Welcome to margaritaville

Welcome to the Case of the Stranger in Margaritaville!

I am delighted that you are following the mystery!

Since we're using Key West Beauty blocks this time, we're having fun in Margaritaville with fabric! The alcohol is optional. I'll be drinking cool, sparkling water with a twist of lime, not Margaritas, so you can trust the clues.

This is a laid-back, island-style mystery to give us a little escape from winter. That means you can sew the Key West blocks anywhere, not just at the beach or on the front porch swing, because the blocks can be sewn by hand or by machine or a little of both.

COTSIM Case File Notes

One of the benefits of following the COTSIM mystery is that it takes the mystery out of the many resources on **inklingo.com** and the blog. (All green text is clickable.)

If you are new to Inklingo, you won't be a stranger in Margaritaville for long! We have cool leads and hot tips for you. It is great for beginners, so dive in, the water's fine.

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville on YouTube might help get you in the mood to choose fabric for the mystery!

Blue-eyed stranger
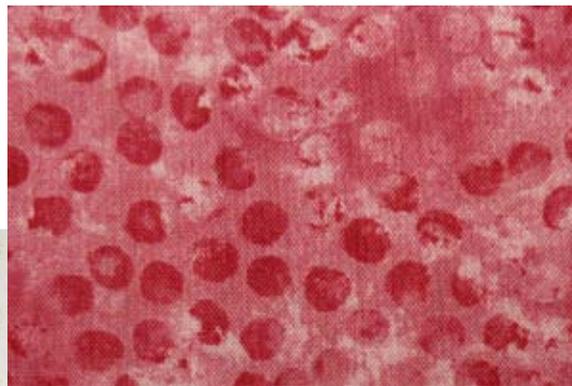
Salt

Hibiscus

Tequila
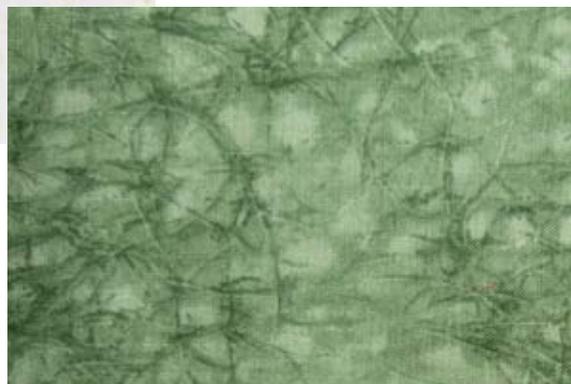
Lime

Fabric

All 4 fabrics should contrast well with white.

White = the salt around the rim of a Margarita or shells and sand on the beach or Jimmy Buffet's sponge cake (**Listen & Relax!**)

Blue = deep blue eyes of a tall dark stranger or sea and sky

Pink = hibiscus or a coral reef or shrimp

Green = lime wedge on a Margarita or palm trees or pine trees

Gold = tequila or sunshine or stars or coconuts husks or Key Lime Pie (which is not green) or sun tan oil

For the 30 x 30 inch wall hanging, you will only need 1.25 yards of the white background fabric and a fat quarter of the 4 other colors. This does not include fabric for backing or binding, so you will need to choose another yard of fabric for that, and more if you cut the binding on the bias.

Inklingo uses fabric very efficiently. There is not a lot of extra fabric in a fat quarter, but you should still be fine even if you make a small booboo.

inklingo MARGARITAVILLE MYSTERY 2 © LINDA FRANZ 2016
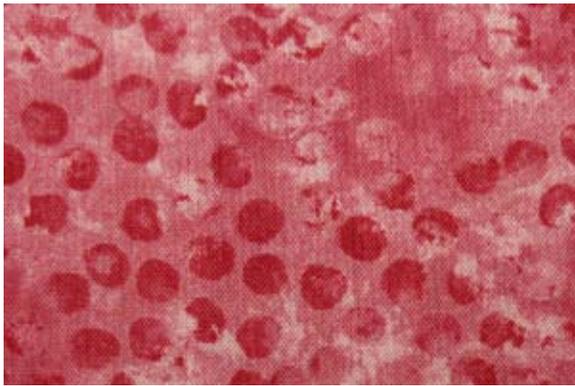
Other Colors or Prints? YES

Inklingo is all about making quilting more accessible, so I have designed the mystery quilt to look good in many different color combinations. White + 4 colors works!

This relaxed approach should make it easy to jump in on the fun even if you don't like my colors. Use beige if you don't like white!

Bonus Clue: The pink shapes in the quilt form an important design element, so that should be a favorite fabric.

Playing with fabric is one of the best things about quilting. Inklingo takes the work out of the preparation and simplifies the sewing, so you can afford to spend more time choosing fabric—if that is what makes your heart sing! No rushing. We're on island time.

Dark Fabric

See the note on page 5.

Scrappy? YES

You might have to print a few more sheets of fabric than the rest of us, but you can print on scraps or strips. For example, you can use an assortment of pinks or an assortment of greens instead of one fabric.
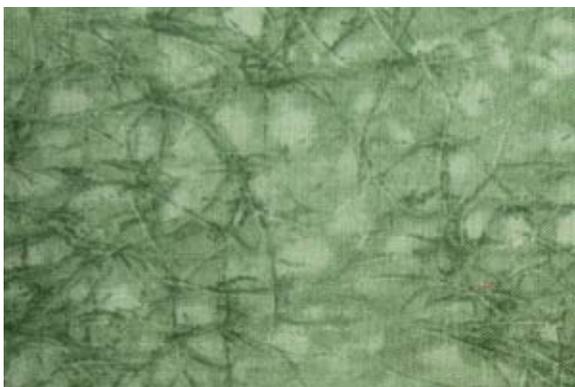
Directional Fabric and Stripes

If you are using directional prints, allow more fabric. This might be confusing to beginners, so none of my fabrics are directional.

Fussy Cutting

Fussy cutting is optional. If you want to fussy cut some of the shapes, you will need to allow more fabric. Fussy cutting could be a nice added touch for some of the pink shapes but it would not be worthwhile for any of the others.
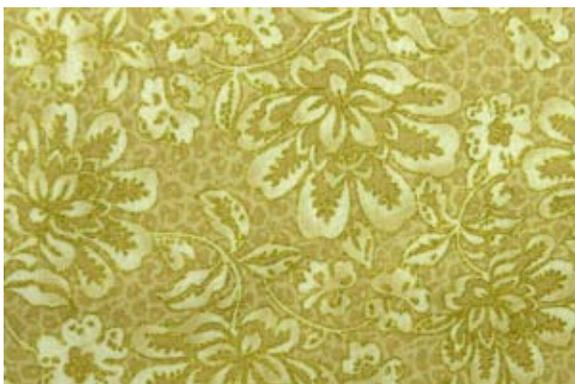
The most important thing is to make sure each fabric contrasts well with the white. For example, you could substitute red for the pink and tweak the other colors to make a wonderful Christmas variation. Please share your color choices on **Facebook**!

If you print this page, you can pin a 2 x 2 inch swatch of each of your colors over mine, so you can remember which is which. When I say pink, you might use red or another color.

Key West Beauty

Key West is famous for deep sea fishing and there might be a few red herrings mixed in with the rest. For example, there is no guarantee that you will be making any blocks like this one.

Larger Quilt?

This design would look amazing if you make the mystery quilt nine times and join them together with sashing in 3 rows of 3. Wow.

You could also make the mystery quilt 4 times for a 60 x 60 center and add plain borders for the drop on the sides of the bed.

You can also insert plain 6-inch setting blocks to make it bigger.

Larger or Smaller Blocks

Key West 6 inch shapes are used in my examples and illustrations. If you prefer to use 4.5 or 9 inch Key West blocks, you can use my Cheat Sheets as a model. (It's easier than you think with Inklingo!)

Clues on the blog

The first clue will be posted on the **All About Inklingo** blog at the end of January, so you have about two weeks to put on your flip-flops, go searchin' for that lost shaker of salt, and find your fabric.

In the meantime, I will post a few little teasers on the blog with tips for beginners, so be sure to subscribe!

The 5 shapes in the Key West Beauty shape collection are very versatile. There are dozens of block variations, so I don't think anyone will be able to solve the mystery before the final clue.

Each fabric should contrast well with white!

Stuck on a remote island? Cannot shop for the mystery? You can probably find 4 fat quarters in your stash that contrast with white. Dim light might help you decide whether the 4 colors look distinct from each other too.

Even if you are just an Inklingo tourist so far, we think you will want to come along for the ride this time!

The sun shines everywhere, not just on the beach at Margaritaville.

00	01	02	04	05
11	16	18	20	21
22	26	28	31	35
36	38	41	46	50

first steps
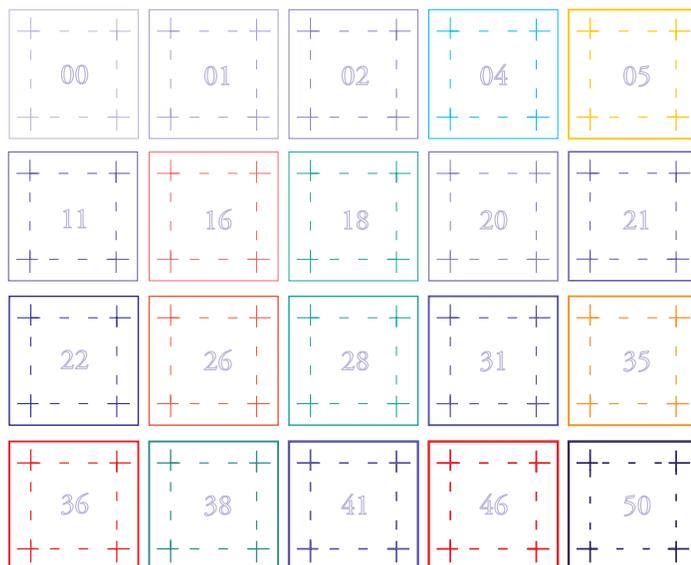
1. Choose the fabrics.

Note about Dark Fabric:

Many very dark fabrics are light on the back, so Inklingo colors show clearly. See all of my **best tips for printing on dark fabric** on the blog. It's a **Top Ten Tute**.

It is smart to look at the wrong side of dark fabrics before you buy. If you have a choice among several darks, choose ones that will be the easiest to print.

2. Wash the fabric and fold it neatly. No ironing!

I strongly recommend washing the fabric. Our **Very Best Tips on the blog** include tips for washing small scraps. It is another **Top Ten Tute**.

I have always recommended washing new fabrics, but with Inklingo washing out the sizing makes it easy to print jam-free.

3. Print a test on white.

If you want a head start, you can print a test for the ink (above) in your printer on the white fabric using the method on pages H32-H37 of **the free shape collection** and in the Top Ten Tutes on the blog. Then you will know which colors wash out or do not bleed to show on the front.

If you only have a fat quarter of each color, you will probably want to wait to print 5 x 5 swatches, so you can be sure to have enough.

requirements
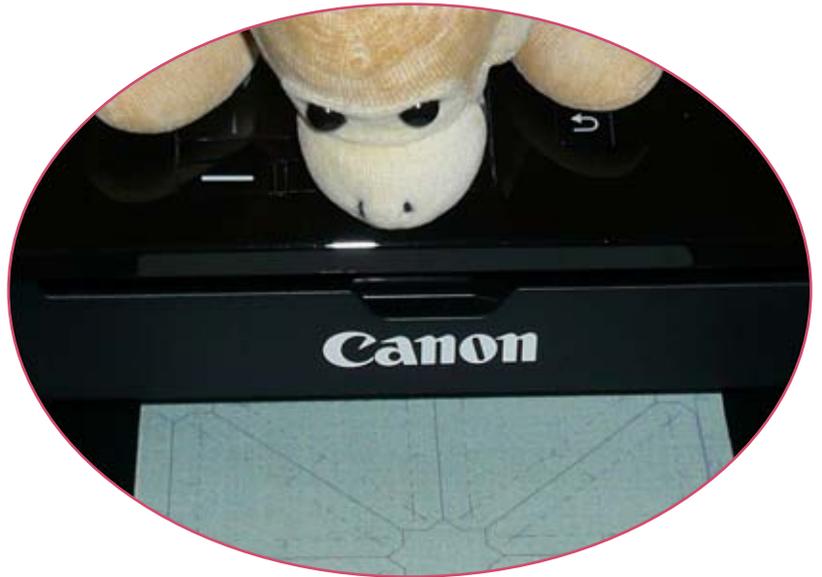
- Inkjet printer **FAQ on inklingo.com**
- freezer paper (FP for short)
- rotary cutter, 2 rulers and a cutting mat (or scissors)
- needles & thread for hand piecing or a sewing machine
- scissors
- iron and ironing surface
- **Inklingo Key West 6 inch Shape Collection**
  (only $20 until the first clue is posted)
- **Inklingo Diamond/Triangles/Square Shape Collection** (free,
  includes the first chapter of the handbook on pages H5-H48)

If this will be your first time printing on fabric, you can give yourself a head start by reviewing the first chapter of the handbook and learning **how to print Custom Page Sizes** with your printer.

Printing **Custom Page Sizes** is important because it allows us to use the fabric efficiently—often more efficiently than traditional methods and templates. Please review the detailed instructions for printing your first Custom Page Size under the Support & Goodies tab at **inklingo.com**.

Until recently every Inkjet printer had software that included the ability to print Custom Page Sizes. Recently HP made a change. You can read about printers **in the FAQ on inklingo.com**.

The **Inklingo Yahoo Group** is a friendly place. Your question might help someone who is too shy to ask.

We're not worrying about anything in Margaritaville, okay? Our best tips for printing on fabric are in the **Top Ten Tutes**, but if you have questions, please ask. I am happy to help. It is easier than you can imagine!   **linda@lindafranz.com**

Monkey says there are at least two hot leads on this page. A good detective follows up.

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cbX4DUACYU

Inklingo
http://lindafranz.com/section/inklingo/62

inklingo.com
http://inklingo.com/

All About Inklingo Blog
http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/

Main Key West Page
http://lindafranz.com/shop/key-west/41

FREE shape collection for Diamond/Triangles/Square
(includes the first chapter of The Inklingo Handbook)
http://lindafranz.com/shop/beginners/3/product/inklingo-free-shapes/7

Custom Page Sizes (under the Support tab)
http://lindafranz.com/section/custom-page-sizes/43

FAQ about Printers (under the Support tab)
http://lindafranz.com/section/faq/question/45#q45

Top Ten Tutes (on the All About Inklingo blog)
http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/top-ten-tutes/

Best Tips for Printing on Fabric (Top Ten Tutes on the blog)
http://www.lindafranz.com/blog/how-to-print-on-fabric-best-tips/

Inklingo Yahoo Group
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Inklingo/

Pinterest
http://pinterest.com/inklingo/

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/inklingo/

Gift Certificates (under the Shop tab)
http://lindafranz.com/giftCertificates.php