

Choosing Fabric

There are lots of books on color theory, and how to get the right combination of fabric for your quilt. Here are a few ideas that I have utilized:

If you like prints, whether it be flowers, geometrics or novelty prints, a strategy that works well is start with a single focus fabric; or choose 2 or 3 fabrics that you especially like, and go together well, and use that for your basic ‘theme’. Don’t be bashful about combining different types of prints! Sometimes one geometric or stripe adds that just-right splash! And sometimes the strangest color combinations go together! If you use flowers, try to vary the size and style for a more interesting quilt.

Example #1: I had a Raggedy Ann type fabric with red flowers, blue gingham, and yellow background. I added a blue gingham fabric, then one with yellow and white flowers on a red background. Later on, as I was making squares, I added a few more fabrics that expanded the color range a little within the squares, then a solid medium blue for the sashing and borders.

Example #2: I had one fabric pattern that came in a 3 different colors. When I put them together, they balanced very well. Or, using those fabrics and adding some other fabric with a similar color scheme works well too.

Example #3: I had a paisley print on black fabric that was great! I looked at the minor colors in it, and got fabric that brought out those colors to be more prominent, then used a subtle background. It turned out wonderful!

Example #4: A ‘scrappy’ quilt that has many different fabrics, and well, looks scrappy, similar to the way women used to make quilts out of old clothes! You can choose a certain color theme, like blue, and just find an assortment of blues. Or you can choose many different colors and fabrics for a truly scrappy quilt.

Now, if you like batiks, here’s some ideas for that:

Uhh, well, truthfully, I have never done an all-batik quilt. I’ve used batiks for sashing, borders or accents, but never *only* batiks!