

Exotica Quilt Block with Laura Murray

This one-layer 3 3/4" quilt block illustrates the basic technique, and forms the basis for larger, more complex designs.



Supplies

- 1/4" yard solid colored cottons (or tone-on-tone) batiks in light, medium and dark values, i.e. turquoise, red, black, etc. For just one block, much smaller amount of fabric are required.
- Lite Steam-a-Seam2 fusible web
- Iridescent paintstiks in light, medium and dark values.
- 8" scissors suitable for cutting both fabric and paper
- Rotary cutter, ruler, cutting mat erasable marking pencil/chalk
- Temporary spray adhesive, i.e. Sulky KK2000
- Laura Murray Designs Exotica stamp

The block used for these instructions requires just one of the small curved squares (1 3/4") from the Exotica stamp set. I do not cut the stamp set apart, because it is easier (and wastes less fabric) do make a rubbing with the entire set, thus generating a selection of colors for future blocks.



Exotica stamp set

If you are new to paintstik rubbings, visit <http://lauramurraydesigns.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/PaintstikInstructions.pdf> for basic information. For live demonstrations, go to Youtube and search for "paintstik rubbings". Tips for successful rubbings with stamps include:

- Spray top of stamp with temporary spray adhesive to prevent fabric from slipping.
- Grip the paintstik firmly, and hold fabric securely (over the top of the stamp).
- Experiment with pressure— too light, too dark, just right.
- Start rubbing inside the shape just to the outer edges with short, quick 1 1/2" strokes.
- Keep the paintstik tip free from skin by wiping the tip whenever "crumbs" of paint start appearing on the fabric.
- Add layers of paint to achieve even, solid coverage —no background color showing through the paint.

Step 1 - Paint four 1 3/4" squares, in contrasting values. Choose whatever colors you wish, with the goal of:

One dark
Two medium
One light

Step 2 Apply fusible web and cut around the squares.

Apply fusible web to the back of each shape and cut out the squares, leaving approx 1/8" of solid colored fabric as a border. Do not remove the paper backing.



Two identical medium value squares



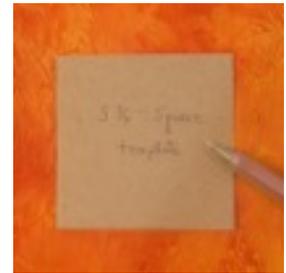
One dark value square



One light value square.

Step 3 Select and mark background fabric

Select a background fabric for your block, 7-8" square depending on how much border you want. Mark a **3 3/4" square** in the center, using chalk or erasable marker.



mark 3 3/4" square

Step 4 Assemble the block

a. Cut the two **identical** squares on **one** diagonal for a total of four **half-square** triangles. Remove paper backing and position in the corners of the 3 3/4" square. (figure a)



a. position half-square triangles.

b. Cut the dark value **square** into **quarter-square** triangles. Remove paper backing and position as shown. (figure b)



b. position quarter-square triangles.

c. Position the light value square in the center. Experiment with positioning the square on point (or not) to determine your preference. (figure c)



c. position center square

Options abound!

The assembly sequence is always the same, whether one layer, two layers, or three layers. Different effects are achieved by putting the top or middle layers on point.



Two layers = 5 1/2" block



Three layers = 7 1/4" block



On point variation

Start your Exotica Adventure!



Exotica Quilt Blocks booklet is a 16- page, full color comprehensive guide for your Exotica journey, including:

- Paintstik Primer
- Tips for successful rubbings
- Nine Exotica designs
- Curved Edge borders

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