**COLOR**

**VALUE/CONTRAST** : first design element to consider when designing a quilt.

\*Enhances quilt

\*Clarifies design

\*Makes depth apparent (Tumbling Blocks)

**\*Example:** (Star Blocks)

Dark background with Medium center (subtle contrast)

Light background with Medium center (high contrast)

**\*Tip:** Fabric manufacturers produce more fabrics in the medium ranges.

If you see a dark/light fabric that catches your eye, BUY IT.

**STRATEGIES FOR VISUALIZING CONTRAST:**

\*Squinting: limits amount of light the eye receives. This reduces your

perception of color. Should make contrast more evident.

\*Reducing Tool: (door peep-hole) Reduces the image, making color less

obvious and contrast more apparent.

\*Red/ Green Cellophane: Obliterates color, allowing values of light and

dark to become more apparent.

**COLOR/HUE:** Second design element

**\*PRIMARY COLORS:** All colors derived from RED, BLUE, YELLOW.

**\*Note:** BLACK, GRAY, WHITE are not on the Color Wheel.

**\*SECONDARY COLORS:** Mixing Primary Colors in different

combinations will produce ORANGE, VIOLET, GREEN.

Red + Yellow = Orange

Yellow + Blue = Green

Blue + Red = Violet

**\*COMPLEMENTARY COLORS:** Color opposite any color on color wheel.

Red / Green Blue / Orange Yellow / Violet

Using a small amount of a color’s complement can serve as

an accent.

**Tip:** Sprinkle a touch of Orange in a Monochromatic Blue quilt.

\***TERTIARY COLORS:** Combination of Primary and Secondary colors.

Primary: RED, YELLOW, BLUE

Secondary: ORANGE, VIOLET, GREEN

Tertiary: RED-ORANGE, YELLOW-ORANGE, YELLOW-GREEN,

BLUE-GREEN, BLUE-VIOLET, RED-VIOLET

**Note:** Neutral colors (beige, cream) can be added to one-color

and multi-colored quilts. Neutrals give the eye a place to

rest among all the other colors. They spread out competing

colors and add contrast.

**\*TINTS, SHADES, TONES:**

Tint: White is added

Shade: Black is added

Tone: Gray is added

Alter a color’s value by adding White, Black, or Gray

Consider the infinite amounts of these 3 colors that can be added.

The number of colors available is limitless. By using these colors,

manufacturers can produce both bright/vibrant colors and a more

subtle palette, as well.

**\*TEMPERATURE:**

Fabrics have a warmth, or lack of warmth.

Predominantly “cool” fabrics (Blue), can be enhanced with

a touch of “warmth” from Orange or Yellow.

However, theTtemperature of a color depends on what colors

are around it.

Yellow-Green and Red-Violet can be “warm” or “cool” depending

on what the neighbor color is.

**\*INTENSITY:**

When you look at fabric, decide if the color is pure (saturated,

brilliant), or muted (grayed, subtle). This indicates the

fabrics intensity.

Less intense colors are good for larger areas of a quilt.

Intense colors will appear to come forward.

Less intense colors will recede.

Again, Intensity of fabric will change according to the fabrics

around it.

**\*COMBINING COLORS:**

Fabrics may have similar colors to the bright/pure colors on a

Color Wheel; but, these colors can be influenced by patterns,

designs, and additional colors in that fabric.

Study the fabric.

Note the color combinations.

Use selvage “dots” that show colors used to create fabric.

**Note:** If you only use the “dot” colors, quilt may look flat.

Incorporate Tints, Shades, Tones, Intensity, and Temperature.

**\*\***Color Wheel and Charts are only a guide.

**\*MONOCHROMATIC COLOR SCHEME:**

Quilt is designed in a single color.

Every Monochromatic quilt should include as many variations

of that single color as possible. (Tints, Shades, Primary,

Secondary, and Tertiary)

**Note:** Monochromatic quilts are most successful when fabric

designs, textures, and contrast are incorporated.

**Note:** Brown is not on the color wheel (has all colors in it).

Use Brown when you don’t want to add another color, but

need some type of contrast or transition.

**\*SPLIT COMPLEMENTS COLOR THEME:**

Includes Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary colors. It also includes

the colors on either side of its complement.

**Example:** Violet Fabric

Complement is Yellow

Colors on either side of Yellow: Yellow-Orange

and Yellow-Green

**Note:** If these colors are too strong as pure colors, consider

Eggplant, Olive, and Mustard. These are warm and mellow.

**\*ANALOGOUS COLOR SCHEME:**

Neighboring colors of Primary colors.

Select your feature fabric and find its closest companion on the

Color Wheel.

Pull your remaining fabrics from neighboring colors.

**Example:** Feature fabric is Green

Pick a variety of light and dark fabrics in

Yellow-Green, Yellow, Blue-Green,

and Blue.

This is one of the safest color schemes, but your

quilt can look dull if you don’t use fabrics with

some interest in their patterns and contrast.

**\*TRIAD COLOR SCHEME:**

>Three colors that are equidistant on Color Wheel.

>Creates a harmonious quilt.

>Four Triad combinations:

TRIAD #1: EXAMPLES TRIAD #2: EXAMPLES

Red Cranberry Violet Eggplant

Blue Navy Orange Melon

Yellow Gold Green Seafoam

TRIAD #3: EXAMPLES TRIAD #4: EXAMPLES

Blue-Violet Lilac Blue-Green Teal

Red-Orange Salmon Red-Violet Magenta

Yellow-Green Yellow-Green Yellow-Orange Mustard

>You can select from an unlimited number of Tints, Shades, and

Intensities within these colors.

**\*TETRAD COLOR SCHEME:**

>Uses four Primary, Secondary, or Tertiary colors that are

equidistant on the Color Wheel.

>Three possible Tetrad combinations.

>Choices are unlimited using Tints, Shades, and Intensities within

these combinations.

TETRAD #1: EXAMPLES TETRAD #2: EXAMPLES

Blue Blue Red Red

Orange Melon Green Forest Green

Red-Violet Magenta Blue-Violet Blue-Violet

Yellow-Green Mint Yellow-Orange Mustard

TETRAD #3: EXAMPLES

Violet Eggplant

Yellow Daffodil

Blue-Green Teal

Red-Orange Salmon

**\*POLYCHROMATIC COLOR SCHEME:**

>Multi-color combinations

>Used in scrap quilts

>Composed of many fabrics in a wide range of colors/textures

>Varying Contrast, Intensity, and Temperature helps pull the

Quilt together.

**>Note:** Adding Neutral fabrics to the mix provides balance among

the colors that otherwise might compete for attention.

**\*CLOSING:**

>Colors have all sorts of names, which can be confusing.

>Colors evoke emotions in all of us.

>Combining colors takes OBSERVATION and PRACTICE.

>Using a Color Wheel can help as a guide.

>STUDY other quilts that “Speak to You”.

>LOOK at artwork, fashion, pictures in magazines, etc.