

How do you decide which kind of a block to use when you want to make a quilt? How do you decide which block will work the best. Will it be too busy, too elegant, too cute, etc???

I talked with a quilt pattern designer and asked if they just think it up in their head, or they have this epiphany and magic dust falls and they create these lovely quilts that are published in magazines and such.

They DON'T.. in talking with a designer from Westmister fabrics, she told me they actually do mockup? I said, well, since you get all the fabric you want, it's easy to do sample blocks and such. She laughed and indicated mostly they get small jpegs (those are pictures) of the fabric and they print it out and lay it on a mockup board and decide the blocks and design before they get the fabric. She reminded me that the quilts that showcase the fabric come out at approximately the same time as the fabric, so there is very little time to make the quilt.

Do you have a design board? What is yours made of:

Foam insulation covered with flannel

Flannel backed tablecloth

I saw the coolest one.. she took a roll down shade and glued flannel on it and it rolls up and down ---- cool eh!!

Do a mockup board:

1. Scan or copy the block pattern – blow it up to a usable size use a scanner or kinkos
2. Print it out on paper. If the block is in color, print in black and white
3. Take pieces of the fabric and glue or pin to the picture of the block. This gives you an idea of what the block looks like with your chosen fabric.
4. Take pictures of your different samples.
  - a. You can tile these pictures in a photo software.

Of course, if you have EQ software, you can do this in that software, but this is a “low tech” way to see what those blocks will look like!

Use your digital camera, an eye spy piece, squint, etc. to check it out. Does it please you??

**Just a little tip or trick from the mind of Jyll!**