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THE
BIG

Sleep

Wake up your bed with linens that are mixed to match.

Nobody buys furniture in matching sets anymore. So why should bed linens be treated any differently? Say good-night to the time-honored bed-in-a-bag option—where everything from European shams to fitted sheets is designed to work in perfect solid or patterned harmony—and be brave, be bold. Make a creative statement by mixing up a personalized bouquet of stripes, solids, checks, and florals, printed and hand-embroidered.

Coordination may be a bit tricky at first, especially if you attempt to juggle more than two patterns at a time, so start slowly. For the bed shown on this and the following page, we combined pinks, reds, and corals as the basic color scheme. A white pillowcase with a modest pink-embroidered hem went from safe to sassy when paired with another pillowcase printed ▶

Wall treatment:

"Val D'Elsa" embroidered silk in Golosita, to the trade, Fadini Borghi through Pierre Frey (212/213-3099).

Headboard:

Button-tufted custom headboard by Le Décor Français (212/734-0032); upholstered in "Turmalin" silk by JAB, to the trade through Stroheim (718/706-7000).

Pillows:

"Allegri" pillowcase in white, \$60, Designers Guild (800/303-5413); "Nora" floral pillowcase, \$126 a pair, Bellora (212/228-6651); "Posies Vermicelli" quilted bolster, \$34.99, Collier Campbell, available at select Kohi's stores.

Bedding:

"Double Happiness" queen fitted sheet, \$335, Natori (212/951-7074); "Percolor" queen flat sheet, \$157, Bellora; "Baroque Leafs and Scrolls" queen flat sheet, \$450, Léron (800/954-6369); "Raphael" quilt, \$396, Olivier Desforges (www.olivierdesforge.com).

with a scattering of bright pink blossoms. The fitted silk sheet is woven with tone-on-tone pale pink stripes, providing a discreet background for a snow-white flat sheet decorated with a fanciful border of warm coral embroidery. A quilted rose-pink bedspread blends the related colors while taming the carefully mismatched patterns. And a subtly quilted boudoir pillow the color of the inside of a seashell provides another textured accent.

Don't be afraid to mix brands and qualities. Feel free to introduce a sateen sheet from Target to a luxurious Pratesi cashmere blanket and then add those antique monogrammed shams you found on eBay. Pit Egyptian cotton against French silk, Belgian linen against Scottish wool. If it looks good (and it feels good), then trust us—it is good. So get ready, get set, and start mixing. It's the only way to wake up to an eye-opening bed whose only brand is you.

—Mitchell Owens

Accessories:

- Pink "Imperial" vases, \$288 for set of 6, Tozai through Two's Company (800/896-7266);
- "Porcelain Woodpecker," \$24, Anthropologie (800/309-2500);
- "Asian Console" table, \$4,035, Amy Howard (901/547-1448).

Hand-embroidered and appliquéd boudoir case with toile de Jouy-style design, \$495, Léron.