GRAND CENTRAL MYSTERY QUILT SERIES BY MICHELLE RENEE HIATT

TOOLS

Required Studio 180 Design:

- Wedge Star
- Tucker Trimmer III
- Large Square Squared

Recommended Studio 180 Design:

- Tucker Trimmer II – For Sub cutting

SERIES

This is a Mystery Quilt series will run on my blog, mid- January through mid- April. Color lessons are covered in Blog post mid-December. (https://sewonthego.blogspot.com/)

The Clues, providing construction steps, will be posted weekly on Friday for 12 weeks, from January 17th through April 10th. Announced through my weekly newsletter or blog.

•   I will do my best to post every Friday, but sometimes life happens, so I want to state up front, there could be a travel week, illness or a family emergency. Life happens. So, I will strive for Friday and plan on posting on Friday 99.9% of the time.

•   If you count those weeks up, you will note that is 13 weeks and I only stated 12 weeks. That is because there will be a "bye" week. That "bye" week is to be determined.

THE CLUES

The clues will provide the construction tasks, with step-by-step instructions.   You will be responsible to view or download/print your clue each week. Each week, you will see more and more of the units -- just enough to keep you guessing! On the last week, we will give you the final construction steps and the mystery will be revealed.

 If you need help with any clue, you should reference the detail pictorials offered on the Blog. You can find them in my blog post, mid-January 2020 through mid-April 2020 (https://sewonthego.blogspot.com/)

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

Let me state this up front. **Mystery Quilts are not for everyone.** If you are a person who needs to know what the quilt is going to look upfront, this may not be the project for you.   I will be providing fabric color and value recommendations, but I will not be telling you what will go next to what, it is a mystery. You will have to trust that I know what I'm doing, and you must follow the color/value instructions very carefully, especially if you are going with a different color plan.

I will not be able to give everyone fabric selection assistance. I will do my best, especially if you are in a class or retreat with me, but I will not be able to handle an insurgence of emails, FB messaging, texts, etc. with photos requesting immediate feedback because you are in a store. **Instead, I hope that you will read the advice I provide on my Blog**. You can also show the Blog post to a Quilt Shop, and most of the ones I know, will gladly help you.
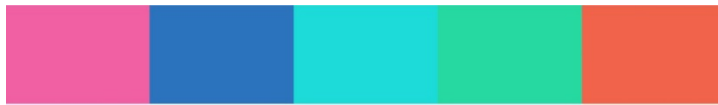
While the Quilt design was inspired by the architect of Grand Center Terminal, my fabric selection was based on the brilliant flower carts found throughout Grand Central Terminal. Many of Thursday nights, the commuter trains are fill with the floral fragrance from the commuters and tourist taking home a bouquet for a special someone.

SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY COLOR PLAN

The quilt is designed and will look best with a **Split Complementary Color Plan**, ideally a dual-Split Complementary Color Plan. Given this is a Mystery, I highly recommend you follow my Color Plan or at least follow my advice on selecting your Color Plan.

Recommended color plan; Magenta (17), Blue (11), Aqua Blue (8), Aqua Green (7) and Yellow-Orange (22).

The numbers following the color names above are from my favorite tool, the 3-in-1 Color Tool.

You can change the colors; however, it is very important to remember the value and contrast when switching colors. Also, remember the quilt will work best with a **Split Complementary Plan Border**. Refer to the 3-in-1 Color Tool to help you switch colors. Whether you are going to mimic my plan or go with one of your own, you will need to take the steps I've outlined next.

HOW TO START

- **Start with a Border that you love.**
  - It should be a Border that offers a Split Complementary Plan.
  - Split Complementary plan means that half of the colors in the border fabric are from one side of the color wheel, with the other half of the color in the fabric being from the opposite side. This is beautifully displayed in my Border fabric to the right.
    - **The Main colors in my Border are in the Blue Family, and are on one side of the color wheel.**
      - Blue (11), Aqua Blue (8), Aqua Green (7)
    - **The other colors are from the opposite side of the color wheel.**
      - Magenta (17), Yellow-Orange (22).

- **Figure out if the Border selected you want will work. Note: You will want to go through this exercise for your final border, as well, as you will want to determine the colors within your Border.** You have at least two tools that will help you with this activity.
    - Take the 3-in-1 Color Tool directly to your Border Fabric and use the **Color Circles** on the Selvage to help you pull the colors.
    - You can use a free tool from Color.Adobe which will help you pull ideal color plans which you can match up to your 3-in-1 Color Tool.

- **Take the 3-in-1 Color Tool directly to your Fabric, lay out your fabric in a well-lit table area. Explained below, however you can get additional steps and examples on my Blog – Start with Blog Post: Start with a Border**
    - Check to see if your fabric has the Color Circles on the selvage that were used in the fabric. Mine did. These are a great starting point.
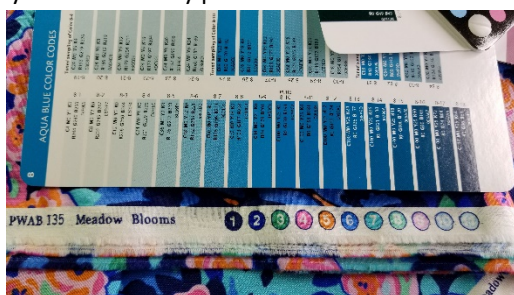

    - Next, you are going to want to match the circles with the proper tabs in the 3-in-1 Color Tool. If your fabric doesn't have the dots, then you will need to use areas within the fabric.
    - I started at the left circle, locate the proper tab. I will usually find, that more than one circle is on that tab, as the designer has often used 2-3 shades of that color in the fabric.

    - Make your way to the next circle that needs a match.

    - Continue through until you have located all the tabs for all the circles on the selvage. I was able to locate all of my colors on 5 Tabs. Your fabric may net 6 tabs. Its rare for there to be more, most likely those colors are shades of tabs you have already pulled.
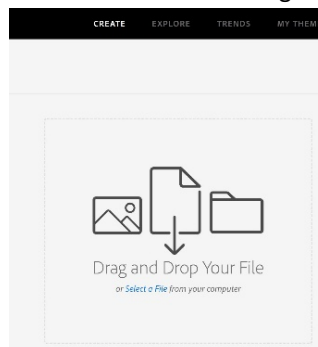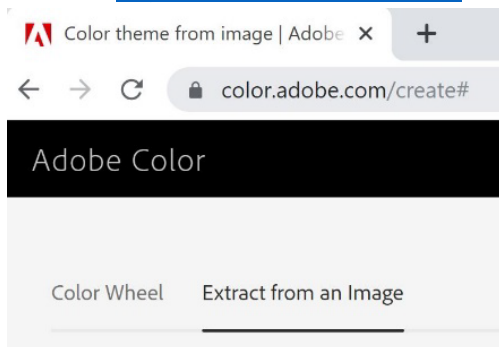
- o Tada! Now look at the tabs and determine if any of your colors are directly across the color wheel (or 12 tabs apart). If not, is there a combination that is just one or two away of being directly across from each other?
- o Mine did:
  - My Blue (11) is almost directly across from Yellow-Orange (22).
  - My Aqua Green (7) is almost directly across from my Magenta (17).
  - My Aqua Blue (8) is just next door to the Aqua Green (7).
- o That places my Main colors from my Border on one side of the color wheel.
  - Blue (11), Aqua Blue (8), Aqua Green (7)
  - The other colors are from the opposite side of the color wheel.
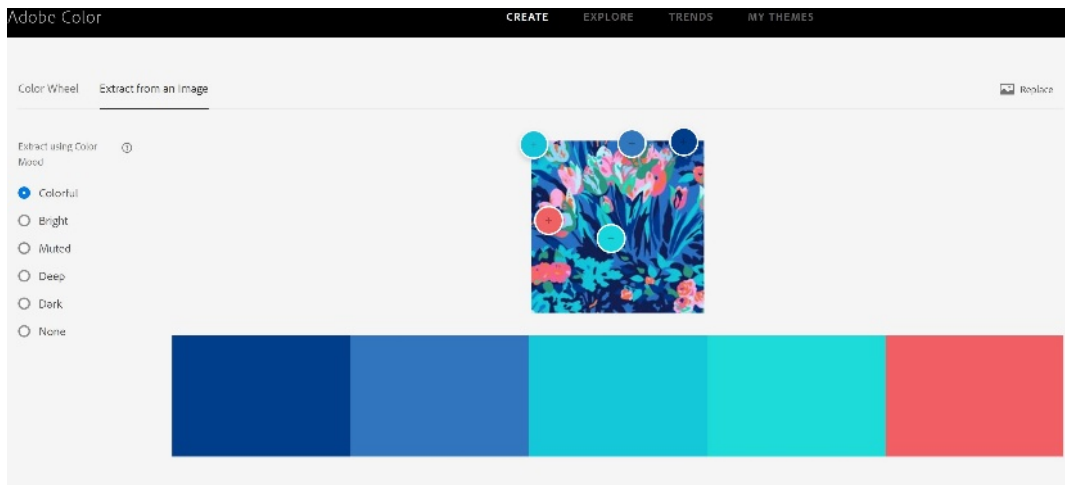   - Magenta (17), Yellow-Orange (22).

- **You can also upload a photo of the Border fabric to a tool at https://color.adobe.com/create. Explained below, however you can get additional steps and examples on my Blog – Start with Blog Post: Another tool to use to pick your Border**

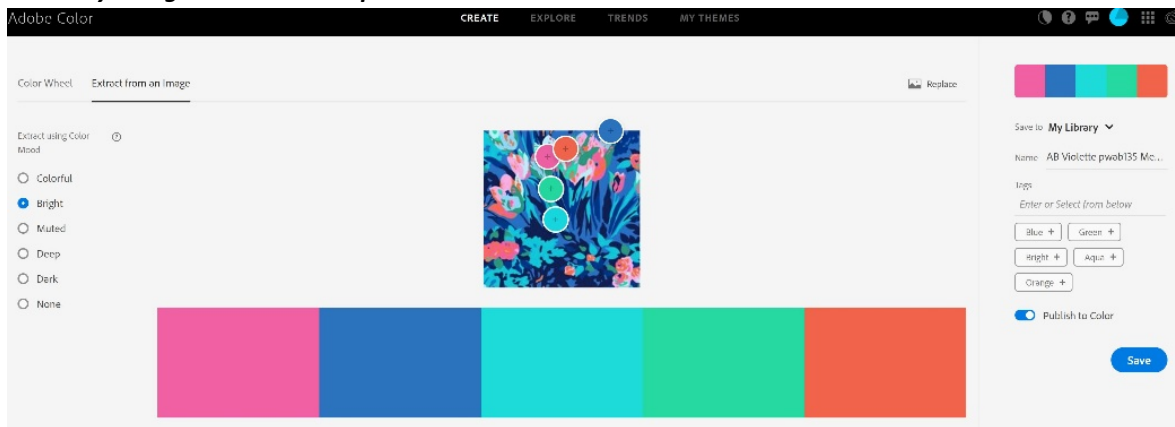 - o To use, take a photo of your Border fabric and save it in a place you can access from your computer or tablet.
  - o Go to the https://color.adobe.com/create click on the "Extract from an Image" tab.
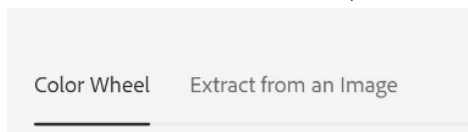

- o Click on the "select a file" and go to the place you stored the photo.
- o As soon as you select the file, Adobe Color, will default to a "Colorful" color plan. You can go through the "Color Mood" to determine what works best, although I recommend a Split Complementary selection.
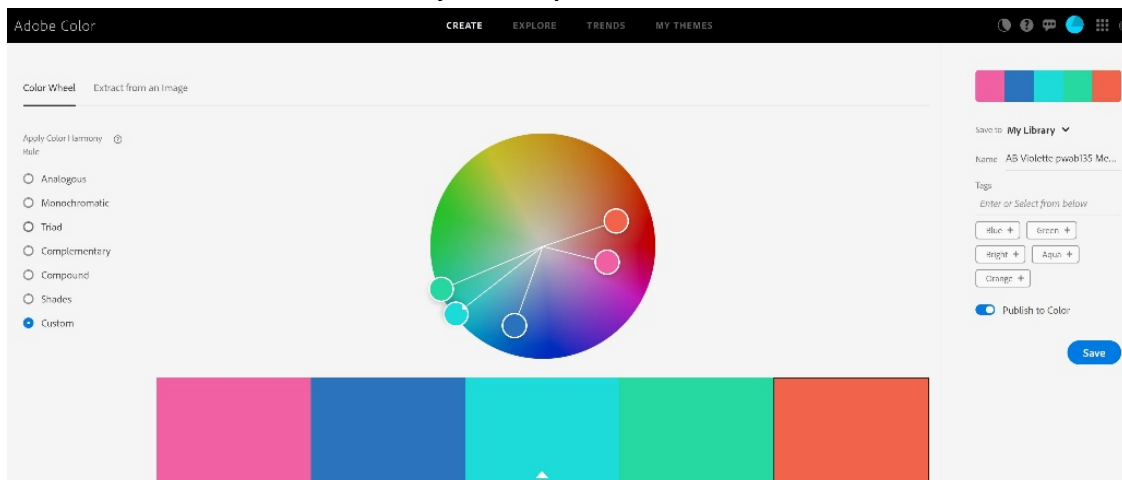
- o I choose to select the "Bright" plan, as the 5 dots represented each color in my fabric. Remember it is very common for 2-3 shades of that color to be present, you only need that color represented once amongst the 5 dots.
- o ***VERY IMPORTANT – If you can not get the 5 dots to represent all your colors, you will need to move them manually and go with a custom plan.***

- o If I select the "Color Wheel" tab, it will take my selected Color "Mood" and places the colors on the Color Wheel.

- o My selection netted pretty closely with a Split Complementary color plan. I know this as my Aqua Green and Aqua Blue are almost direction across from the pink. ***Very important: On the Color Wheel tab, you selection is going to be Custom, leave it there to determine your color placement.***
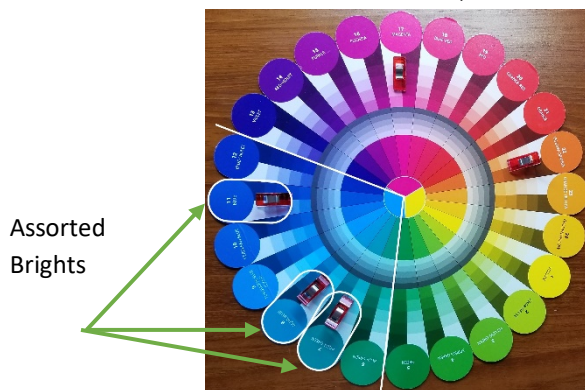
- o Matching the selected Color Plan to the 3-in-1 Color Tool, I find that sure enough when I lay the 3-in-1 Color tool down on my fabric, it matches. Note: If you are comfortable using the 3-in-1 Color tool without the Adobe Color Tool, feel free to go directly to the tool.

- So, at this point, you should know what your Color Plan should be, and if the Border Fabric you like, will meet the Split Complimentary Plan.   If it doesn't it is best to move on to another border.

PICKING THE ACCOMPANYING FABRIC

- **Determine your "Main color" –** Mine is Blue
  - o It should be the side with the most tabs.
  - o **The colors that represent these 3 tabs/colors (4 if you have a 6-tab Color Plan) will be what you use to select your "Assorted Bright" fabrics.   –** Mine are Blue (11), Aqua Blue (8) and Aqua Green (7).
    - ▪ You want the Assorted Bright to read scrappy but within the same color range.
    - ▪ Therefore, you will want the Assorted Bright yardage to be made up of Fat Quarters, Half Yards, 3/4 Yards at the largest.
    - ▪ I recommend going with multi-color fabrics that read as any of the colors within that range
    - ▪ I'd avoid solids, but tone-on-tones will be fine as long as they are in that color range.

Assorted Brights

- So, I pulled my Border from Stash, so I did an initial pull of fabric carrying my Color Wheel Companion around my different fabric bind.

- I was very happy with my selection, however I felt I was lacking some Aqua Blue representation and I needed more fabric. I want to make the Queen. So, I went back to my bins.

- You can see I added some fabrics that represent the Aqua Blue (8),Turquoise (9) and added some Blue (11) and Blue-Violet (12).

- **Determine your "Accent color" –** Mine are Magenta (17) and Yellow-Orange (22)
  - These colors will be on the opposite side of the color wheel from your "Assorted Bright" colors.
  - **Ideally, your accents, opposite the "Assorted Bright's", should be at least 4-5 tabs apart from each other.**

Accent #1
and #2

- So, I went back to the bins, the Yellow-Orange (22) came easily, as it was part of the same line as my Border. However, I didn't have anything, that matched the Magenta (17), so I audition tons of pinks (too many photos to share- poor Lynn W got stuck with my IMs). Anyway, I found something in my Art Gallery bin that I loved!
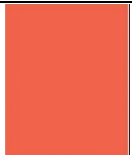

- Note: How the Orange pops off the Blues, that is because the are Complementary of each other. Plus, how the Pink pops off the Greens, same reason.
- I elected the Pink as my Accent 1 and it is darker than the Orange which became my Accent 2.
- My final stack!

SIZE	BORDER	BACK-GROUND NEUTRAL	Opposite Assorted Brights **ACCENT 1 –** MEDIUM - DARK Magenta (17)	**ASSORTED BRIGHTS** – Close in Color All on one side of the Color Wheel LIGHT-MEDIUM to MEDIUM			Opposite Assorted Brights **ACCENT 2-** MEDIUM Yellow-Orange (22)
				COLOR 1 Blue (11)	COLOR 2 Aqua Blue (8)	COLOR 3 Aqua Green (7)	
Large Throw 82" x 82"	**2 ½ Yards**	**3 ½ Yards***	**1 ⅔ Yards**	Assorted Bright Fabrics, totaling **3 Yards*** - could be: (12) Fat Quarters, (6)Half Yards, or a mix off all			**½ Yard**
Queen 100" X 100'	**3 Yards**	**4 ⅓ Yards***	**2 ½ Yards**	Assorted Bright Fabrics, totaling **4 ½ Yards*** - could be: (18) Fat Quarters, (9) Half Yards, (6) ¾ Yards, or a mix off all			**¾ Yard**

*I'm working an **extra pieced Border, to make the Large Throw a Double or the Queen a King,** if you think you would be interested in doing this, get an extra: **Throw/Double - 2 Yard** or **Queen/King – 2 ½ Yard**s of **both Background and Assorted Bright**.

- *VERY IMPORTANT - Color 1-3* - Should be pulled from "main color" in your Border and be on one side of the Color Wheel while the Accent 1 and 2 should be on the opposite side of the Color Wheel.*
  - *Queen Size – You may want to have pull a 4th Color – For my selection, I'd probably use anything in between, my existing tabs (11) – (7), so maybe. 9 or 10
- **For the Background,** pick something complementary with your Fabric, however it should have a high contrast to the fabrics you selected. I plan to use White, but you should use what works best for your fabric.
- For assisting in picking your colors see my Blog Post: Picking the accompanying fabric