



NATIONAL PARK QUILT FABRIC GUIDE

Hi Friend! You may have found my National Parks patterns and have never made a scrappy quilt. For some, the idea of not having a plan for every block is daunting; I understand that! Here are some of my tips, and favorite fabrics to help you get started.

Below are suggestions, based on the MODA Bella Solids Panel: My Favorite Color is Moda. You will discover that I don't use solids very often. Instead, I use batiks, blenders and small prints. I've given the color name and number so you can use that as a launching point to select colors. I would suggest purchasing the panel, and referring to the colors listed if you are stuck. Then use your imagination! Select fabrics in your stash! Feel free to change the colors to match your experiences in a park.

In homeopathy, there is a saying, "similimus similimum" - it's the law of similars. The law is not "exactamus exactimum" :) Choose SIMILAR fabrics, not exact fabrics! Whenever I use an "exact" fabric, I am disappointed with the results.

Please join my Quilt Along group for more love and support! Reach out with questions you have!
Happy Stitching!

Rachael

BASIC PALETTE



I love using purples for mountains. "Purple mountain majesty". It helps the rest of the blocks come alive!
Moda 390 Amethyst



This is a great place to start with a color for the sky. Choose a darker color for blue waters.
Moda 236 Nautical Blue



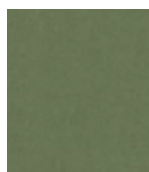
This wheat color is great for sand, rocks, and warm earth.
Moda 68 Fig Wheat



This is a great alternative for mountains. Use a color like this for deep water.
Moda 111 Horizon Blue



This is a great versatile brown for animals to tree trunks. You'll want lighter browns as well for rocks.
Moda 41 Coffee



Choose a warm green for grass, trees, and foliage. Tip from NP Quilter Clare: you can never have too many green fabrics!
Moda 102 Prairie Green

MY PALETTE



Moda 236 Nautical Blue



Moda 102 Prairie Green



Moda 68 Fig Wheat



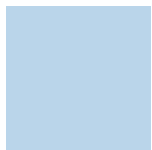
Moda 111 Horizon Blue



Moda 330 Basil



Moda 41 Coffee



Moda 236 Nautical Blue



Moda 175 Terrain Cactus



Moda 294 Persimmon



Moda 390 Amethyst



Moda 147 Coral

Getting Started

START WITH SCRAPS: Every National Park pattern comes with a Park Sign block. This is a GREAT place to learn! When you use scraps, you are less likely to feel like you are wasting anything. I have found that when I learn something new, I do one thing well, two things alright, and anything after that...well...it doesn't work well. So, if you are new to EPP or FPP, start with the technique. When you understand it, move on to selecting fabrics. The hardest thing to do is start with getting directional fabrics to go in the direction you want, if you have never FPP'd before. So start with scraps.

TRY AGAIN. If the block doesn't turn out the way you want it to: try it again. If you don't like how a block turns out, you can always remake it! Have patience with yourself! You can do this! I have several videos that you can sew along with me. I recommend the Lake Louise pattern - even if you've never been there before.

BONUS: I have written a 40 page ebook with tons of examples and swatches that will help you select fabrics for your National Park quilt. I also have several videos on youtube that show you my process for selecting fabrics.

HAVE FUN!

Fabric Tips

AVOID 'REALISTIC' PRINTS - these can be really tricky to use, and have success with the block. The prints I'm thinking of are realistic rocks, clouds, etc. One would think that it's easier, but it is more complicated. I talk more about this in my Fabric Journal, and how to successfully use them.

START WITH BLENDERS, BATIKS AND SUBTLE PRINTS - these are MUCH easier to start with, and will give you immediate success. Your fabric is your paint!

BUY JUST A LITTLE TO START - I typically purchase a fat quarter of a fabric. Generally, by the time I reach the end of the fabric, I'm tired of it, and ready for something else.

Purchase an array of fabrics you like, but give yourself room to not "stick" with that palette. You might find that the sky you selected, doesn't work well for EVERY site. That's ok! Your quilt will come together BEAUTIFULLY!!!

FAVORITE FABRICS

I asked the quilters in my group for some of their favorite fabrics to use with their National Park quilts. Here are some of their faves:

- Riley Blake - Basic Shades
- Moda - Grunge
- Wilmington Essentials - Dry Brush
- Robert Kaufman - Chalk and Charcoal
- Maywood Studio - Shadow Play
- Island Batik
- Moda - V & Co Ombre
- Robert Kaufman - Architextures

Here are some of my favorite blenders (not including the suggestions on the left):

- Moda - Zen Chic. There are several Zen Chic lines, and I love every one of them. A current fave is the Spotted line.
- Moda - Thatched
- Art Gallery - Prima Elements
- Art Gallery - Decostitch Elements
- Dear Stella - Jax
- Dear Stella - Dash Flow. This is one of my faves and I get giddy excited when I see it in a new color. The brown and black are at the top of my list!
- Riley Blake - Pinewood Acres Grain. This may have been called "Pinewood Derby" at one point. This is a great fabric for tree trunks.
- Riley Blake - Majestic Outdoors Forest Green. I use this quite a bit.
- Kona Cotton. While I use the Moda panel for swatches, I love Kona cottons. They are easy to find, and the colors are amazing! I use mostly the browns, blues and greens.

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