

# Cloth to Cloth workshop

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**What you will need for this class:** cloth to cloth is about exactly that... weaving cloth from existing cloth. re-purposing scrap by remaking it into fabric.



so. the first thing you need is **cloth**. there are no special requirements for the type of cloth, but i would stay away from anything too stiff or heavy. this is a layered technique so thinner fabric works well. that's not to say that thickness is the whole issue. the rule i use is to try taking a few stitches in the cloth. if there is resistance, don't use it. why torture yourself? although there are methods to use heavier fabrics, it is not the focus of this class and requires some more advanced techniques. i'd love to see some real recycling here, so old clothes or household items are a good start. and don't cut or rip anything up yet. there are many approaches for the weaving process. other sources are thrift shops, discards from friends and family, and leftovers from other stitching projects. no scrap is too small. the demonstrations will be in small block form (9" square) , so you don't need oodles of fabric to play with these techniques.

so get a big bag, or a box, or a basket and start collecting. the cloth can be worn, or have holes or stains, you can even use towels, old sweaters, etc. i love to mix textures. call everyone you know, everybody has some fabric trash. it would be good to try to have some lights and some darks in order to play with weaving pattern. and don't worry about mixing fiber types. this method will accommodate tension issues. there will be some old cloth scrap bags available in the shop, but really i bet you can find a lot to work with by just looking around. that is the point of this class, really.

## 2. shears



we will be tearing a lot but some cloth doesn't tear well. so it is best to have some sharp shears on hand. these were a lovely gift from japan, but any large sharp scissor will do. if you are a quilter, a rotary cutter and mat can work also.



a **small pair of sharp scissors** will be needed . i like fiskars brand in general, because the spring mechanism is easy on the hands, but really any pair of small sharps is good. these little scissors are handy when cutting into layers.

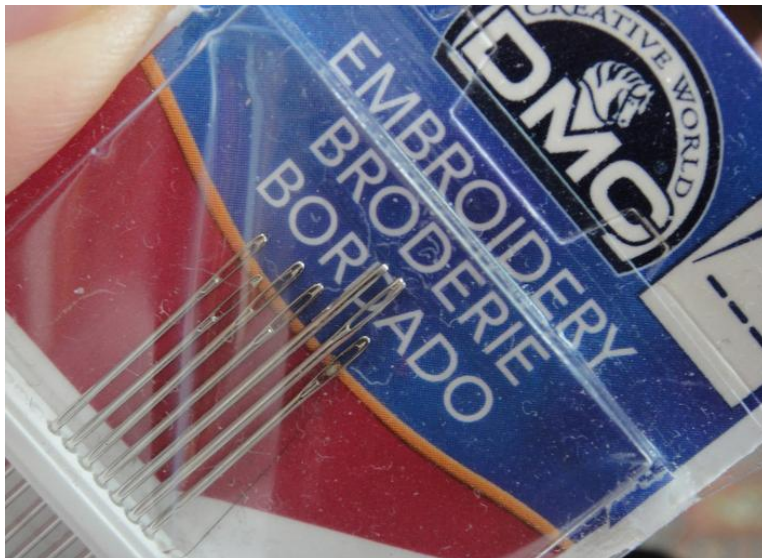


### 3. pins. lots of pins



safety pins are fine but i usually use straight pins. sometimes both. safety pins are a bit duller and hard to push through layers of fabric. (and i have a great pin story for you later....). of course a **pincushion** will keep your pins handy.

### 4. needles



...i prefer to work with a big eye quilting needle or embroidery needle. a variety pack of embroidery needles has all you need really. the smaller ones are good subs for the big eye quilting needle and the larger ones come in handy for chunkier thread and thicker layers. i use dmc because they last a long time (i sew so much the cheap ones bend) but any embroidery pack will do for this class.

## 5. thread



embroidery floss works the best for me. i like that i can vary the thickness by choosing different numbers of strands. but any thread will do. i have developed a great habit of throwing odds and ends of thread from weaving, sewing, fraying etc. into a basket. i call it the thread nest. this comes in handy, especially for basting and small pieces. a whole rainbow at your fingertips. i do buy dmc floss on a regular basis, it is my one perk. there are much cheaper versions at craft stores, but i find that they are not as smooth and knot easily. still i use them too. another habit i have is to throw a section of the thread nest in tea or coffee and stain it a bit. all the colors get a nice aged look that way. (works with tiny fabric scraps too)

6.the **sewing machine** as an option. some steps can be adapted for a machine. i will be showing some machine sewn options, so if you have one, that's grand. not necessary though.

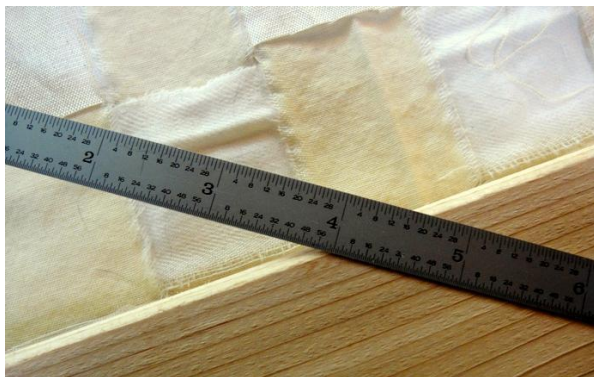


## 7. fabric markers (optional)



i am mentioning these pitt pens by faber-castell because they are fabulous. they come in a million colors and even though they are not sold as fabric pens. they work fine and seem to be wash fast. i use them for many things. they are sold individually and in sets. they are available [here](#)\* for the cheapest price i know. you can use any style of permanent marker. micron archival pens are also a favorite of mine. sharpies are ok but bleed a bit. fabric pencils that wash out are cool but the line is too thick for me and sometimes i don't wash art pieces...\* <http://www.dickblick.com/products/faber-castell-pitt-artist-pens/>

## 8. a ruler, or straight edge



or any flat object, as long as it is at least 12" long ... a small piece of wood or a book will do.

9. i would normally suggest **graph paper**, but i have an **online tool** for you to play with to create some designs. if you ever need graph paper, don't buy it, you can design your own on site [like this](#)\* and print it or just draw it on scrap paper, using a ruler.

\*<http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/lite/>

well, that's it, simple enough, right? as we progress, a few more supplies might be highlighted but really, i work with things that are fairly common so i don't think it will be a problem. now let's get crazy....!!!