



Colour Selection

This pattern allows for a great deal of creativity in colour and fabric selection. On the following pages are several different examples of colour schemes that could be used and of different approaches to colour selection that could be taken.

Feel free to use any of the colour schemes shared here in your own quilt or to take inspiration from them to create something totally unique!

Two-Tone Colour Scheme - a colour scheme that uses only two colours; a background and an accent.

There are two approaches typically taken when planning a two-tone quilt; use of high contrast fabrics or use of low contrast fabrics.

High contrast can be achieved by using different values (light and dark) or different colours. Low contrast schemes use similar colours or values.

High contrast colour schemes tend to produce a more traditional effect in the finished quilt while low contrast quilts, especially white-on-white variations, tend to feel more modern.

To make a two-tone Summer Garden quilt, see the two-tone page of the fabric requirements PDF.

Twisted Two-Tone Colour Scheme - a variation on the two-tone colour scheme using a single colour for the background and a colour family for the accent. Also works vice versa.

One example of a colour family is the blue colour family; many different values of blue treated collectively as one colour. This can be done with any other colour as well.

Although technically still only using two colours, this twisted version of a two-tone colour scheme has more visual interest than the standard variation above due to the use of a variety of different values.





Twisting the two-tone colour scheme even more are families which use more than one different colour, such as warm and cool or light and dark families.

Since these use a much wider variety of different colours than a typical two-tone colour scheme, a twisted two-tone colour scheme offers a great opportunity to use up fabric scraps and remnants.

To make a twisted two-tone Summer Garden quilt, see the two-tone page of the fabric requirements PDF.

Three-Tone Colour Scheme - a colour scheme that uses three colours; a background and two accents.

While a three-tone colour scheme is very similar to a two-tone in theory, incorporating an additional colour can make the colour selection process more difficult. Luckily, there are several well-known colour schemes that can be borrowed from basic colour theory!

One example is a monochromatic colour scheme; one colour in light, medium, and dark variations. The sample here uses a dark teal background with light and medium teal accents.

Another common colour scheme is the analogous colour scheme; using three colours positioned adjacent to each other on the colour wheel. The sample shown here uses orange, yellow, and green.

For a less vibrant three-tone colour scheme, neutral colours can be incorporated.

The traditional way of doing this uses a neutral background with two coloured accents. Or for a more modern twist, combine two neutrals with one vibrant pop of colour!

To make a three-tone Summer Garden quilt, see the three-tone page of the fabric requirements PDF.

Multiple Accent Colour Scheme - a colour scheme that uses a single background colour with a variety of accent colours.

For those seeking a wider range of colours, a multiple accent colour scheme is a great option! But, like all the options above, it's important to consider the use of neutrals, colours, and contrast.

To create a very bold quilt, use accent colours that have a high contrast against the background. Or for a calmer effect, use low contrast fabrics.

Another thing to consider is the number of unique accent colours being used; in the bold rainbow example, each of the seven blocks uses a different accent colour. But, the low contrast yellow example has two blocks with dark accents, three with medium, and two with light.

To make a multiple accent Summer Garden quilt, see the block-by-block section of the fabric requirements PDF.





Original Summer Garden Colour Scheme - a colour scheme that uses a single background colour, with a mix of high and low contrast accents.

For a quilt similar to the original Summer Garden sample, use a single background colour with half the blocks using high contrast accent colours, and half using low contrast. As there are 7 blocks in this pattern, this means 3 of one and 4 of the other.

The original colour scheme used a green background with purples, yellows, and whites as the high contrast accent colours for 4 blocks and various shades of green in the remaining 3.

For a twist on the original, use the same method of colour selection - half high contrast blocks and half low contrast blocks - but apply different colours.

This example uses a sandy beige background with 4 low contrast yellow accent blocks and 3 high contrast blocks in blue, green, and pink. While the approach is the same, the outcome is totally different!

To make a Summer Garden quilt using the original colour scheme, see the block-by-block section of the fabric requirements PDF.

Note; a block-by-block breakdown of the specific colours used in the original Summer Garden quilt will be released monthly along with the corresponding block instructions.

Anything Goes Colour Scheme - a colour scheme that has no rules.

Beyond the examples shared above, there are infinite possibilities to create unique and interesting colour schemes! Consider different levels of contrast, combinations of colours, and sources of inspiration.

One example is to draw colours from a photograph. Here is a sample that uses autumnal colours inspired by a photo of fallen leaves on a lawn and sidewalk. The background colours are the grey and green of the lawn and sidewalk, while the accent colours match the various shades found in the fallen leaves.

There are so many different approaches that can be taken with an anything goes colour scheme; from a very organized and fairly limited selection of colours to something much more bold, vibrant, and wild!

This provides the most amount of creative freedom in colour selection, but as each individual block within the quilt could be unique, it requires a lot of planning.

The block-by-block section of the fabric requirements PDF can be used as a guide, but as it assumes the making of a set of identical blocks, will not be totally accurate.





Additional Resources for Colour Selection:

[Coolors](#) is a website that generates random colour palettes.

Use the space key to shuffle through colour palettes until finding one you love. It also has a colour gradient generator.

[CSS Drive](#) is a website that generates colour palettes based on photographs. Upload a photo with beautiful and inspirational colours and CSS Drive will simplify the colours from the photo into a usable colour scheme.

On the following page is a printable colouring sheet that can be used to plan and test colours for use in the Summer Garden pattern.

