

Mystery Quilt No. 3

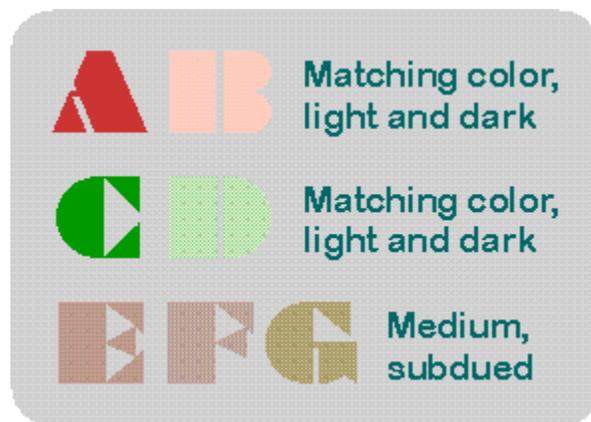
by Johannes H. Hindriks

Installment 1 of 9 - Shopping

Large Version: 90 inches x 92 1/2 inches

Tip: Print out this document and take it with you when you go shopping for fabrics.

The quilt top requires seven different colors (fabrics), named "A" through "G":



The seven colors of the Mystery

The colors shown in the picture are only suggestions. You have a lot of freedom to choose your own combination of fabrics. The restrictions pertain mainly to grey value (how light or dark) and saturation (how bright or dull). Follow your good taste.

COLORS "A" AND "B". These should form a matching pair: "A" a dark but vibrant color and "B" as its much lighter counterpart, as if color "A" were blended with white paint. As a color suggestion for this pair a warm red was selected.

COLORS "C" AND "D". A similar matching pair of dark and light. As a color suggestion for this pair a warm green was chosen.

Rules for selecting the two matching pairs "A"/"B" and "C"/"D":

- "Matching" means "of the same basic color". For instance: the warm red in color "A" from the picture should be easily recognized as the same kind of warm red in the lighter color "B".
- Avoid very dull and also aggressively bright colors.
- Avoid wild prints. Solids, fine tone-on-tone prints and cloudy dyes are best.

- There must be a clear distinction between the basic color for the pair "A"/"B" and the basic color for the pair "C"/"D". Some combinations that will work are:
 - The colors from the picture: for "A"/"B" a warm red and for "C"/"D" a warm green (as maintained in the illustrations);
 - Cool "jewel tones": for "A"/"B" a sapphire purple and for "C"/"D" an emerald green;
 - "Americana" colors: for "A"/"B" a cherry red and for "C"/"D" a navy blue.
- The basic color within each pair is the same, but the contrast between dark and light should be considerable. Don't make your darks too deep, however. For instance, the navy blue of a navy uniform is too black.
- The color contrast within the two pairs must be the same. In other words, color "A" should be about as dark as color "C" and color "B" should be as light as color "D". As a consequence, the combinations "A"/"C" (dark) and "B"/"D" (light) form matching pairs in their own way.

COLORS "E", "F" AND "G". These three colors form a group of their own, a group that contrasts with, but still communicates with, the two matching pairs.

Rules for selecting the group of colors "E"/"F"/"G":

- "Medium" means: not as dark as "A" or "C" and not as light as "B" or "D" but about halfway in between.
- "Subdued" means: not as vibrant as the two matching pairs, but duller.
- Avoid wild prints. Color "G", however, may have a bolder, more large-scale motif if you wish.
- The group "E"/"F"/"G" must stand out against the two matching pairs "A"/"B" and "C"/"D" as an entity in its own right. Yet it should remain in harmony with them. In my color suggestion (see the picture above again), I solved this problem by selecting three warm earthy colors: for "E" a soft clay red, for "F" a ditto purple and, as a bridge between all colors in the quilt, a clayish yellow ochre for "G".

BINDING. The preferred color for the binding is "A" or "C", or a close match to either of these.

YARDAGE. The amounts of fabric required for this Mystery Quilt, Large Version, are given below. They are rounded upwards to the nearest quarter of a yard. Another quarter or so more, to allow for mistakes, is recommended.

Color "A": 1 1/2 Yard (and, if applicable, additional fabric for 365" of binding).

Color "B": 1 1/2 Yard.

Color "C": 1 1/2 Yard (and, if applicable, additional fabric for 365" of binding).

Color "D": 1 1/2 Yard.

Color "E": 1/2 Yard.

Color "F": 1 3/4 Yard.

Color "G": 1 3/4 Yard.

OPTIONAL: Spray can of sizing. Sizing, which is usually applied on men's shirts and such garments to make the fabric crisp to the touch and sharp to the eye, prevents your patches from stretching during the time interval between cutting and sewing. Spray the fabric before cutting and remove the sizing, after completion of the quilt top, by rinsing it gently in lukewarm water and a little detergent. Sizing is usually available in major grocery stores and pharmacies. Use a moderately hot iron on sizing, otherwise it may leave stains. Some people prefer starch instead of sizing.

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