

# CHOOSING FABRICS & THREAD COLORS

Choosing colors for a project can be either the most fun or the most challenging part of the designs process. We have created some tips for choosing fabric and thread colors that will hopefully make this process fun!

## THE FABRIC METHOD

You can use fabric to choose thread colors for your designs. Simply choose a beautiful piece of fabric then match the threads colors to the colors of the fabric. This method works great on both embroidery and quilting designs. If you think about it this makes perfect sense. Fabric is designed by experienced color artists, so let those experienced color artists help you. Using this method, the fabric used as part of your project or appliqué will have perfectly matched colors. For those of you who love appliqué this technique works two-fold, by using fabric to choose your colors the thread colors will pleasantly blend with the fabric and the design itself.

## THE TRIM METHOD

Have you ever tried to buy trim to coordinate with a project after you have already embroidered it? It is almost impossible. However, if you buy the trim first, then use the trim to choose coordinating thread colors, the resulting design will match perfectly. This works great for embroidered towels, for example.

## THE QUILTING METHOD

As you know, quilts have a number



of different fabrics in them and usually follow a theme. We love fat quarter bundles and jelly roll strip packs because they give a sample of several coordinating fabrics to choose for your quilt. Start with a fat quarter bundle then choose a coordinating solid fabric for the quilt backgrounds. Use fat quarter bundles to choose your thread colors by pulling thread colors that match the fabric. Use this color theme to choose the thread colors for all of the designs you are embroidering on the quilt. This way whatever design or fabric you choose, all of the fabrics and threads will coordinate perfectly giving you a beautiful cohesive quilt design.

## COLOR STORY METHOD

Choosing fabric for one quilt block or project is hard enough, but how do you choose fabrics for multiple projects that all need to coordinate? Always start with a neutral color as your base. The embroidery will

stand out better on a solid fabric. Then choose 3-5 coordinating prints, don't be afraid of busy prints, just use those fabrics sparingly. Make sure all of your thread colors match your fabrics, but don't pick too many different colors of thread or the theme will be lost. Once you have your color story, use those colors for all of your quilt blocks or projects.

## THREAD CONVERSION

Don't let thread conversion be frustrating. There are so many thread conversion charts available online to help you. The website below is an excellent resource for thread conversion. Be mindful that not all thread brands will match thread colors exactly. Best practice may simply be matching your threads at home to the fabrics you are using in your project.

Visit the website below for thread conversion charts.

<http://www.rnkistributing.com>