

Designing with Color by Christen Brown

Choose 5-8 main colors to work from within the colors of your fabrics. Lay these fabrics out in a row, with the fabrics next to each other in a pleasing pallet. Each color is assigned a number that is used throughout the design process, from assembly, to embroidery, to ribbonwork and to bead embellishment. The color component of your design will take care of itself and best of all there is no time spent wondering what color will I need next!

Christen's Color Theory

Fabric Color	Color #1	Color #2	Color #3	Color #4	Color #5
Row 1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#1
Row 2	#3	#4	#5	#1	#2
Row 3	#4	#5	#1	#2	#3
Row 4	#5	#1	#2	#3	#4
Row 5	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5

Block or Quilt Assembly

Assemble the fabrics in any pattern that you choose, using the above color chart.

Embroidery and Embellishments

Row 1: Base Row stitches: perle cotton #5 or #8 or 4mm silk embroidery ribbon, in colors slightly darker than fabric. Lace in a natural or neutral color; ribbon or trim in a slightly darker color.

Row 2: Decorative Stitches: perle cotton #8, or 3 strands of floss in colors slightly lighter than fabric. Ribbonwork or silk ribbon embroidered flowers in a slightly lighter or darker color than fabric.

Row 3: Detail Stitches in a color that matches the fabric: perle cotton #8 or #12, 2 or 3 strands of floss; 2mm, 4mm, or 7mm silk embroidery ribbon.

Row 4: Bead Embellishments: size 11°, 8° or size 6° seed beads, in colors slightly darker than fabric.

Row 5: Bead Embellishments: size 11°, 8° or size 6° seed beads, in colors slightly lighter than fabric.

Additional colors such as neutrals: cream, white, black or brown; metallic: gold, silver, pewter etc. can be used effectively as well.

Tips: Keep a small index card with the chart information with the project.

Clip a small swatch of each fabric. Glue this onto the index card next to the color name and color number. List the actual number of thread or floss, beads, ribbons and any other pertinent information. This way if you have to buy more, that information is handy.