

Tips for Choosing Fabrics

My favorite way to pull fabrics is using a focal print for my color choices. I like to find a print with at least 10 color dots along the selvage. The focal for my quilt was a colorful modern print that I used as my cornerstones in the sashing.

In the photos of the piecing directions, you will notice I used just two colors which also works well. I chose assorted yellow prints with contrasting Black and white prints.

You can choose to piece the sashing as shown in the directions or you can choose a gradation fabric or stripe for the sashing. SEE BELOW:



(A multi-colored stripe could become the focal print.)

Fabric requirements:

To make the quilt as shown in the multi-colored layout:

½ yard coordinating dark fabric for pieced sashing

½ yard coordinating light fabric for pieced sashing

One fat quarter of print for cornerstones in sashing

Assorted near solid and solid fat quarters in coordinating colors. I used 12 fat quarters in color pairs.

I made 2 blocks from most of the color pairs. I varied which color was the outside edge so they would look different.

1/2 yard of one of the colors for binding (6-2 ¼" strips).

2 ½ yards for pieced backing.

Quilt dimensions are 54" by 54" .

Skill Level

The directions are written for experienced piecers. This grid-based project is appropriate for someone who has never tried improvisational piecing. The strips are cut free form without measuring. If you are a pro at improv, you can vary the size of the blocks and be more free form in the piecing. The directions show trimming to straight lines, but curves easily form if you are comfortable with improvisational curves.



Focal print as cornerstone.

Piecing Directions

1. Cut around 3 strips each from 2 different fat quarters. Do not measure and do not cut exactly straight. They should be anywhere from 1 to 2 ½" by the length of the fat quarter. Reserve the balance for the final steps. From the fat part of the strip cut one scalene (no equal sides) triangle from each color.



2. Place the two triangles RST and sew together along one edge. Press open.



3. Layer a contrasting color strip along one side of the pieced 4-sided kite shape. Trim a little longer than the edge of the kite.



4. Sew along the edge of the new strip and press open.



5. Place the next strip RST along the final edge of the contrast triangle. Trim to fit.



6. Sew along the edge of the new strip and press open. Trim excess to straighten edge of block.



7. Switch to the second color and place a strip RST along one edge of the four-sided block. Trim to fit.



8. Sew along the edge of the new strip and press open. Trim excess to straighten edge of block.



9. Continue to use the same color strips as in Steps 7 and 8 on the remaining three sides of the block.



10. Place a contrast strip along one side of the block RST and trim to fit. Sew along this side and press open. Cut a 10 inch by 8 inch rectangle out of scrap muslin. Place block on top of muslin.



11. Use the muslin as a guide for the shape and size of the remaining 3 strips. Be generous on the cuts at least one inch larger than the amount of exposed muslin showing on the edges. Sew the first strip to one edge as in Steps 7 and 8.



12. Continue to cut pieces larger than needed for the remaining two sides of the block. Sew as in steps 7 and 8. Block should be over 8" by 10".

13. Place a square ruler on top of the block. Trim one side to be slightly longer than 8" and the other to be slightly longer than 10".



14. Rotate the block to trim the final two sides, the completed block should measure exactly 8" by 10".



15. Repeat steps 1-14 to make 30 assorted blocks. Arrange these blocks on a design wall to find a pleasing layout.

Sashing Directions

1. Cut the two different sashing fabrics in half to form fat quarters. Cut 3 - 20" strips from light fabric free form style in three different widths, narrow, medium and wide. The widest strip should not be more than 3" wide. Do the same with the darkest fabric. Cut another 6 strips in the same manner as shown below:



2. Sew the strip sets with 3 light and 3 dark varying the widths. Sew a second set of strips together changing the variation of the widths. One of the sets should be a least 8" tall and the other should be over 10" tall by 20" wide. They will be trimmed when sewing to the blocks.



3. Sub-cut 2 strips from each layout. They should measure exactly 2" wide. More strip-sets will be needed to complete the sashing.

- Cut strips exactly 2" from the fat quarter of cornerstone fabric. Sub-cut into 20 squares 2" by 2". If you decide to fussy cut, you may need extra fabric. Layout the sashing and cornerstone for your first four blocks. Sew together in 3 rows.



- When you are laying out sashing on your design wall, sometimes all the dark ends of the sashing will surround the cornerstone. The next corner stone will naturally have all light ends of the of the sashing surround the cornerstone. Pay attention to this alternating effect while continuing to sew sashing and cornerstones to the blocks.



- Continue to refer to the final quilt picture and your design wall until your top is completely sewn together. It may be necessary to label with a sticky note to show which is the top left corner of the block sets.



- When the quilt top is completed layer and quilt as desired. I did random wavy lines in my quilting. Attach binding using your favorite method.
- Play with this method as you wish. Narrower strips create smaller blocks. The blocks might be made so they finish as a square. I used some 4 by 6 -inch blocks to piece into the body of the backpack shown below.

