

Spools

DESIGNED AND MADE BY PAM ROCCO

Pam Rocco of Santa Cruz, California, made *Spools* to immortalize some old wooden spools of thread she bought at her local quilt guild's flea market fundraiser. The improvisationally pieced slanted line on some of the spools shows where the thread is fastened to keep it from unwinding. If you've never done improvisational piecing before, this is a great pattern to give that technique a try for the first time. Rocco's spools are stacked, but you could put yours in rows or experiment with varying the heights and widths of the spools. Take advantage of the simplicity of this pattern to play with the color and value of your fabrics to yield a look uniquely your own.

You can read Rocco's full column, "Words to Quilt By," in the February/March 2013 issue of *Quilters Newsletter*. *Spools* was machine quilted by Linda Barbin of Hollister, California.



ASSEMBLY

1 Wash, starch and press fabrics. Cut the patches listed in the materials and cutting box and shown in the rotary cutting diagrams. Cut and sort D's in sets of 2.

2 Referring to Fig. 1, make a slightly angled cut across an A. Position a B along the angled cut of a portion of the A, right sides together and with long raw edges aligned. Join with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam (Fig.

2). Fold the B open and press the seam allowance toward the B. Trim the ends of the B even with the raw edges of the A. In the same fashion, join the B to the remaining portion of the A, making sure the raw edges along the sides are aligned (Fig. 3). Press the seam allowance toward the B. If necessary, trim the A/B unit to $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{3}{4}$ ". ▶

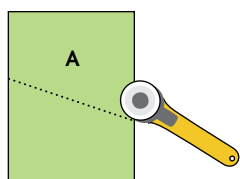


Fig. 1

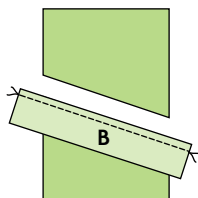


Fig. 2

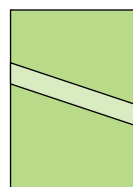


Fig. 3

MATERIALS AND CUTTING

Requirements are based on 40" fabric width. Borders are cut crosswise and are the exact length required plus seam allowances.

	BLOCK: 5" x 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	QUILT SIZE: 27" x 30 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
MATERIALS		YDS.
Assorted Solids	$\frac{1}{4}$	CUTTING
Tan	$\frac{1}{4}$	9 A, 5 B
Assorted Browns*	$\frac{1}{4}$	18 C
Light Green	$\frac{3}{8}$	18 D
Medium Green	$\frac{1}{4}$	2 borders 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ " , 2 borders 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Binding	$\frac{1}{3}$	4 E
Backing	1	4 strips 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 40"
Batting		panel 31" x 35"
		31" x 35"

*Read step 1 before cutting D's.

TECHNIQUES USED: improvisational piecing, machine piecing, machine quilting

FREE PATTERN


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Referring to the block Z piecing diagram, join 2 C's to the sides of the A/B unit then join 2 D's to the top and bottom to make a block Z. Make 5.

3 Referring to the block Y diagram, join 1 A, 2 C's and 2 D's to make a block Y. Make 4.

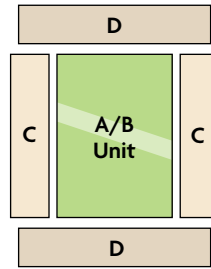
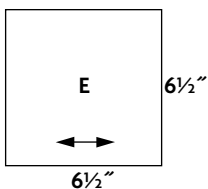
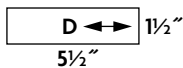
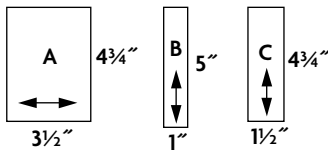
4 Referring to the quilt assembly diagram, arrange the blocks in 3 rows, alternating block Z's and block Y's as shown. Join the blocks into rows then join the rows.

5 Join the longer borders to the sides of the quilt. Add an E to either end of the shorter borders then join the borders to the top and bottom of the quilt.

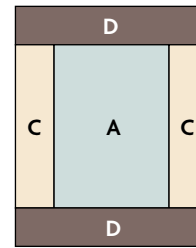
6 Layer the backing, batting and quilt top. Baste. Quilt an allover design or quilt as desired. Bind the quilt to finish. 

ROTARY CUTTING

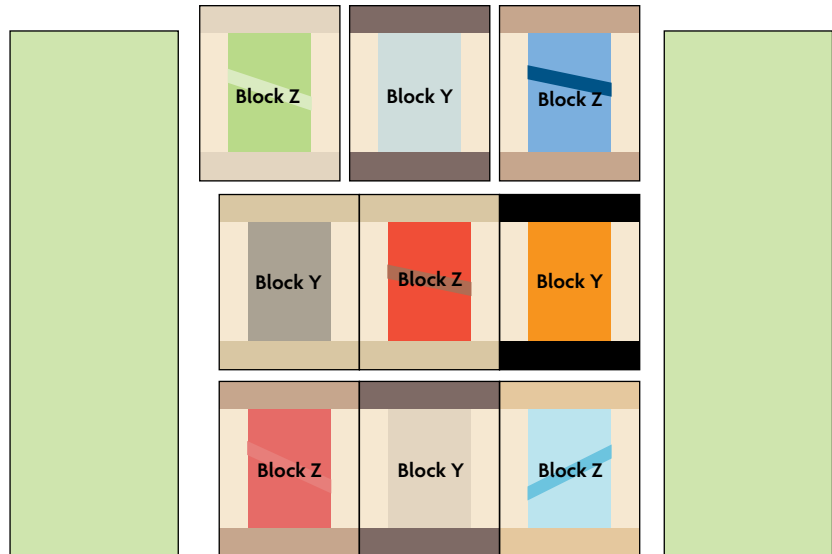
Measurements include $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Align arrows with lengthwise or crosswise grain of fabric.



BLOCK Z PIECING
Make 5



BLOCK Y
Make 4



QUILT ASSEMBLY