

Selecting Fabrics with Value Variation

Kelly Ashton / Kellyquilter Designs

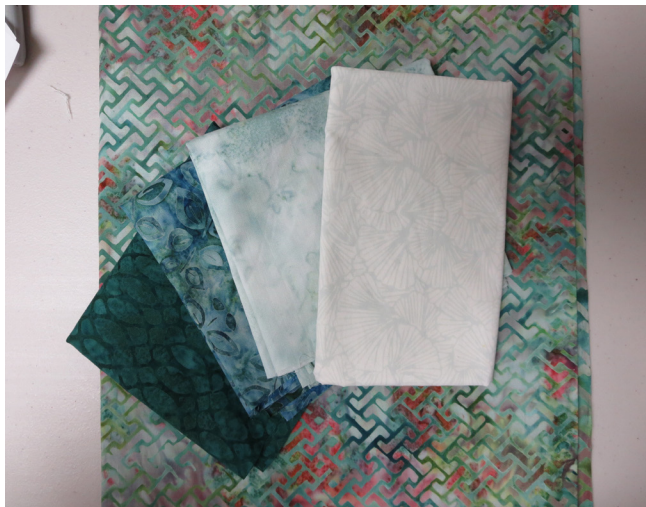
When selecting fabrics for a quilt project such as a Tumbling Block or Inner City, value variation is key. Let me show you some examples and give you some tips for fabric selection.

First, it is perfectly fine to use batiks and "regular quilters cottons" together in a project. I mix the two often in quilts to increase the visual interest in the finished product. 1/8 yd. cuts work well if you're purchasing fabric. If you're pulling from your stash, then whatever size piece you have is fine, as long as it's at least 2 1/4" wide.

Often, I begin by finding a multi-colored piece of fabric that speaks to me such as the one pictured here.

There are SO many colors in this piece! I love having a lot of options from which to draw!

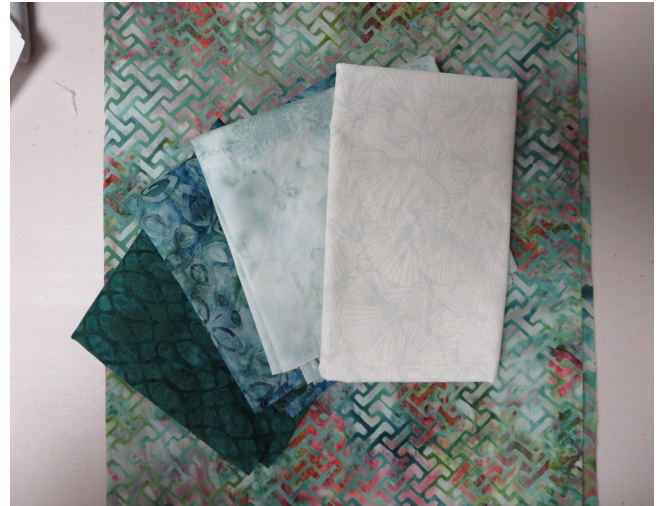
Next, select one color from the multicolored piece and look for a light, a medium, and a dark value fabric in that color.



I started with the dark teal green. Here, I've found four fabrics (you need at least three) that will work. From these four fabrics, I will be able to create a variety of light / medium / dark combinations to turn into Tumbling Blocks or Inner City blocks. I can use the top three fabrics. I can use the bottom three fabrics. I can make other combinations, as long as the value variation is adequate.



And, I can substitute a piece of the multicolored fabric in the block, too. If I chose to use the dark and medium teal greens, the multicolored piece could be my light. If I chose the very light and the light, the multicolored could be my dark. If I chose the light and the "medium" teal green, the multicolored piece actually becomes the "medium" because value is relative.



Next, I chose to pull the coral red color. Here's what I found to create my set of value variation fabrics. As with the teals, I will also be able to use the multicolored piece within the block, if I wish.

I also found a piece of fabric that has a gradation of color across the fabric, so I have a variety of light / medium / and dark in one piece of fabric!



I hope you have found these examples and tips on selecting fabrics for your project to be helpful. Mostly, have fun and enjoy the process! I look forward to having you in class!!

Kelly