



Hey everybody!

It's time to start thinking about our upcoming mystery, "Sapphire Stars!"

How do you like that, there, logo??? Pretty nifty, eh? I love it! It is courtesy of my good friend, Alycia of [Alycia Quilts](http://www.alyciaquilts.blogspot.com) (www.alyciaquilts.blogspot.com). Thank GOD for techie friends!!!!!!

So, you have scraps?
You want to make scrap quilts?
You want to make scrap quilts easier?
The key to this in my opinion is...
ORGANIZATION!

I believe most quilters view their craft as an art.
Therefore, we are artists.

Most artists, that paint, work from a pallet similar to this. Their medium, the paint, is divided by color. Now, I realize a painter usually mixes colors to make new colors...but they have to start from somewhere? That "somewhere" is usually a tube or container of paint. The artist's pallet serves as their resource for their medium.



Stay with me here...We quilters are artists that work with colors also...our fabrics, stashes, and scraps are our medium.



How many of you separate your scraps and stash by colors?

This is an actual photo of some of my scraps. They are entirely separated by color. These are my color bins. Separated like paint containers. Red is red to me whether is it is bright arrest me red, or brick red. Purple is purple whether it is lavender or plum. Make sense? I separate all colors like this. Each color has it's own container.

I know there are several quilters that also separate their scraps by size. I am one of them. I separate by crumbs, strings, and chunks. Each color has it's own bin of each and they are full of all different types of fabrics, but, they are all the same color in each individual bin. I will go farther in depth on these in a future post for "Sapphire Stars."

I do have 2 other separate categories of fabric, those being Civil War Reproductions and Batiks. These are divided by color family as well. I personally like working with these fabrics separately, however, when the piece or scrap of one of these types of fabrics has been used repeatedly, or goes down in size, they do become a part of the color bins.



Sorting scraps is FUN! I do not view it as a task that I hate doing. I view it as a trip to the quilt shop. I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE receiving a bag or box of scraps that I can sort out by color family. It truly aids me in my quilting by having order to my scraps.

SOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO...
try to start sorting your scraps by color family. You will more than likely be surprised by what you find you have!

Many quilters I have helped will say they don't have any of a certain color. But, upon going through their scraps by color family, they find they do have some of

that color.

And...if you don't like sorting your scraps...

Ask your friends and family to help? Kids LOVE doing this sort of thing! Here is my nephew Curtis helping me sort some scraps.



I would love to see some of your before and after shots if you choose to start separating your scraps. Please send them to me and let me know if I can share them

here on the blog? e-mail photos to: photokevin@centurytel.net



I PROMISE you, it will make you feel so accomplished and ready for your next scrap project.... which may be....

"Sapphire Stars"

70" x 90"
(approx.. measurement upon completion)

There's another image from Alycia!

Alright.....how about some colors of fabric and yardage amounts?

DISCLAIMER!!!!!!

These are **APPROXIMATE** yardage amounts!! I will give you an amount that will exceed what is actually used, just to be on the safe side. Again, this is my first go around with hosting a scrap mystery so let's just have some fun with our scraps here. I will be offering various piecing options...however, if you choose to use the same fabric for the various colors, I have a feeling your quilt will turn out somewhat flat in color. Just my opinion.

Here is the color pallet I will be using:



Bright, brilliant, royal blues!
Approximately 1- 1 1/4 yards



Light to medium blues!
Think baby blues in all different shades of it.
Approximately 1/2 - 7/8 yards



Navy Blue!
Approximately 2.5 - 2 7/8 yards



Yellows...
All shades
Approximately 1.5 - 1 7/8 yards



Reds...
All shades
Approximately 1 3/8 - 1 1/2 yards



Light Neutrals
Approximately 2 - 2 1/4 yards



1 Constant Medium Gray
Approximately 3/4 yards



Ok, allow me to clear something up you may be wondering about...

We will be using 3 different shades of blue for this mystery: Navy, royal, and baby blues. I chose 3 random fabrics in these shades to show you the thing you need to be concerned with is contrast between these 3 colors of blue I am using.

With this being said, you may want to change this color scheme up a bit? I ENCOURAGE you to do this! You may want your quilt to be Garnet Stars...Amber Stars...Emerald Stars...and so on... I would LOVE to see your versions of this mystery. Please keep in mind, 3 contrasting colors of 1 color, and don't repeat it for the other colors in the quilt.

We will also be using the tri-recs tools. I will be offering easy to follow steps on how to use these tools.

Thanks for all of the encouragement!
Keep on Quilting!

Kevin the Quilter
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