

Bakuba Cloth

DESIGNED AND MADE BY PAM ROCCO

“I’ve always been interested in what the neighbors were doing, assuming that it was different from what I was doing,” says Pam Rocco of Santa Cruz, California. “And if they lived far away or long ago, didn’t look like me or didn’t think the way I did, I was even more interested.” *Bakuba Cloth* is just one quilt Rocco has made to express this interest through quilts.

The Bakuba, a tribal group that lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, weave long pieces of raffia cloth, which they sometimes color with vegetable dyes, cut up and sew together to make decorative fabrics much like our patchwork. Inspired by the inventive designs of these cloths, Rocco pieced high-contrast vertical strips using just a few colors to make this small wall hanging. She alternated patterned rows of yellow and orange with dividing rows of black and taupe or black and light fabrics. It would be easy to make a much larger quilt simply by using more vertical rows and making up some simple pattern variations.

You can read Rocco’s full column, “Words to Quilt By,” in the December/January 2016 issue of *Quilters Newsletter*. *Bakuba Cloth* was machine quilted by Linda Barbin of Hollister, California.

ASSEMBLY

■ Wash, starch and press fabrics. Study the quilt photo and quilt assembly diagram, noting the color placement and different effects achieved by improvisational cutting and piecing in the blocks. The use of a design wall is recommended when making this quilt. Cut the patches listed in the materials and cutting box and shown in the rotary cutting diagrams. Wait to cut strips until you make the units. ▶



MATERIALS AND CUTTING

Requirements are based on 40" fabric width. Pattern has been simplified for ease of construction.

BLOCK SIZE: 3" x 5" **QUILT SIZE:** 24" x 40"

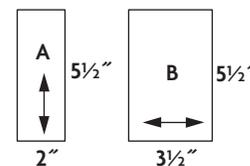
MATERIALS	YDS.	CUTTING
Light Neutral Solids*	7/8	8 A, 32 B, strips
Dark Solids	1/3	8 A, 8 B
Yellow/Orange Solids*	5/8	8 B, strips
Taupe Solid	1/4	8 B
Binding	1/3	4 binding strips 2 1/4" x 40"
Backing	1 1/3	1 panel 28" x 44"
Batting		28" x 44"

*Read step 1 before cutting fabric.

TECHNIQUES USED: machine piecing, improvisational piecing, machine quilting

ROTARY CUTTING

Measurements include 1/4" seam allowances. Align arrows with lengthwise or crosswise grain of fabric.



2 Referring to the unit 1 diagram, join a light neutral solid A and a dark solid A to make a unit 1. Make 8.

3 Referring to Fig. 1, make a slightly angled vertical cut through a light neutral solid B. Cut a wonky yellow or orange solid strip that is at least 5½" long and 1¼" - 2" wide. Join the wonky strip to one portion of the B, right sides together and with long raw edges aligned. Press the wonky strip open then join the remaining portion of the B to the other side of the strip (Fig. 2). Press and trim to 3½" x 5½" to make a unit 2. Make 8.

In the same manner and referring to the unit 7 diagram, improvisationally join a light neutral solid strip to a yellow or orange B to make a unit 7. Make 4.

4 In a similar fashion and referring to the unit 3 diagram, make an angled cut horizontally across a light neutral solid B and improvisationally join to a wonky yellow or orange strip at least 3½" long and 1¼" - 3¼" wide. Trim to 3½" x 5½" to make a unit 3. Make 8.

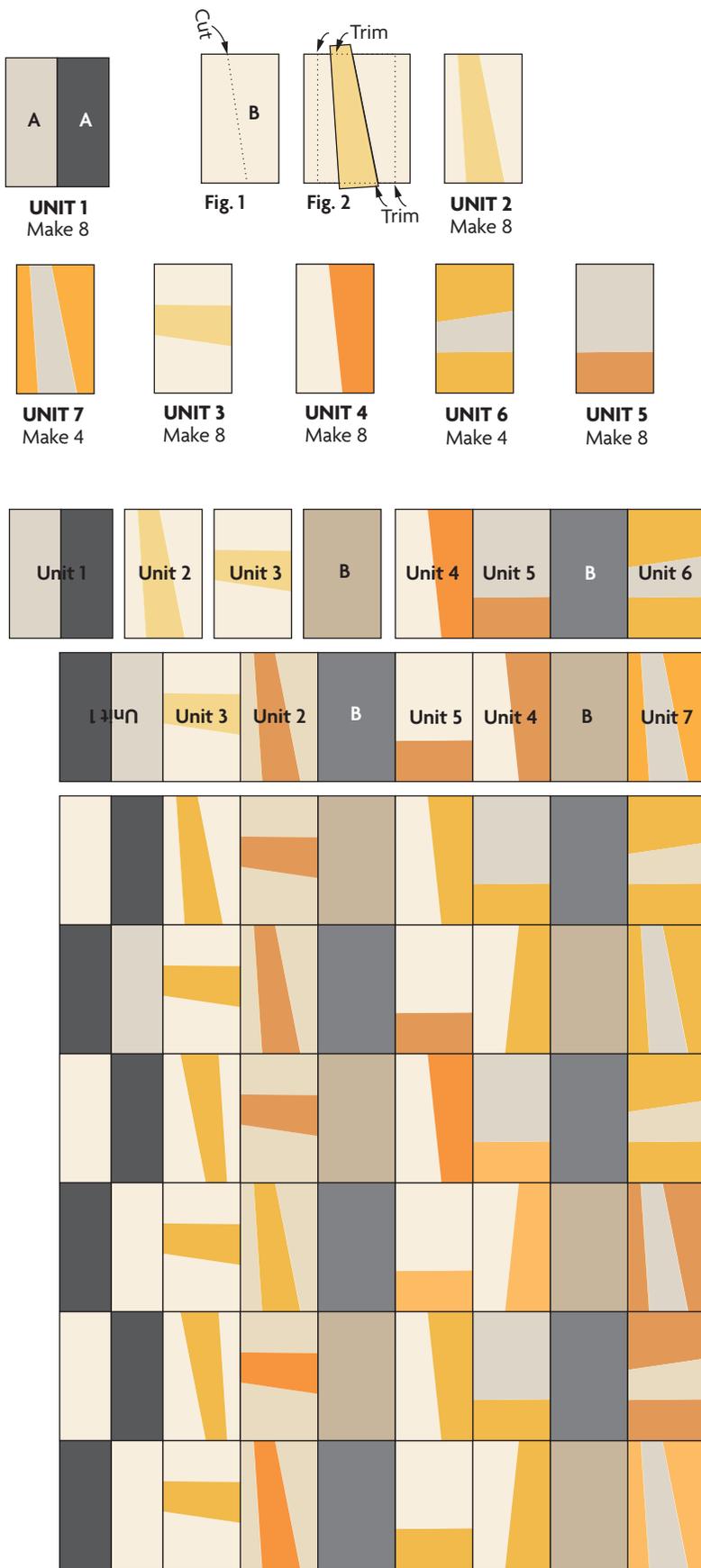
In the same manner and referring to the unit 6 diagram for color placement, make 4 unit 6's.

5 Referring to the unit 4 diagram, make a slightly angled vertical cut through a light neutral solid B and discard one portion. Cut a wonky yellow or orange solid strip at least 5½" long and 1½" - 2½" wide and join it to the remaining portion of the B. Press and trim to 3½" x 5½" to make a unit 4. Make 8.

In a similar fashion and referring to the unit 5 diagram, make an angled cut horizontally across a light neutral solid B and improvisationally join to a yellow or orange strip at least 3½" long and 1¼" - 3" wide. Press and trim to 3½" x 5½" to make a unit 5. Make 8.

6 On a design wall or flat surface, and referring to the quilt assembly diagram, arrange the units, taupe B's and dark solid B's in horizontal rows as shown. When you are satisfied with the arrangement, join the blocks and patches into rows then join the rows.

7 Mark quilting motifs as desired. Layer the backing, batting and quilt top. Baste. Quilt an all over design or quilt as desired. Bind the quilt to finish. 



QUILT ASSEMBLY