

Color Depth

Choosing colors for a pattern that incorporates depth can be daunting. Hopefully these ideas will assist you in identifying the selections that will work best for you.

Begin by seeing a clarification of what it is you need.

A set of fabrics that displays a value shift from light to dark.

Choosing from one color family is the easiest to choose visually.

Sometimes fabrics are hard to find to suit a certain value.

Page 2 is of fabric values from white to black. A ten and 15 scale chart are given.

To see this in your fabric stash lay out several fabrics with about a 2 inch overlap.

Take a photo. Edit the photo on your camera. Crop to see only the fabric.

Change the photo to the mono setting.

This will give you the most clear value difference between fabrics, however, choose the setting that allows you to see the pattern of the fabric the best in the grays.

This is something (given your time allowance) that you can do in the shop if you have some fabrics to compare to what color value you want to purchase or in initial purchase to find the values. You know the fabric value spot when the line between the fabric and the scale tool vanishes. Double check by squinting.

You can also use the green and red plastic acrylic tools to find the fabric values.

Use the color (red or green) for each fabric that allows most visibility.

You can also find value by squinting. I find this works for many fabrics.

Or you can use the chart provided (page 3). Adhere plastic or cardboard to the back.

Cut out the center viewfinder. Hold above to match fabric values.

Determine how many values you need for your pattern then

Match your fabric values to the values on the chart.

Some fabrics do not fit on the scale because they have value differences right in the fabric.

I call these "Sparkle" fabrics.

They don't quite fit within the values smoothly yet they are something of value in a quilt.

If many or all of your fabrics are sparkle fabrics then you can see that there is a difference in the overall value and they can also be sorted.

After you have sorted your values to your liking it is important to mark the value order so that during the cutting process you can easily keep track of which fabric has what value.

Use a scrap from each fabric and pin the value number to it from the value chart.

We will be using several values in some of the blocks. We will begin with blocks that have only two fabrics or three. We will proceed from there. Through the work and with patience we will have fun, build confidence in your choices and enjoy each others company one way or another. :)