

FABRIC QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We have always had a ton of questions about our fabric selections—*where* we purchase our fabric, *what* inspires us to pick our fabrics, and *how much* fabric to buy per project.

Where We Purchase Fabric

We have a few ‘go-to’ places when buying the majority of our fabric. We tend to use Moda and Robert Kaufman when buying bolts (larger quantities) of fabric with fun prints and graphics.

With projects that use many different types of fabrics, we often buy fat quarter bundles. It’s a great way to buy a handful of different fabrics from the same designer and collection. This will ensure that your fabrics and projects look ‘pulled together’ and cohesive. It means you don’t have to stress yourself out wondering if two fabrics look good together or if one tone of green really goes with the gray that you’ve picked out. It is all done for you. We often buy our bundles from fatquartershop.com as well as hawthornethreads.com. Hawthorne Treads is one of our favorites because they provide recommendations of solids and threads to use with your fat quarter bundles.

We often get a lot of questions about the linen fabrics we use. Essex Linen by Robert Kaufman, a cotton/linen blend with 55% linen and 45% cotton, is our favorite. We prefer using this type of linen because it doesn’t wrinkle when the wind blows and it is a lot easier and sturdier to stitch on.

We have many people ask exactly what fabric, designer, and collection we used for certain samples. Sometimes we get questions about samples that were created 5 or 6 years ago, and it’s nearly impossible to know where that fabric came from. Moreover, because we create our releases months in advance, by the time our sample and designs are released, the fabric line or collection has already been sold out or discontinued. We encourage you to be creative and make unique projects with your favorite fabrics!

What Inspires Our Fabric Choices

Inspiration comes from many different places. Fat quarter bundles are a great way to start when we have a project in mind but don’t really know what type of fabric to buy. It is also great because you know a color scheme or specific style of the coordinating fabrics will be sold together.

When we have creative meetings and decide on what designs will be released, we often talk about what fabrics would look nice for the designs. We bounce ideas off one another, and usually come up with some type of direction in which to take the collection.

We have customers who compliment us on our color selections with both our fabric and thread colors. Sometimes we create projects that are a bit over the top or avant-garde for our industry, however, a majority of the time we stick to classic combinations of colors and styles. For example, we wouldn’t

put traditional burgundy, brown, and greens on a baby blanket, but we would use yellows, pinks, and blues. To mix it up, we might change the tone of those colors and not use such a pastel pallet, but rather a more modern saturated pallet.

We’re always looking for color inspirations in fashion and home decor magazines. We have a whole wall with floor-to-ceiling cork board absolutely covered in color inspirations and pages torn from magazines.

How Much Fabric Do You Need?

The number one question we come across is, how much fabric to use per project. There is no definite answer. If you are making a twin-size quilt and your friend is making a king-sized quilt, you will obviously not be using the same amount of fabric. Even for a wall hanging, appliquéd pieces and amounts vary. If there is folded fabric added into the mix, more fabric will be needed.

We try to go by the rule that there are about 20, 9” x 9” blocks per yard. This calculation is according to a yard that is on a bolt. Remember the fabric on a bolt is folded in half, where the actual width of the bolt is roughly around 22”, so the full width of the fabric is 44” wide. So, if the fabric is unfolded the fabric should measure 44” x 36”. We then consider this and measure accordingly per project! There is more information on this subject and charts included in the “How Much Fabric Do I Need?” PDF as well as in the “About Us” section included on our design CDs.