

Courtyard—Mystery Quilt October 2016

Clue 1: Introduction and Fabric Selection

General Instructions:

Fabrics should have usable width of at least 40".

All seams are scant ¼".

WOF=Width of Fabric; RST=Right Sides Together

Courtyard is an easy quilt, though quite complex-looking and interesting. It should be do-able for any beginning quilter who has any experience with strip piecing.

The finished size will be 54" x 78" with a border. If you want a larger quilt (72" x 96"), simply double the amount of fabric for the main fabrics and the background(s) and make twice the number of blocks. The larger size wouldn't have a border, but you could add one if you want something even larger. In any case, you'll need more fabric for the binding.

Fabric:

Choose three colors, plus a background. The three colors should have good contrast between each other and the background fabric(s). I will be using Pink, Blue, and Purple for the main colors, and 2 background fabrics. The 2 background fabrics are just a hair past subtly different from each other, and you could certainly use just one background fabric—simply add the fabric amounts for the two of them together, and treat Background1 and Background2 as the same fabric in the instructions.

The fabrics will, generally, be in small-ish pieces so a wild, multicolored print will probably not be as successful. (Though, if someone does it, I'd love to see it—I might be surprised!)

There will be more Purple than any other color; blue will be the least-used. (If that makes any difference to you.) You could use the same color in place of the Blue and the Purple, but two different shades; just be certain the lighter one has enough contrast with the background.

I think this would look good in bright Caribbean colors: teal, orange, and lime green, for example. If you're looking to do a winter quilt, you could do red, green and black (using the black in place of the Blue, I think.) The key is to have plenty of contrast.

You could go scrappy with either the backgrounds or main colors, but be prepared to make adjustments in the instructions, as we will be doing strip piecing.

For the border I will be using the same Purple as I'm using in the rest of the quilt, but you could choose any of the Main Colors. You could use a print that coordinates with them all, but the design of the quilt will have plenty going on, and a print—at least a large one—will likely be competing with the main part of the top.

Purple:	1-1/4 yards	Border:	3/4 yard
Pink:	7/8 yard	Binding:	5/8 yard
Blue:	2/3 yard		
Background1:	2/3 yard		
Background2:	1/2 yard		

