush (www.fmbrush.com, prefer Dynasty Mastadon EB 721S)
- White plastic disposable plate for palette
- Paper towels to shares
- Rotary equipment (mat and ruler larger than 18" x 18") to share or each bring their own.
- Plastic gloves (optional, will wash right off hands)
- Optional: If you are using the Stabilized Cotton then skip this item. If you are not, then you will also need inexpensive plastic drop cloths to cover work areas and several pieces of Freezer paper per student to prevent paint from bleeding through and getting all over the drop cloth on the table or the drying area.

LESSON PLAN

Step 1 Cut fabric

Have the students cut one placemat 16" x 18" from the Stabilized cotton. Any scraps of the cotton should be saved to use for testing paint colors. Fast workers can cut all 4 placemats, but best to have them not spend time on this step. Explain the stabilized cotton; it is easier as the fabric does not shift around as they are trying to paint and acts as a drop cloth. If they don't have the stabilized cotton in the future, any white fabric can be painted on as fabric paints are not fiber sensitive.

Step 2 Draw pattern

Demonstrate using a rotary ruler to first draw the border area. Then tape the placemat pattern to the window or a light source and trace the poinsettias with a pencil. Have students draw/trace one placemat.

Step 3 Demonstrate color theory

Quickly demonstrate color theory such as primary (yellow, red and blue), secondary (orange, purple and green, and intermediate colors such as lime green, butterscotch, teal, etc. Then how to lighten with white (example: white to red makes pink) or darken with black (drop of black to blue makes midnight blue). End by showing how to create a tertiary brown (mud) with all three primaries. Do not dwell on color theory. At the end of the demonstration jokingly tell them they can "throw out" all that information as they will be more successful playing and discovering beautiful color on their own, but that you wanted to them to know what was happening if their projects continually turned into muddy colors.

Step 4 Explain brushes and type of paint

Explain the brush is a short, flat style for acrylic or oil paints. Watercolor brushes do not work. Also the smaller size brush is perfect to paint these smaller motifs. Demonstrate pouring paint on the plastic plate palette. Mention the paint is an opaque paint, you can tell this because of the thickness. The thickness is necessary to prevent the paint from bleeding outside the lines having control to "directly paint" a motif. They cannot use a thin transparent paint which is for a color wash effect. Stress that you only should pour the smallest amount (¼- ½ teaspoon) of paint at a time and only the colors you want to use immediately.

Step 5 Painting

Demonstrate painting a few of the poinsettia petals. Stress finishing each petal going to the next so the paint will be wet enough to blend. Wipe your brush and demonstrate pouring a new palette of greens for the leaves. Paint a few leaves. Encourage the students to experiment - have FUN! Note: Paint the flowers with any color theme desired. I used cherry/maroon straight and also mixed with white. True red poinsettias are also beautiful. For the leaves, experiment using different shades of green, yellow and blue.

Step 6 Time for students to paint.

This is the exciting moment. Spend a large portion of the rest of the class time walking around, observing and encouraging. Some students will jump into the project and enjoy the process right away, others will need a lot of encouraging. Don't be too strict with them; there is no wrong way to paint a poinsettia.

Step 7 Clean up

Wash brushes. Set the paint with a hot iron once it is completely dry. They will do this step at home.

Tips

- It is important to emphasize that students do not need prior painting or drawing experience to paint fabric. All ages can paint pictures when it is as easy as painting by number.
- Encourage, encourage, encourage.
- There is no right or wrong way for the poinsettias to turn out or for them to paint. Do not be completely structured. This workshop is FUN - let loose.

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