

2008-2009 NPQG Mystery Quilt - Introduction

Welcome to this year's Guild Mystery Quilt! You may already know that Ralph designed the quilt this year and has asked me to write the instructions. I have taken artistic license with his design (with his permission) to simplify the design to make it as easy as possible for you to participate.

This introduction will help you choose fabrics and tell you how much yardage you will need of each fabric. I know it is hard enough to decide on fabrics for a quilt that you know basically what it will look like finished, but choosing fabrics where you don't have a clue, well.... it's pretty tough!

The design itself will look contemporary when done in fabrics such as batiks, hand dyed, or bright crayon colors, however it will look just as good (and not quite so contemporary) when done in country colors or even 30's repros. A very small plaid such as homespun will work for all the fabrics except the background, and a plaid border would make it really look "down home"!

I hope the illustrations in real fabrics on the next two pages will help you make your selections. They are only meant to guide you by example. The best way to see if your fabrics will work is to cut a 1" square of fabrics A and B, and a 1" strip of each of the 2 sashing fabrics. Arrange these pieces on the background fabric (as they are in the illustrations) and step back to look at them from a distance of 5 to 10 feet. Can you still see the pieces? Do they stand out too much? If so, choose a more muted fabric. Do they get lost in the background fabric? Choose a smaller print or tone on tone for the background. Keep playing until you find a grouping that you like.

Refer to the labeled illustration below. For simplicity, throughout the instructions I will refer to the fabrics as they are named here. The two named "sashing" are actually constructed as part of the block and are not true sashing. You might want to make a similar mockup with your fabrics to help you identify them in the instructions.

Finished Quilt Size	61" x 78"
Block Size	12"
Border 1	1"
Border 2	4"

Note: Yardage is based on 43" of useable fabric between the two selvages. It is not necessary to pre-wash them unless that is your preference.

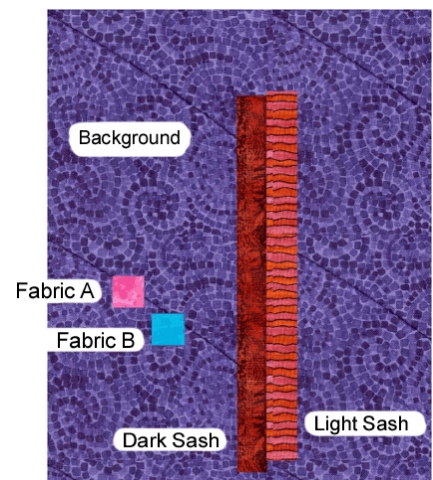
Fabric requirements:

Background & Border 2.....**3 1/4 yards****
 Fabric A..... **1 yard**
 Fabric B..... **5/8 yard**
 Light Sash.....**5/8 yard**
 Dark Sash & Border 1.....**1 1/8 yard**

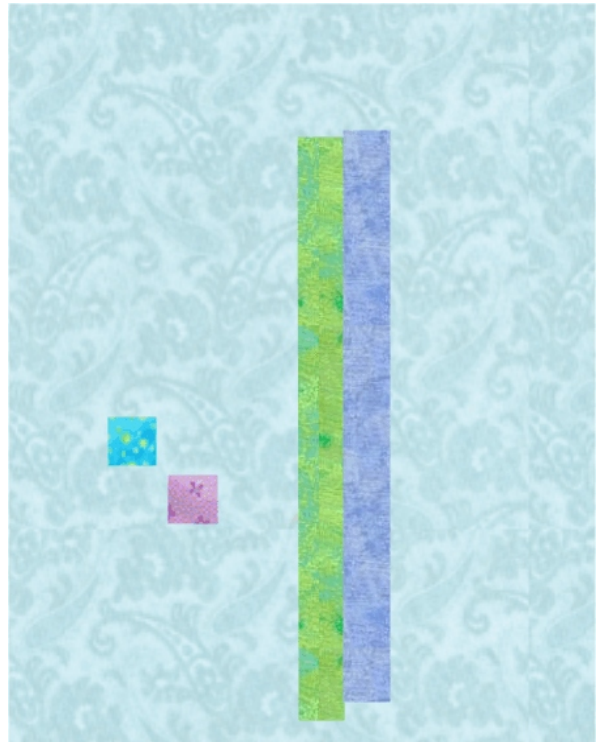
Finishing:

Binding.(285" double fold).....**1/2 yard**
 Backing.....**4 yards**
 Batting.....**67" x 84"**.. or....twin size

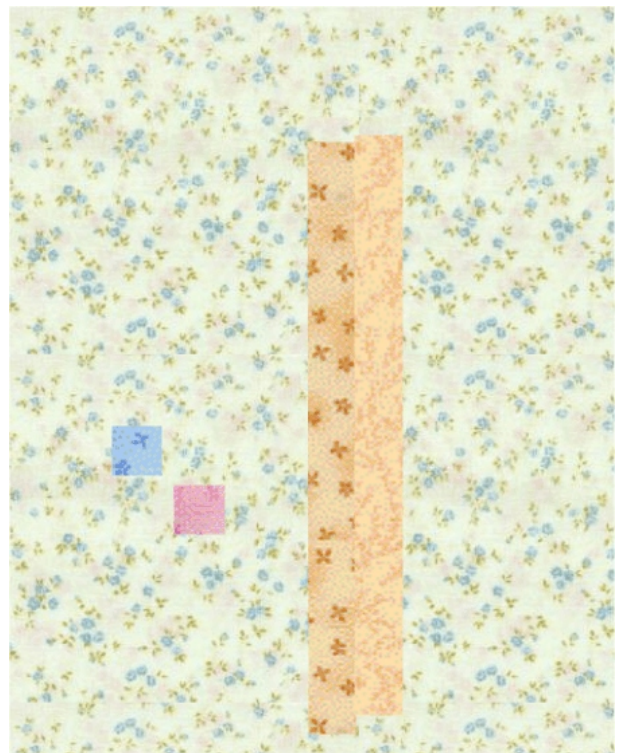
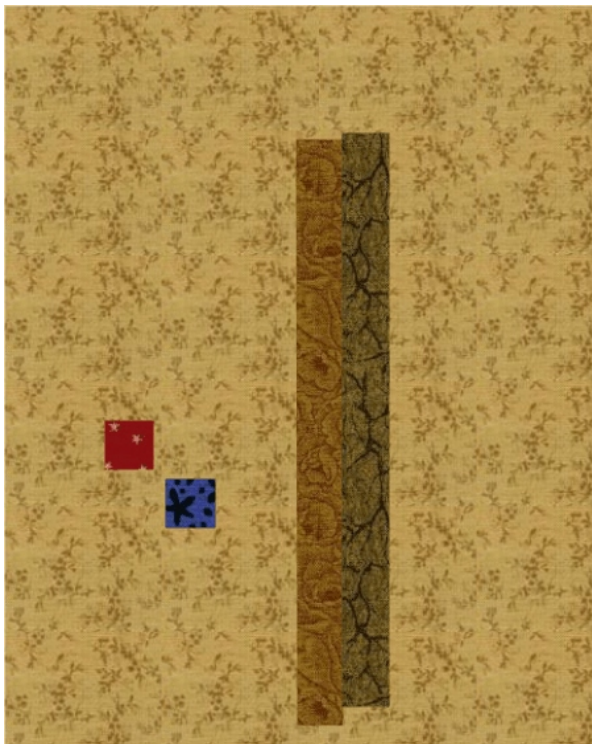
** If you want the outside border fabric to be different than the background, you will need 1 yard for the border and only 2 1/4 yards for the background.



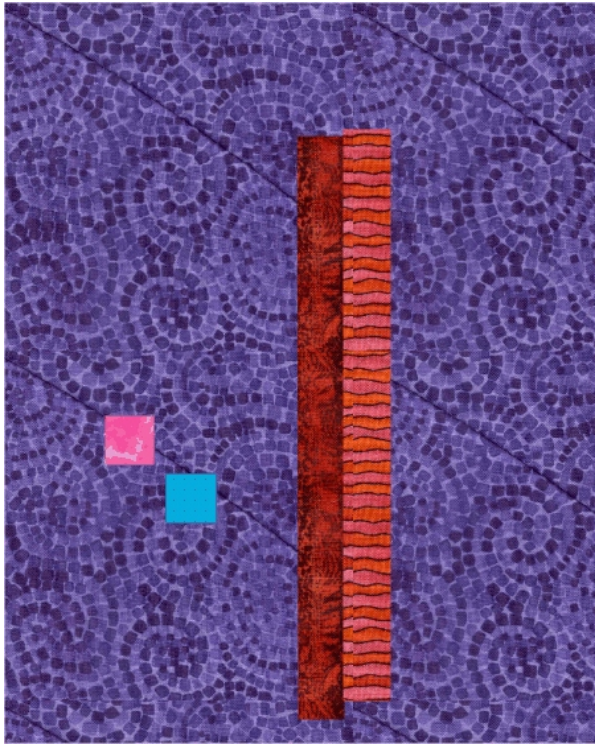
Light- to-Medium Background



The fabrics in these four groupings will work very well together for this mystery quilt. Although the group below right is a little pale, it works because the background print is small and very muted. (Compare to the red floral background grouping on the next page)



Medium to Dark Background
Dark Background



The fabrics in these three groupings (above and below left) work very well together and may have a 3-D effect depending on the intensity of your colors.



Avoid fabrics with large prints or busy backgrounds. Notice the 1" sashings in this grouping are okay, but the 1" squares are completely lost.----->