

# Husband's cruiser colors win

Q: I've been saving a long time to buy a well-appointed 42-foot cruiser. My brother-in-law and I plan on using it a lot, and our wives will occasionally join us. This is where the problem arises: My wife and I can't agree on which of the four color options to choose for the interior that the manufacturer is offering. I like the blue, silver-grey and white interior — that incidentally coordinates with exterior recent color. It's my idea of a suitable color for a boat. My wife wants the deep burgundy, rose and white, which also includes the silver-grey accents. She says this combination is more in keeping with fashionable colors and will make the interior look more elegant. Am I

making a mistake insisting on the blue option? The other two colors in the line are a blue-green and a bright yellow that don't interest either of us. I expect to keep this cruiser a long time. Can you help in making a decision?

A: It sounds as if your long-awaited dream boat is about to be scuttled by a color trend — and a passing one at that — unless you stand up for your decision. This advice won't minimize your wife's right to her color preferences, but is intended to focus the decision around the more important idea of suitability.

Considering you have a greater emotional investment in the boat and will be using it more frequently

than your wife, your color preference should prevail. This is all the more so because your color preference connects up with the powerful idea or image of what a boat should look like. It's certainly shared by a very broad consensus, because blue remains the number one selling color for boat interiors.

Not for a moment am I suggesting you adhere to a consensus or reject new colors because of their unfamiliarity. As a matter of fact, I commend boat manufacturers for their efforts in expanding color options. Some of their newer introductions look fresh and inviting, yet remain very nautical because they fit into a very fundamental idea of what a

boat should look like. Unsuitable colors are those that try to imitate something foreign to a boat, like an automobile or a trendy color with a deliberate appeal to romanticism or a historic tradition.

Your wife's preference for burgundy and rose is just such a color combination — it's been fashionable for some time now and is gradually losing its popularity in both home furnishings and apparel. It will linger on for some time because it is so basic to home furnishings. But I'm not so sure this combination will serve you well even on a 42-foot boat. Dark coloring, such as burgundy, requires a much larger scale, something on the order of an 80 or

100 foot yacht, with its room-sized staterooms, regular, free-standing furniture and elegant accessories. Only then can you achieve elegance. Putting burgundies into a smaller space will provide a closed-in look. Inevitably, you'll both get tired of the effect.

Basic blue, on the other hand can eventually be modified with new colored accessories and carpeting. For now, reserve the pink and a touch of burgundy for the forward stateroom's bed sheets and pillowcases.

Q: I buy a lot of my husband's clothes and have done so for years. Now that his hair is turning gray, I'm not sure if some of the usual khaki and tan colors look as good on him as when he had a dark brown head of hair. I've thought of applying the seasonal color approach to complement his coloring, which is



all about color

Helen Diane Vincent

very balanced, but wasn't sure the same principles apply to men as they do to women. Give me some of your ideas.

A: The so-called seasonal approach of enhancing women's appearance by complementing their cool or warm coloring with cosmetics or apparel doesn't entirely apply to men. This is because of a social convention that requires men not appear too "colorful," but more subdued and dignified instead.

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