

## Mystery Quiltaway Spring 2018

### Fabric Requirements

This season's Mystery Quilt will feature a collection of fabrics. The collection will contain 12 fabrics. This can be a manufacturer's fabric collection, or fabrics from your stash. Rather than random scraps, you want the collection to have some commonality that ties it together. For example, a collection of thirties prints, a collection of blue fabrics, a collection of batiks and so on. You also will need a background fabric to contrast well with all the fabrics of the collection. There is an accent fabric also to contrast well with the collection. For this season's Mystery Quilt we will be featuring a lap/twin size. The instructions for queen size will also be offered. The queen size is not any harder to make, but there are more pieces. To finish the quilt at the Quiltaway Weekend, we recommend that you make the lap/twin size quilt, especially if you are a beginner. If, however, you are a true beginner, (someone who has never made a quilt, limited sewing experience, new to rotary cutting, etc.) please give us a call. We will give you our beginner mystery to do, and the instructions you need to complete your first quilt.

**Notes on Fabric Collection:** For this Mystery Quilt you will need 12 different fabrics. For a good collection, you should include a mix of scale in your prints, some small, medium and large scale. Unless you want a mono-chromatic collection, a variety of colors works well. Also think about value in your prints, choose some medium value and either some dark or light value to provide some visual interest.

You will choose a background fabric to showcase all your fabrics. It should contrast well with all the fabrics of your collection. A solid or tone-on-tone print works well with a collection. You don't want something that will compete with your collection, you want the background fabric to allow the collection to shine. Finally, there is an accent fabric. It also works well as a solid or tone-on-tone fabric. The accent fabric needs to contrast well with the collection and the background. The accent fabric is something bolder than the background to give the quilt some extra pizzaz.

**Borders:** This mystery quilt pattern contains borders as part of the design. The yardage requirements includes enough fabric for these borders.

It is important to note which fabrics are to contrast with one another. The descriptions below will emphasize the contrasts to pay particular attention to.

**Fabric A:** A is your accent fabric. A is a fabric to enhance your C Fabrics. This fabric should contrast well with Fabric B and all your Collection fabrics. See below for tips on choosing your fabrics.

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**Fabric B:** B is your background fabric. The background fabric should provide a very strong contrast with the C fabrics. This will make your C Fabrics really stand out. The B Fabric is going to serve as a background to the design. Fabric B should be a fairly simple print, such as tone-on-tone or even a solid so that it really contrasts with the other fabrics. One-way prints *will not* work for the background. This fabric should contrast very well with the C Fabrics and the A Fabric.

**Fabrics C:** This is the set of 12 fabrics forming a collection. You can use directional fabrics for C Fabrics, if you don't mind if it ends up oriented in different directions. Use medium, large, and small scale prints and use different values (darks to lights). These fabrics need to contrast well with the A and B Fabrics. They do not need to contrast with each other.

**Tip for Choosing Your Fabrics:** Start by deciding on a collection. For the first example, choose a collection of 12 blue fabrics. Choose some mediums to darks. Also be sure to include a variety of scales. For your B fabric, you choose a white tone-on-tone to really allow your blues to stand out. For the accent fabric, you choose a nice bright red tone-on-tone. This will give your quilt some punch.

Another example is to choose a manufacturer's collection. This will usually include a variety of colors, scales and values. You choose a floral collection with some large scale prints and some small scale florals. It may also include some geometrics and blenders of colors in the collection. Keep in mind you will want 12 fabrics, so you may need to add more fabrics or eliminate some. Think about your B choice, there is a light green tone-on-tone fabric you have your eye on for the B. There may be other fabrics in the manufacturer's collection that are similar to that light green, so you will eliminate those choices. There is a dark pink blender print as part of the manufacturer's collection, you choose this for your A fabric. You then eliminate a floral print which although it has other colors in it, "reads" close to the A fabric.

One last example, is a collection of brightly colored batiks. For this example we are choosing a white solid for the B and a black solid for the A. This will be a bright, bold quilt.

To double check your contrasts, stand back and look at your choices from a distance. You can really see if things blend together this way. Another way is to snap a digital picture of your fabrics together. Then when you look at the picture, the contrasts will stand out. Keep in mind that dark and light are relative. For example, the dark fabric for pastel fabrics could be a medium with another group of fabrics.

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### Yardage Requirements

The fabric yardage amounts given are generous. Because fabrics now are sometimes less than 42" of usable width, the yardage was calculated for fabrics with a 40" width of usable material. The yardage also allows some extra for possible mistakes.

	Lap/Twin Size Yardage Finished Size 59"x70"	Queen Size Yardage Finished size 92"x103"
Fabric A	1 ¼ yard	3 yards
Fabric B	1 ¼ yard	2¾ yards
C Fabrics	Collection of 12 Fabrics Fat Quarter or 1/3 yard each	Collection of 12 Fabrics ½ yard each

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### Supply List

- ❖ Fabric cut according to cutting instructions
- ❖ All extra fabric
- ❖ Your Cutting Worksheet
- ❖ Sewing machine (clean and oiled)
- ❖ Extra sewing machine needles
- ❖ Bobbins
- ❖ Thread
- ❖ pencil
- ❖ Basic sewing supplies such as scissors, pins, seam ripper etc.
- ❖ Post-it Notes or some way to label you pieces as you follow the Clues.
- ❖ Name tag (if you've been here before)
- ❖ Your latest project for Show and Tell
- ❖ Some quilters like to bring a seat cushion for your sewing comfort!
- ❖ Anything you might want to make your stay more comfortable such as Tylenol PM, a favorite pillow, or ear plugs.

Note: You do not need to bring rotary cutting supplies. We provide that at your Quiltaway.