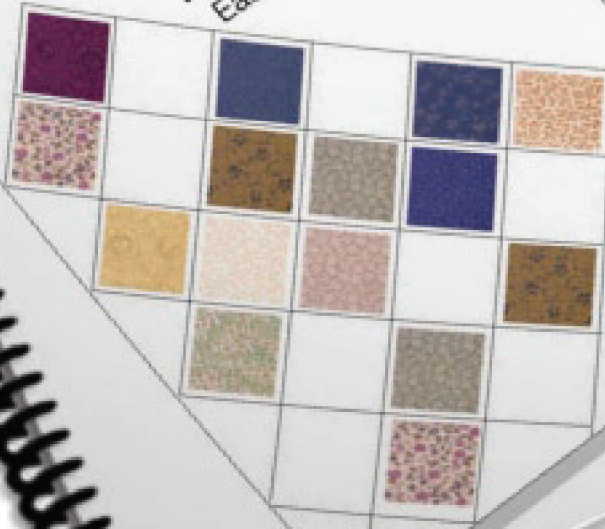


The Amazing  
**Photographic  
Mosaic Quilt**  
Easy as 1-2-3




Written by Tammie Bowser



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## Preface

Tammie Bowser is a natural talent, and has been sewing for 25 years. She started out sewing clothing, and chose a career in the fashion after graduating from "The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising" in 1985.

Her 17 year career (in Los Angeles) had become unfulfilling. So she asked God for inspiration that could lead her to a new career. Shortly after she prayed, she woke up one morning with the exciting idea for Mosaic Quilts! The idea was to use very ordinary cotton print fabrics to make extraordinary photographic portraits.

In less than a week she excitedly made her first Mosaic Quilt (1088 pieces)....and the sight of it even excited her more! When the first quilt was done, she hung it on a wall and walked away..... When she turned around and looked, the quilt of her daughters face was just like a photograph, complete with shadows, highlights and details! She was so excited that she ran out of her sewing studio to show the first neighbor she could find....and it excited her neighbors as well!..... they think that she is a genius! All she could say is THANK YOU JESUS!

She believes that this gift is not just for her to keep for herself. It was given to her so that she could share it with others. She hopes that you will be as moved by these amazing quilts as she is.....Thank you and enjoy making your quilt. And please visit [MosaicQuilt.com](http://MosaicQuilt.com) for the most updated information about Mosaic Quilt Studio.

## Choosing your Fabric


Choosing your fabric is the most important and most creative part of making your quilt. The trick is to have light medium, and dark printed fabrics. It is also possible to use solid fabrics, but I just personally like the look of the different printed fabrics. Choose prints that are medium or small in scale because large prints get lost because of the small fabric pieces that comprise Mosaic Quilts.



While shopping for your fabric you can choose any colors you like, but your choices will determine the final look of your quilt project. For example, your quilt will have a more sophisticated look if you choose muted, neutral prints as your color palette. If you select primary, or bright color, your quilt will have a fun, lively look. I have found that any color palette works well with faces, but other subjects like flowers or animals benefit from a color palette that is more like real life.

Putting your fabric in order according to color value is the next most important aspect of preparing to make your quilt. The fabrics need to be in order from the lightest to the darkest color. Placing them in order by color value can be tricky because your eye has a hard time ignoring the color of the fabric, and only paying attention to the value of the print in relation to the other prints that you have chosen. But have no fear, there are a few tricks to help you do this.

The first tool that I use is called a Color Value Filter. The Color Value Filter can be used while you are shopping for fabric. It is a red film that you place over the fabric, and when you look at the fabric through it, it makes you unable to see the color, you only see the value of the print. Color Value Filters are available in our catalog.



## Choosing your Fabric

Another trick that you can use to put the fabrics in order by color value is to cut a small piece of each print and make a black and white photocopy of your prints. This also removes the color, and only shows the color value. Number the fabrics on the photocopy to match the fabric swatches. Then cut out the photocopy of the fabrics, place them in order by how light or dark they are. When you do this, you will be surprised by what is light and what is dark.





## Cutting your Fabric

Now you must cut your fabric. You can choose any size squares you like. The size of the square you decide to use, will decide the final size of your quilt, however we do have a few recommendations. If you are using the pre-printed fusible interfacing you will be limited to what ever your store has. If you want to choose a size other than the pre-printed options, you can buy plain fusible interfacing (60" wide), and draw the guide lines on yourself. This is an option that does work, but you will have to very careful to keep your grid accurate.

The third option is to use plain fusible interfacing (60" wide) along with our printed full size Grid Guides. This is a printed paper grid of 1", 1 ¼" or 1 ½" that you place under the interfacing as a fabric placement guide. We have these guides in a stright grid as well as on a 30 degree, and 45 degree angle. Look in our catalog for these items.

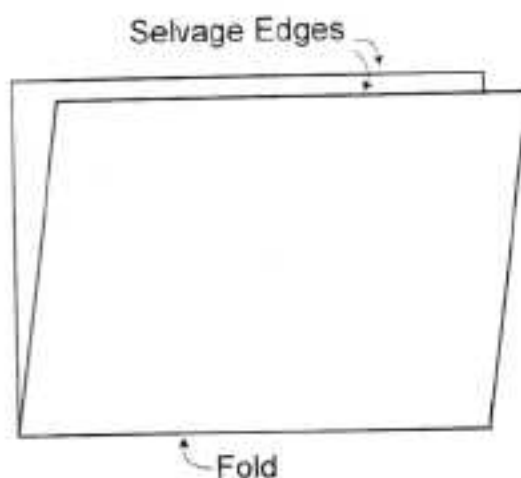
	<b>1/16<sup>th</sup> yd.</b>	<b>1/8<sup>th</sup> yd.</b>	<b>1/4 yd.</b>	<b>1/2 yd.</b>
<b>1"</b>	94	188	376	752
<b>1 1/4"</b>	55	110	220	440
<b>1 1/2"</b>	46	92	184	368
<b>2"</b>	23	46	92	184

The Yardage requirement chart above tell you how many squares you will be able to get out of your fabric. Note that the amounts change with the different sized squares.

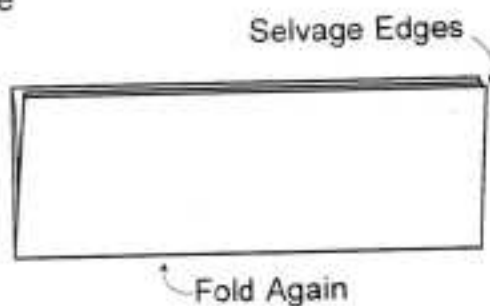
## Cutting your Fabric

I recommend that you use a rotary cutter, ruler and mat. When you cut your fabric please use all the safety precautions, and methods described by the manufacturers of the equipment. If you wish to make selecting and preparing your fabric a lot easier, we do have pre-cut fabrics that are already categorized by color value. To view the most current inventory of pre-cut fabrics go to my website at: <http://www.mosaicquilt.com>.

1. First fold your fabric in half with selvages together as shown.

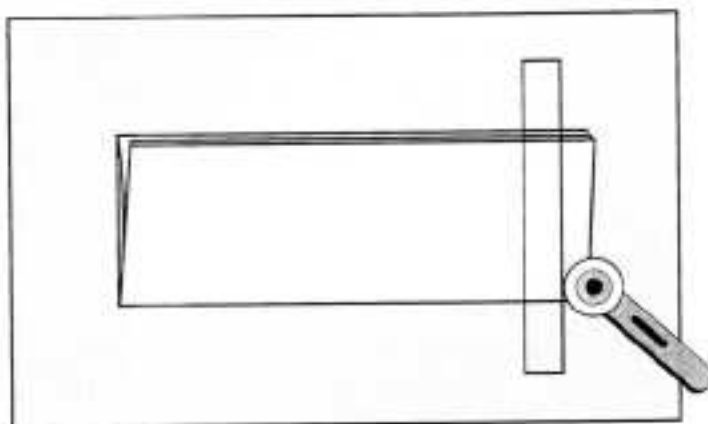


2. Now fold the fabric again matching the selvege edge to the first fold.

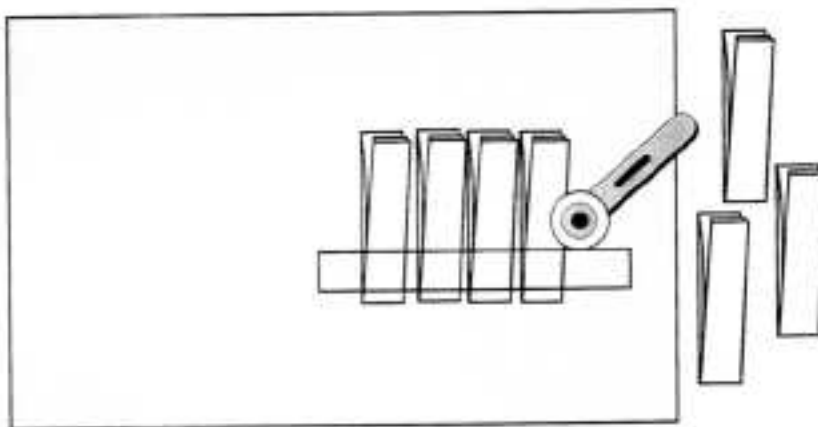


## Cutting your Fabric

3. Using a rotary cutter and mat, cut strips the width of your squares.



4. Now cut your strips into squares.



After you have cut your fabrics, make sure to place them in order from light to dark. Then number them with #1 being the lightest color. I like to use a fabric swatch organizer for this, it keeps the fabric organized, numbered and it prevents me from losing my precious swatches. See our catalog to order this item

## Putting it Together

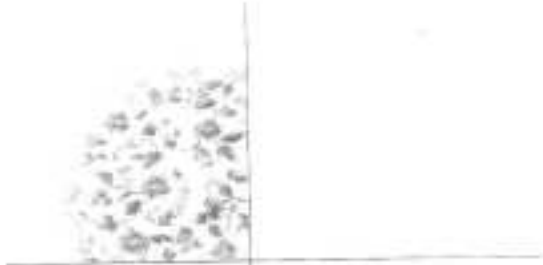
If you look at the patterns in this book, the pattern information is stored in a grid. We highly recommend that you purchase our Grid Guides to place under your interfacing. It would be a good idea to transfer your pattern information on to your Grid Guide with pencil. When you are done with this quilt, you can erase the pencil and use the Grid Guide again for other quilts. (see catalog for these items) You can also make your own grids, or transfer the pattern information to pre-printed interfacing. To use the pattern, place the pattern on a surface that is as big as you can find.

Place the fusible interfacing sticky side up on top of your grid guide. This is very important so I will say it again...**the bumpy side of the interfacing should be facing up!** You should be able to see the grid and the numbers through interfacing. Now this is the really fun part!

Start placing your swatches on the interfacing following the pattern underneath. The quilt will be a lot larger than the finished quilt at this point but do not be alarmed. Once it is sewn, it will shrink 30% - 50%.



Every quilt that I make I think the same thing....**It Didn't Work This Time!**....but it does, the quilt top is just too large now to see it clearly. To help this you can use a Distance Viewer to see your finished results now! It is like a small telescope that enables you to see the quilt picture now. See the catalog for this item.



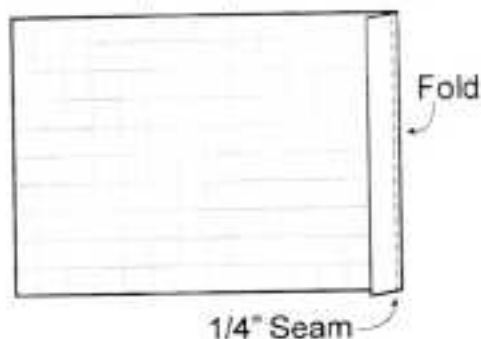
## Putting it Together

Once the swatches are in place you must fuse the fabric in place with an iron. Put an ironing board right next to the table that you are working on, and adjust it to the same height at the table. Now slowly pull the quilt top on to the ironing board and carefully press the swatches in place. Continue with this until the whole quilt is pressed into place.

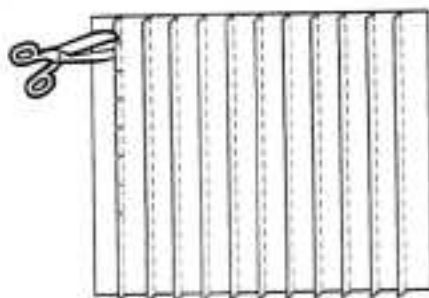
**Note:** Pay attention to the iron temperature recommended by the interfacing manufacturer. From my experience, if you get the iron too hot for some interfacings, the swatches will not stick well.....this is a disaster when the swatches start to pop off while you are trying to sew the quilt top!

# Finishing Your Quilt

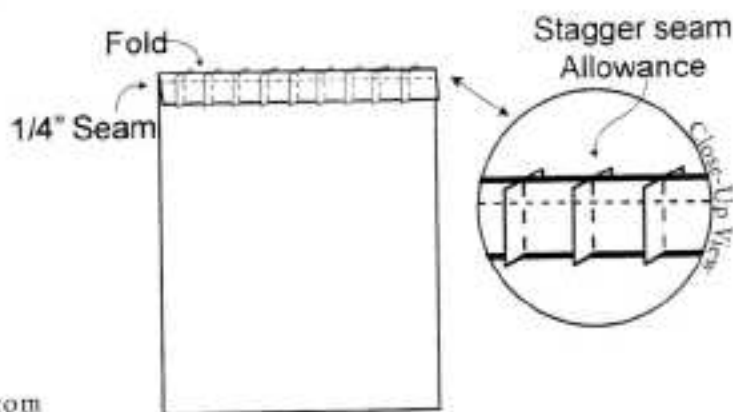
Now to sew the quilt top together I recommend that you use a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot on your machine. This is to make sure that you maintain an accurate seam allowance throughout the project. Fold the quilt top along the edges of the squares, and stitch along all of the vertical rows. Note the quilt top will be long and narrow now.



Now with small sharp scissors, clip the intersection between each square. Clip all of the rows until every intersection is clipped.



Now to sew the horizontal rows, fold the seam allowances in opposite directions (as shown) so that the seams lock. Continue with all the seams until all of the horizontal seams are finished.





## Finishing Your Quilt

Press your quilt top carefully as not to distort the image.

To finish your quilt, place your quilt top, the batting, and your backing together and baste. I like to use a basting adhesive spray, but you can use any method that you like for basting and finishing your quilt. Next, quilt your project. I like grid patterns, and stitching in the ditch. Lastly, finish the edges of the quilt with a binding. Please refer to one of the many basic quilting books available to explain how to finish your quilt.

That is all there is to it! If you should have any questions that are not answered here, please go to my website to ask me questions personally at: <http://www.mosaicquilt.com>