

Natural Color Bridge Experiment Guide

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Experiment freely, joyfully and don't worry if some things don't come out as you thought they might. This is a good time to see what happens. I wonder what would happen if... is a good thought. Example: play around with adjusting your stitch width and length; explore other sewing features your machine may offer. (Yup, take out your machine manual :-).

Be sure to check out my accompanying blog post, linked here:
<http://www.fiberellastudio.com/quilt.html> to see the following techniques used in a more developed Mini Landscape.

enJOY!

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Color-Glaze – Technique #1

Experiment

1. Piece fabrics for land and sky in any way you know how. Press.
2. Place stabilizer below and experiment freely with decorative stitches. See what happens when the stitch is more open (more background fabric showing) versus more solid.
3. Using thread matched to each fabric to spread or swirl your colors around and across the surface. Aim to create both glaze effects and more focused objects. Open stitch = glaze. Satin type stitch = object.
4. Aim to soften at least one of the pieced lines by merging the colors with an open stitch.
5. Squint to notice and appreciate any "new" colors you have created.
6. Have fun, don't judge and move it along happily with curiosity as your guide.

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Fray and Peek – Technique #2

Experiment

1. With stabilizer below, overlap frayed edges of multiple green fabrics, arranging angles and proportions of various colors in use as desired.

2. Stitch at the base of the fringe to fasten. A 1.5mm x 1.5mm zig zag stitch works nicely. Thread colors can match the fabric you're stitching on to go unnoticed, if you like. The fray itself creates the Natural Color Bridge.
3. Idea: Fray can be *taller when placed lower* in the composition; shorter when closer to the sky to help create the illusion of distance.

Eyelash yarn could provide another kind of fray. What other fringe effects can you think of?



Tiny Piecing – Technique #3

Experiment

These are the general steps. Read ahead for detailed sewing tips if desired.

1. Sew some stripes.
2. Cut strips across the stripes and sew together again.
3. Imagine a use in an abstract landscape and go for it!

Tiny Piecing Cutting and Sewing Tips

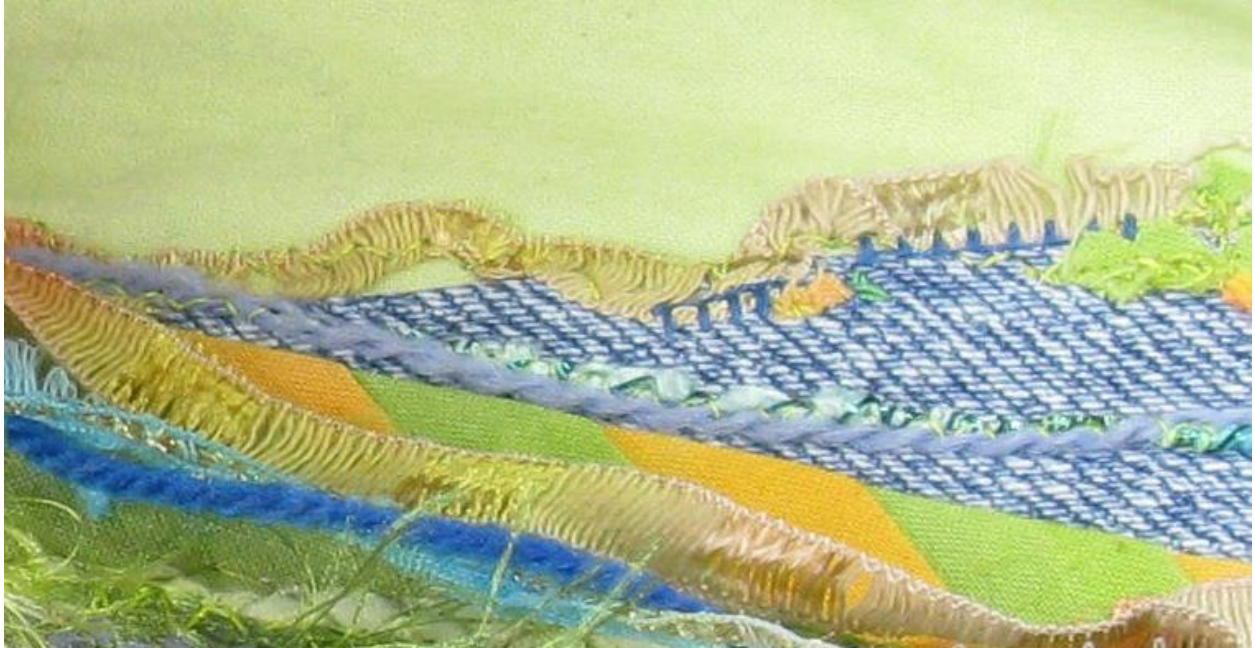
I find piecing really narrow strips and teeny shapes pesky to handle, so I use this method to make sewing narrow stripes before forming tiny patchwork:

1. *Using a ¼" sewing foot (BERNINA 37, 57, 97 or 97D) sew two wide fabric strips together, one of each color (3" x 12" would be a good size to experiment with). Press all seams open; or all seams in the same direction, your call.*
2. *After the first seam, fabric right side up, place a clear ruler and over the sewn seam line. Adjust ruler placement carefully so you can evenly cut 5/8" away from the seam on both sides.*
3. *Take the still-wide strips you cut away, and repeat this process multiple times. Alternate the colors so you are always sewing different fabrics to each other.*

To sew stripes into tiny shapes, you can try the following, and also check out Seminole patchwork for regular, repeating pattern ideas. The basic process is as follows. The last suggestion below, d, creates irregular shapes. This opens the door to creating without knowing how it will turn out ...for a tiny piecing adventure. I recommend it.

4. *Using your already sewn striped fabric, press well. This new fabric should be nice and flat, and will all seam lines parallel. Now pretend this is one piece of solid fabric. Select an angle, such as 45 degrees, 60 degrees or perpendicular to the stripes, 90 degrees to cut strips. Whatever width you'd like to see when sewn, be sure to add in the ½" needed for seams. So if you want to see ½", cut the strips 1" wide.*
 - a. *A 90 degree cutting plan is useful for sewing a checkerboard effect. Simply slide each strip up or down one color before sewing again. I recommend pinning first, then peeking inside the proposed seam allowance, peeking ¼" in, to see whether your two strips will sew together with color corners meeting nicely at the seam line. If you don't see that, un-pin, slide strip slightly up or down to adjust and pin/peek again. You'll get the hang of it.*
 - b. *Using a 45 degree angle while cutting your striped fabric is useful for re-sewing into a new strip of little squares, or rectangles (cut wider), on point.*
 - c. *A 60 degree angle is useful for creating a tiny diamond shaped grid.*
 - d. *Irregular cuts are interesting too. All final sewn shapes do not have to match. In fact, evenly spaced grid patterns can tend to look like a wall when sewn into landscapes. So try out sewing some uneven ones on purpose just to see what happens.*

Find a place to jot down any ideas coming to mind...



Confetti – Technique #4

Experiment

1. Select any three fabrics (really fun if you don't try to select colors that already look good together).
2. Cut confetti from each, all confetti the same size.
3. *Set aside some of the confetti unmixed for the challenge round.*
4. Mix different amounts of each of the three colors to form three little piles of confetti. Each pile should "read" a different color when you step back and squint. Press clear tape onto each separate pile to adhere a bit of confetti mix. Trim away any excess clear tape showing around the edges.
5. Use these mixed confetti samples to identify solid color &/or print fabric companion fabric. When you place them on the fabric, does it appeal up close and *does it blend in when you take ten steps back and squint?*

Challenge Round

Using original unmixed confetti colors, sprinkle them to cover a base fabric (could be any color) aiming to form a color gradation: confetti gradually transforming from one color to the next color. Options: confetti application is heavy and no base fabric shows OR confetti is evenly

sprinkled to allow an even amount of base fabric to show. How do the colors look? Cut out an area you love without spilling too much confetti. :-)

Set aside. Cut another area to sew over it with thread (stabilizer below) to fasten the confetti. What happened to the confetti color? Now select a thread color and begin to sew over the section you really like. Change thread colors if desired. Use this swatch to plan an entire palette for a project, if desired.



Couch and Twirl – Technique #5

A Few Experiments

1. Select any one linear embellishment and cut into three segments.
2. Stitch each one onto the same base fabric, couching (see video link at end of post to learn about various sewing feet I used for couching).
3. Use the same stitch settings to fasten all three segments, *but use a different thread color each time.*
4. Review the results. Did your thread selection brighten, dull, lighten, darken or even change the color family of any segments? Fun to see how just a bit of thread makes a difference!

5. Repeat Steps 1 – 4 with the same ingredients but now select a different stitch. Use one that is either more open, or more filled in with thread.
6. Compare the results to your first set. What happened?
7. What did you learn? Which result do you enjoy most? Are there any you don't like? Why?
8. Now for one last go of it. Twirl any two linear embellishments together.
9. Use a simple zig zag stitch and fasten to any base, stabilizer below. Adjust the stitch width and length of your zig zag stitch and keep this consistent all three times.
10. Experiment with more or less degree of twist while fastening your linear embellishments. One should be consistently more loosely twisted; one with medium twist and the third, a tighter overall twist. How did the degree of twist affect the overall coloration?

Challenge yourself to use this technique, and all the others in a Mini Landscape.



Chenille – Technique #6



To learn about chenille and more about color, check out the video!

Fiberella Studio free-view video link here: <http://www.fiberellastudio.com/quilt.html>



After becoming familiar with these techniques, and seeing for yourself how textile colors mix into Natural Color Bridges, you may wish to create a Mini Landscape that's a bit more evolved. If so, be sure to read the blog and here's a final tip...

DESIGN TIP: Hold your in-progress composition up to a mirror from time to time. Can you identify an area you like, and one you wish to change? Does it all fit together, even when viewed upside-down? Or is there something still to add or take away? STOP when it feels good to YOU and you can no longer add anything or change anything that would improve what you already have in your hands. Good work!

You can find the Mini Landscape blog post and all Fiberella Studio free-views topics on my site:

www.fiberella.com

click the **create** button

and then click **it's simple**

enJOY!