

Kake-Jiku: A Quilting Class Lesson Plan

Half-Day Workshop: Chrysanthemum Moon

(This plan can be amended to teach any of the designs in *Kake-Jiku*)

Chrysanthemum Moon is pictured on the cover of *Kake-Jiku* and the directions for making the quilt block begin on page 71.

During this Workshop, students will make the complete block, and add an all-in-one border/binding. All of the designs in *Kake-Jiku* are constructed in a similar way. If you prefer, you can choose a simple *Kake-Jiku* design like *Karuta* on page 25, or a slightly more complex one like *Bamboo Blind* on page 79. Each block design in *Kake-Jiku* is the same size and features a single



background fabric. The folded flower and butterfly in *Chrysanthemum Moon* are created from fabric, cotton batting, and sashiko thread or embroidery floss. The process of building the block includes drawing and cutting various shapes from fabric and practicing a precise method of stitching that can be done either by hand or by machine. This workshop also encourages students to look at colors and fabrics in a new way.

Creating a Project Kit

If you are teaching in a quilt shop or craft store, you can easily make up a kit for every student ahead of time. The cost of the kit is then added to the cost of the class. The amounts given here are generous—students may have enough fabric left over to make a second small chrysanthemum flower or butterfly in a variety of fabrics. To make *Chrysanthemum Moon*, the kit would include:

1/2 yard fabric for the base rectangle	Scraps for small moon
1/2 yard fabric for the backing	Scraps multi-colored fabrics for leaves/stems
3/4 yard batting	Scraps white fabric for chrysanthemum
3/4 yard border fabric	Scraps multi-colored fabrics flower-center and butterfly
1/4 yard blue fabric for large moon	
Sashiko thread or two-ply embroidery floss	

Review the project supply list for Chrysanthemum Moon on page 73 or for the project of your choice to determine which items you will ask students to bring to class and which you will supply. You might, for instance, tell students to bring their own “scrap bags,” while you provide the other materials.

Introduction

Whichever block you choose, make up at least one or two versions before class begins. The more samples you make, the easier it will be for students to envisage how their blocks will look in colors and fabrics of their choosing. Consider making up project kits for each student in fabrics that match your samples (see above).

Show students your samples and the photographs of *Chrysanthemum Moon* in *Kake-Jiku*. Show how simple repetition of one petal can create the dramatic dimensional effect of the chrysanthemum flower. Demonstrate the use of cotton batting to plump-up the butterfly's wings. Point out that the use of Sashiko stitching as an element of design. Discuss color and fabric selection, showing that the project uses at least four different fabrics (backing, border, base, moons, appliquéd images, and fabric origami). Talk about color combinations, color contrast, texture, and the scale of patterned fabrics. Let students choose from the kits you have prepared or let them select from a limited number of bolts in a variety of colors and prints. If students have brought their own fabric scraps, help them choose complementary fabrics that will work well with their choices. Read through all directions for *Chrysanthemum Moon* on pages 70 to 77. Also, read through the directions for creating the border and backing on page 13.

Preparing the Background Base

Optional: If pre-cut fabrics are not prepared before class, show students how to use rotary cutting equipment to cut simple squares for the base and the background (and border) out of a single layer of fabric, following the directions given on page 10. Help students measure and mark a seamline $\frac{1}{2}$ " inwards from the raw edges of the base. Show students how to use large basting stitches to attach the batting to the reverse side of the base. Alternatively, have them use an iron to attach fusible batting to the base.

Making the Flowers and Buds

Show students how to use a compass to draw a 1-3/4" diameter circle for the Chrysanthemum center guideline and a 2" diameter circle for the Chrysanthemum center. Point out that the 2" circle includes a 1/8" seam allowance. If you plan to sew around the circles by machine, or if you prefer beginners in your class to start off with a wider seam allowance, increase the size of the fabric circles or templates accordingly.

Explain that the project can be made either by hand or by machine. However, since the appliquéd pieces are small and stitched on in a particular sequence, machine stitching does not save a lot of time. Students may find it easier to appliquéd the shapes by hand.

Follow Steps 8 to 10 of *Chrysanthemum Moon* to create the flower design and steps 11 to 17 to create the butterfly. Stress the importance of precisely and evenly stitched appliquéd, leaving a constant 1/8" (0.75cm) seam allowance all around. Refer to page 8 for extra help.

Finishing

Encourage students to position their flowers and buds in a manner that complements their base fabric. They do not need to replicate the photograph. Look at the photo of *Chrysanthemum Moon* to see how flowers can sometimes overlap the borders if desired. Demonstrate how to secure the flowers and buds to the base so that the stitches will not show.

Follow the directions on page 13 to create the all-in-one border/binding. Note that as photographed, *Chrysanthemum Moon* has a 2” border. If you are short of time, students can complete the stitching of their borders at home, but make sure that each student has pinned or basted the borders in the correct position before leaving the Workshop.

Allow students time to compare each other’s work to show how various fabric selections make for entirely different blocks.

Seasonal Kake-Jiku: A Block-of-the-Season Class

It is easy to adapt the designs in *Kake-Jiku* to suit a block-of-the-season class, in which students complete one block each season. Offer the class at the beginning of each season (the first Friday in December, March, June, and September)—each student will have a new hand-crafted Kake-Jiku to display at home for the winter, spring, summer, and fall. *Kake-Jiku* offers three to four block designs for each season. Have students select their favorites, then follow the directions for *Chrysanthemum Moon* (detailed above) to help students complete each block.

To Order ...

Order copies of *Kake-Jiku* for your class by calling Breckling Press toll-free at 1-800-951-7836. Fax: 630-516-0209. Breckling Press 283 Michigan St. Elmhurst, IL 60126.