

Pojagi-inspired Creations

by Martha Wolfe

Sponsored by Bernina of America and QNNtv

Project photo courtesy of Martha Wolfe



Susan Brubaker Knapp and Martha Wolfe

Materials

- 1 yard silk organza, cut into 10"–12" squares
- 1½" bristle brush (A cheap brush is just fine for this project.)
- Fluid acrylic fabric paints in assorted colors (I used Jacquard® Dye-na-Flow® in blues, maroons, and purples to represent the flowers and greens to represent the foliage.)
- Freshly cut leaves and stems or small branches
- Wash out stabilizing fabric spray (I used Terial Magic™ Liquid Stabilizer.)

Pojagi is an ages-old Asian tradition for creating patchwork textiles with flat-felled seams that hide the raw edges. I am inspired by the beautiful, translucent fabrics; the visible seam work; and the geometry of the patchwork in these creations. Using these elements, along with watercolor-like paints, I am creating impressionistic, floral, layered patchwork. This project reminds me of the blue-purple hydrangeas in my garden.

INSTRUCTIONS

Painting and sun printing organza

1. Gather paints in blues, maroons, and purples—or the colors of your choice—paintbrush, and a cup of water. Wet the organza, squeezing out the excess water and spread it out on a plastic-covered work surface.
2. Using a wet brush, paint in a loose circular motion with quick strokes on 4 of the squares. Add more water at the edges to create lighter values.

Allow the water in the fabric to blend the colors, covering the entire surface.

3. Allow the fabric to dry completely. Press with a dry iron to set paint.
4. Using shades of green, paint the remaining wet organza for the foliage. Place leaves and/or branches on top of the wet, painted fabric, gently patting them down to make contact with the fabric. (See Tip 1.)
5. Allow the fabric to dry completely and remove the foliage. Press with a dry iron to set paint.

Preparing the organza for assembly

1. Place the painted organza on a smooth surface. Pour the stabilizer on 1 edge of the fabric and use a credit card or squeegee to spread it over the entire surface, checking that it has saturated through the fabric. Hang to dry. (See Tip 2.)
2. Once the stabilizer has dried, the organza can be ironed and cut up

into pieces. Squares from 2"–4" are used in this piece, but larger sizes work, too. Varying the sizes or cutting angles and reassembling them into pieced squares or rectangles will add interest to the composition.

Assembling with flat-felled seams

1. At the sewing machine, start with 2 pieces at a time. Place 1 on top of the other, offset by $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " piecing foot, sew a seam $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top fabric (this will be a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam from the bottom fabric). Fold the edge of the bottom fabric over the top fabric. Finger press the edge of the fold. Open the seam flat with the folded edge on top.
2. Use a blind hem foot to sew at the very edge of the folded fabric, creating the flat-felled seam.
3. After sewing pieces into pairs, arrange them on the design wall and decide on a composition. It can be completely random or intentional placing. Assemble pairs into Four Patches, repeating the flat-felled seam technique. Be sure to put single seam sides together (double seam sides facing out).
4. Continue to add pairs or join squares together following the same steps, frequently referring to the design wall composition. (See Tip 3.)
5. If desired, when the quilt top is assembled, gently soak it in water to remove the stabilizer. Reshape and dry flat. Press with a dry iron. (See Tip 4.)

Tips

1. Perfect conditions for sun printing might be a sunny spot outdoors, sheltered from wind, however, sun isn't necessary to do the printing. It's all about evaporation. It will take longer, but it will work indoors, even in the dark—just don't disturb the fabric until it is completely dry!
2. Before applying the stabilizer, attach the top edge of the organza to a hanger with clothespins. After it is saturated with stabilizer, just pick it up and hang it to dry.
3. Consider layering finished patchwork to create more blending and saturated colors or use a bottom layer of sun-printed silk habotai for more depth.
4. There are several options available for stabilizing organza. Spray starch offers minimal stabilizing but enough to manage the flat-felled seams with some ironing, creating a more "loose" composition. Liquid stabilizer can be left in or rinsed out when the composition is complete, for a more exact composition. For a permanently rigid piece and ease of assembly, fabric stiffener such as Stiffy® by Mod Podge® or Plaid® can be squeegeed into the organza in the same fashion as the liquid stabilizer.



marthawolfe.com

