



Love to Sew and Sew with Love

A Bustle & Sew Idea



Do you have a little bag full of samples just adding to the clutter - that you can never find when you want to order from it? Then this Rainbow Colour Chart could be the solution.

Rainbow Colour Chart





I'm going to tell you how I made my rainbow colour chart - you may have roughly the same numbers of squares, or completely different - in which case just alter the background dimensions to suit the samples you have, the method will remain unchanged.

You will need:

40 cm square (approx 15 1/2" square) artists canvas block

50 cm square neutral coloured background fabric (you need the extra to turn to the back of your block when mounting)

Selection of felt or fabric samples

Staple gun

Bondaweb

Spray fabric adhesive

Fabric suitable for printing on (bubblejet printing fabric or transfers is widely available, but if you don't have this then use small rectangles of white cotton fabric and write the codes directly onto them with a permanent marker pen)

Removeable fabric marker pen

Invisible thread in your machine needle and colour to match your background fabric in the bobbin

Method:

- Tip out all your sample squares (being careful not to lose or mix up any identification labels).

- Sort them into the order you'd like them to appear on your colour chart. Choose an ordering that makes sense to you. My chart is (very) loosely based on the order of the colour spectrum, but sort of wanders about a bit, with all the animal fur shades at the bottom. This does make sense to me though, which is the important thing - there is no right or wrong in this process. You could choose to have all the primary, then secondary and tertiary colours, or pastels on one side and primaries on the other. Or maybe arrange them in circles or spirals - the choice is endless which is what makes this project fun. But for me - the layout in this photo was best as this is very much a practical piece of art - I'll be referring to it a lot as I choose different shades of felt for different projects.



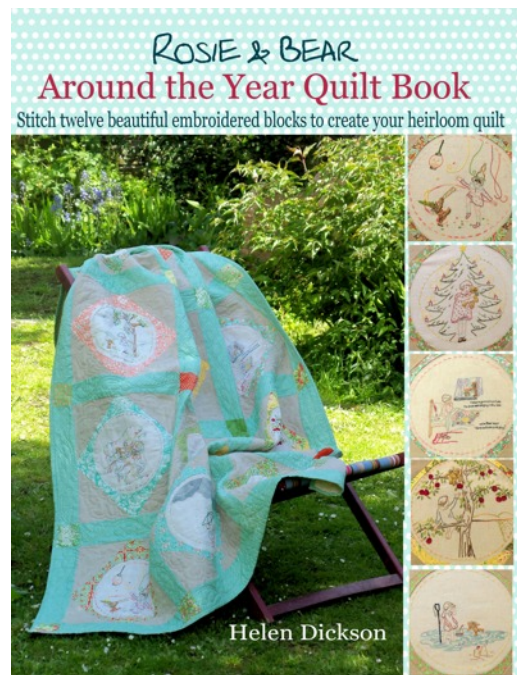
- Place your background fabric, right side up on a clean flat surface. Place your artists canvas block centrally on top of it and draw around it with your temporary fabric marker
- Place the block to one side.
- Take your samples and arrange as desired within the outline you drew. You may want to measure and draw lines to make sure they're evenly arranged or just do so by eye (as I did - I don't mind a little bit of wonkyness!)
- If, like mine, your samples have labels on them, then make sure these labels are on the front side and don't become detached, you'll need the information from them.
- When you're happy with the positioning secure your samples in place with a little squirt of temporary fabric adhesive.



- With invisible thread in your machine needle machine stitch your samples to the background fabric. Because you're using invisible thread you don't need to sew each sample individually - just run up and down the rows in one continuous line, then turn and work side to side. You won't be able to see where you've stitched the background fabric unless you look very closely indeed.
- Now your samples are secured in order, type the numbers onto your computer - choose a nice font and size - I used an 18 pt font - and make sure you leave gaps on all sides of each number to cut them out.
- Transfer your numbers to fabric.
- Iron Bondaweb to the reverse of the printed fabric, then cut out the numbers. Because you copied their order from your sewn squares they will be printed in the right order which makes life much easier. I recommend just cutting out one strip at a time and securing those before proceeding, otherwise a terrible muddle might ensue!!
- When cut out, position each label beneath the colour sample, remove the paper backing from the Bondaweb and iron into place to secure.



- It is now safe to remove any identifying labels from your samples!
- When all labels are secured, turn your piece over and press on the reverse.
- Take your artists canvas block and write supplier details and date on the reverse. I did this before mounting the fabric in case any ink bled through.
- Position your fabric on your canvas block and turn one edge to the reverse, securing working from the centre outwards, with staples. Repeat on the opposite edge, then the other two edges. Mitre the corners.
- Trim the excess fabric on the reverse. You could cover the raw edges with tape to neaten the reverse, but I didn't bother as this is very much a working piece.
- FINISHED!! A piece of art for your workroom wall.



If you love to quilt and adore stitching, then check out Helen's latest book - featuring that naughty (but very endearing pair), Rosie and Bear! 12 lovely blocks build into a wonderful heirloom quilt, sure to be loved by generations to come.

It's available as an instant download from the Bustle & Sew website, or as a printed book from Amazon.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

PS Great gift idea for any stitchers/quilters in your life!!



Some Bustle & Sew Patterns

Why do we love to stitch? After all, you can purchase mass-produced embroidered items at many high street stores. These days, handmade means something special – a unique item created with love, a gift from the heart, not one that can be bought. Hand stitching is also a great way to personalize an item, or even to breathe new life into an old favourite that has seen better days.



[Bustle & Sew](#) offers my own unique patterns, designed to appeal to all skill levels and bring out your natural creativity. And you can keep up-to-date with all the latest news on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).

But none of this would mean anything without you, the stitcher. And it's lovely to be able to share hints, tips and techniques with other like-minded folk.

PLEASE SHARE THE LOVE: I am happy for you to circulate this short tutorial as widely as you wish – with just two conditions: Firstly that you leave all links to my website and blog in place. And secondly, it is not a commercial publication and must not be reproduced for resale in any form.

Best wishes

Helen xx



PS : If you love stitching then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew Magazine. It's my own e-zine delivered monthly to your in-box stuffed with ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more. Your family and friends will be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations.

To learn more, please visit my website.

<http://bustleandsew.com/magazine>