

Create your own sparkling gem using the same techniques that artist and designer MJ Kinman has used to create her giant gem quilts for over 20 years. MJ’s gem quilts have been featured in *Quilting Arts Magazine* and *McCall’s Quilting Magazine*, and she’s been on *Quilting Arts TV* and *The Quilt Show.com with Alex Anderson and Ricky Tims*. Now MJ has created patterns that allow all of us to bring a little bling into our lives. Through her use of color and contrast, MJ has created patterns that will delight your senses and are a blast to put together even for the new quilter.

This isn’t your typical foundation paper piecing. Freezer paper templates (included in the pattern) are ironed to the right side of your fabric and can be easily removed after piecing. And best of all, these patterns don’t require absolute precision, so you can relax and enjoy every aspect of making your gem (finishes at 17” square). Join Julia Graves, certified Gem Affiliate with MJ Kinman, Textile Artist for a fun and creative class. Julia enjoys working with color to achieve amazing results. Visit her gallery on her website at <http://www.soquilts.com>.

Add a little bling to your life by creating your own gem! Skill Level: Confident Beginner

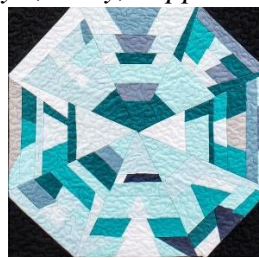
Choose Your Gemstone! Select your birthstone, or any gem you think is lovely. But watch out – they’re addictive and you’ll want to make more! Finished size is 17”. The number in () is how many different fabrics are in the gem. *Note: All the gems are doable by a Confident Beginner, but Diamond has many small pieces and Garnet, Diamond and Peridot have curved background pieces. The simplest are Amethyst, Ruby, Sapphire and Tanzanite.*



Jan-Garnet (9)



Feb-Amethyst (8)



Mar-Aquamarine (11)



Apr-Diamond (13)



May-Emerald (8)



Jun-Alexandrite (6)



July-Ruby (8)



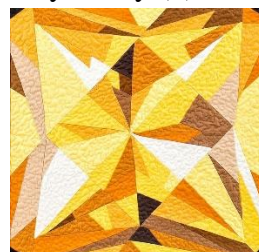
Aug-Peridot (9)



Sep-Sapphire (7)



Oct-Tourmaline (10)



Nov-Citrine (11)



Dec-Tanzanite (9)

Supply List:

- Pattern (Julia brings for in-person; \$18+tax, payable at class. Order on-line at <https://soquilts.square.site/shop/birthstone-patterns-fabric-and-thread/2>. Includes freezer paper pattern templates). Consider getting matching Sulky thread pack for wonderful depth in quilting.
- Business-sized envelopes or quart/gallon size zip lock bags – you will need 1 for each different fabric – between 6 and 13, depending on your gem
- Rotary cutter with new blade and mat (rotating mat is helpful but optional)
- Paper scissors and/or a rotary cutter blade you don't mind using on paper
- Long (at least 18") and medium (at least 6" ruler) with ¼" measurement. Helpful but optional – “add a ¼" ruler, or narrow 1" ruler.
- Basic sewing supplies, including a seam ripper; optional items include tweezers, basting glue, highlighter, and fabric marking pencils in light and dark
- Basic sewing machine with neutral thread – medium gray or taupe works well
- Personal small iron and ironing pad (optional, and if allowed)
- Piecing plan – (optional) print out if you like to have each step identified – available at <http://www.mjkinman.com/birthstones/resources/>. Go to the Piecing Plan section, and print for the gem you plan on making. The pattern will have a piecing plan for the first section.

Fabric – Fabric bundles are available from Julia, featuring Fat Quarter solids from Paintbrush Studios in carefully gradated values that will make your gem shine and glow! \$2.25+tax/FQ needed - number of FQs are listed in parentheses () under the gem's picture above. Purchase at <https://soquilts.square.site/shop/birthstone-patterns-fabric-and-thread/2>.



For those wanting to provide their own fabric:

- Use solids, blenders or tone on tones. Distinct patterns will detract from the faceted effect.
- There are color chips in the pattern to help you select your fabrics. Contact Julia at juliagraves82@gmail.com for a color chart for your gem so you can match the values.
- Be careful to provide a wide range of value from light to dark.
- Do NOT use starch or fabric softener on your fabric as this can cause the freezer paper to not adhere.
- If you plan on making more than one gem, make sure you have enough of the same black fabric for all the gems, particularly those that have black in the background.

Use these blocks to make tote bags, pillows, wall hangings, even bed size quilts!

12 blocks straight set – 55" x 73" – pattern included with every gem pattern

Gemstone Bling



FREE setting patterns for 4 and 12 gems available! Contact Julia at juliagraves82@gmail.com to order free patterns, or to order more gem patterns or fabric bundles.



4 gem blocks on point – 51” x 51”



4 gem blocks straight set – 37” x 37”



12 gem blocks on point – 93” x 93” (Queen)



MJ's Newest – Elizabeth 48”x48”
Pattern \$75, Fabric Kit \$110
Available in blue (shown), pink,
yellow or neutral