



MAKING YOUR BARN QUILT

CRITERIA FOR BARN QUILT TRAIL

- Design must be a quilt block
- May be mounted on barn, house, shed, garage, out-building, yard
- Barn quilt must be easily seen from road

SUPPLIES

- Crezon Plycore 1/2", sometimes called sign board or MDO, can be ordered in 4' x 8' sheets at Home Hardware in Arborg/Gimli, KC Building Supplies in Gimli, and Rockwood Lumber in Teulon. Or check with your local lumber store. The number of boards required will be based on the size of your barn quilt (4' x 4', 8' x 8', or 12' x 12')
- Cardboard or plastic to cover the floor
- Saw horses or table top
- High quality exterior latex or oil primer
- High quality exterior latex paint, satin finish
- Pencil for drawing pattern
- Measuring tape, ruler, yard stick, or framing square
- Painter's tape, good quality
- Razor blade or craft knife
- Paint can opener
- Self-Stick notes of your design colours
- Foam rollers and paint trays (We use paper plates as it is easier when working with the little rollers.)
- Brushes- 2" angle for latex paints
- Paint stir sticks
- Paper towel or rags
- Disposable gloves
- Plastic wrap to cover trays and brushes between coats (Press'n Seal works great!)

COPYRIGHT, DESIGN, AND COLOURS

1. Respect copyright. Use designs that are in the public domain so they can be used for advertising, souvenirs, on-line publishing and posters without worry.
2. For those special designs, get permission from the creators.
3. Keep the design simple.
4. Choose bold, vibrant, primary colours.
5. Limit the number of colours in your quilt block (every new colour is a separate can of paint).
6. Our suggestion is to buy one can of exterior latex base paint. If your store will do this for you, split the paint into as many jars as the colours needed and then have the jars mixed individually. Another suggestion is to purchase black, white, and the primary colours and mix to the colours you need. If you are mixing them yourself, make sure to mix enough for your complete project. If you run out before you are finished, it can be challenging to duplicate that colour.
7. If the quilt will be viewed up close, you will have a wider choice of colour and shades but more detail may be needed.
8. Sometimes geometric shapes need to be outlined with a black band. The farther the blocks are from viewers, the less detail is needed.

PAINTING

1. Set up a work area that is dry and dust free for painting.
2. Prime the boards, front, back, and edges, using a foam roller and a high-quality, exterior latex or oil primer. You should do this twice, and possibly a third time.
3. Enlarge the quilt pattern using graph paper or another preferred method to scale. If you would like, you can leave a border on all sides. The border is 1" for 4'x4' barn quilts, 1+1/2" for 8'x8' quilts. Then draw the pattern on the primed boards using a pencil and measuring devices.
4. Using the tape, outline the areas that will receive the lightest paint colour and press the tape firmly to ensure a good seal OR rather than tape the first colours, paint over the lines with the lightest colours first--not a lot, but enough to be sure the design area is completely covered.
5. Once the tape is in place, press it down by hand, and then go over the edges with a wall paper roller. The next step is CRITICAL. Paint along the entire edge of the tape with the light coloured paint that the tape is covering. Paint will almost always bleed under the tape. This way, what bleeds under the tape is the SAME colour as the paint under the tape. This step seals the edge of the tape and prevents the newly applied, darker colour from bleeding under the tape. This step takes a while, but will save hours of touch-up work.
6. Hint: Use a razor blade or craft knife to cut definite angles in the tape. To help designate which areas receive which colour, you can place corresponding coloured self-stick notes in those areas. This would be very helpful with a pattern using multiple colours. If you are using more than one board, do not connect the two boards. It will be easier to paint the centre.
7. Apply at least two coats of each colour to make the board completely waterproof and ready to face the sun, wind and rain for many years. Some colours may require three or even four coats.
8. Some colours, like red, have a hard time covering other colours, so some reds need to be painted first. Experiment on wood scraps if you're not sure.
9. You may leave the tape in place until you are finished with each colour.
10. Allow each coat of paint to dry thoroughly.
11. Repeat steps 5 to 10 as needed for each new colour.
12. Lastly, if you have chosen to have a border, tape off and paint the border either the preferred colour of black or an alternate colour.
13. While it is not necessary to seal the board, as exterior latex paint is made to withstand our weather, you may want to seal both sides and all edges of the board. If so, it is recommended that a boat varnish be used or a sealant that will not turn yellow.

THANK YOU

The Interlake Tourism Association would like to acknowledge the following quilt trails for providing us with information through their websites. Please visit these websites for further information.

www.barnquilttrails.ca (Ontario)

www.iastate.edu/ (Iowa; search for barn quilt)

www.hqbt.org/barn-quilt-instructions.html (New York)

CONTACT

Email us at admin@interlaketourism.com
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