

Stargello Tips

Choosing fabrics--

I've seen many stargello quilts--which really makes me happy! Some are good, others are great. What makes the biggest difference? Fabric selection. So here are a few suggestions.

Scale of print

Smaller prints are the easiest to work with. Splotchy fabrics such as batiks can also be troublesome. Both large scale prints and blotchy batiks have the same issue. When they're in the bargello portion of the quilt, your eye doesn't connect them. You don't get that distinct swirl. The reason is sometimes the little piece is the red flower for example but sometimes its the green leaf. So all you see is a red chunk and a green chunk and you can't tell they're even from the same piece of fabric.

Value

Value is important in most all quilts. But in the stargello you want to be sure your background is a strong contrast with the star portion. None of the star fabrics should be as light or dark as the background.

If I have a light background, I'll put my lightest two star fabrics in as #2 and #5.

If I have a dark background, I'll put my darkest two star fabrics in as #2 and #5.

Star Color

Yes you can have all one color family, but to really have the full effect it's better if there are color differences within the two groups.

Going even further with the color and value issue--It's important to note that Fabrics #1 and #6 will be next to each other as well as Fabrics #3 and #4. I've gotten so caught up in the two groups--I missed the fact that (for example) the dark #1 and dark #6 were too close in color or value. When put all together, they almost merged into one!

Seam Allowances

I'm a big advocate of exact 1/4" seams, but for the wedge seams on this particular pattern I usually go for a scant seam. With all the strip set seams etc., it's too easy to have your seam allowances draw up and make the pieced Gem 10 a bit too small.

If this happens, just go with a smaller Gem 10 trimmed piece. Remember in this case to make all the Gem 10 pieces smaller.

Secret Key to Success

Working with my friend this past weekend, she and I discovered how important labeling is. Let's just say we did a bit of reverse sewing!!

So here are labels for you to use for your next Stargello project. I know everyone wants to skip this step. I get it. I tried to do it too, but it's just too easy to mix up a 2 and a 2 1/4" strip. They look so close to the same! Careful labeling will save ripping and confusion. It's well worth the effort.

2"	2"	2 1/4"	2 1/2"	3"
Set 2 A	Set 3 A	Set 4 A	Set 5 A	Set 6 A
2"	2"	2 1/4"	2 1/2"	3"
Set 1 B	Set 2 B	Set 3 B	Set 4 B	Set 5 B
2"	2"	2 1/4"	2 1/2"	3"
Set 6 C	Set 1 C	Set 2 C	Set 3 C	Set 4 C
2"	2"	2 1/4"	2 1/2"	3"
Set 5 D	Set 6 D	Set 1 D	Set 2 D	Set 3 D
2"	2"	2 1/4"	2 1/2"	3"
Set 4 E	Set 5 E	Set 6 E	Set 1 E	Set 2 E
2"	2"	2 1/4"	2 1/2"	3"
Set 3 F	Set 4 F	Set 5 F	Set 6 F	Set 1 F