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Crossing Colors

Who said colors have to match?

In this January 2007 issue of DHome™ Magazine, is an example of using color to give a unique "Cross Color" punch to a sunny room's decor.

So, you have this really great room, its rather small, but it gets a great deal of sunshine. You want the room to make an impact on all those who enter, and you don't want to lose the warmth of the room. Paint colors can be exciting and produce vibrant moods when designing a sun lit room to be anything but subtle!

"Crossing Colors" refers to the approach of crossing vibrant primary and secondary hues with more restrained pastel colors. In the example of this issue, the use of a vibrant red, such as Benjamin Moore Color Preview #2171-20 Fire Dance has been crossed with a more restrained pastel blue like #2063-70 Cumulus Cotton. And, to further cross the colors you use, a vibrant yellow like #2021-40 Yellow Highlighter can be used in the palette of colors used, including paintable furniture. Even throwing in a little charcoal like #2134-50 Gull Wing Gray, for a foot stool, isn't totally out of the question if a colorful room is your ultimate goal.

The use of a low sheen or matte finish paint is really useful to lessen the amount of glare that can be produced from too much sunlight. We recommend Benjamin Moore's 215 Regal® Wall Satin® or 221 Regal® Matte Finish wall paints for a beautiful glare free finish on your walls.

Here's How to Get Started...

First remove as much of the furniture as possible and cover the remaining furniture with plastic drop cloths. Mask around all light switches, power outlets, windows and doors using 1½" wide blue painter grade masking tape. If you know how, it would be best to turn off the electric power to the room. Be sure that turning the power off doesn't interfere with the operation of any major kitchen appliances such as a refrigerator, or a freezer.

Start off by priming your walls to accept the Fire Dance red. Use Benjamin Moore's 023 All-Purpose Acrylic Primer that has been tinted to the #2171-20 Fire Dance. Using a tinted primer, under vibrant colors, will increase the clarity of the finish color and lower your paint costs by using a lesser expensive primer instead of additional coats of the more costly finish paint. Using a 2" or 2½" nylon brush, paint the corners of the room first, then paint around your masked off areas. Next, paint the walls using your choice of paint finishes using a 9-inch, 1/2" Nap roller cover.

Now you can finish the project by painting any wooden shelving, wooden furniture, or even metal furniture with Benjamin Moore's 235 Satin Impervo® Alkyd Enamel using the accent colors you have choose. Be sure to prime the surfaces, before finishing, to provide the best adhesion to the surface. Consult your paint salesperson for the best recommended primer for the surface. We do not recommend painting over fabric furniture.

Read and follow all label instructions and cautions.

Remember to save a small amount, of each paint color, for future touchups.

2171-20 Fire Dance	2063-70 Cumulus Cotton	2021-40 Yellow Highlighter	2134-50 Gull Wing Gray

Shopping List

Benjamin Moore Paints