

Kuba Cross

DESIGNED AND MADE BY PAM ROCCO

When Pam Rocco of Santa Cruz, California, found a piece of African Kuba cloth – cut-pile raffia embroidery produced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) – at a flea market, she figured it had probably been made to appeal to tourists. She didn't care. She took it home, tacked it up on her wall and let the quilt design inspiration flow. *Kuba Cross* is based on one motif from her flea market find.



MATERIALS AND CUTTING

Requirements are based on 42" fabric width. Borders are cut crosswise and pieced. Borders are the exact length required plus seam allowances. Pattern has been simplified for ease of construction.

BLOCK: 9" x 10" **QUILT SIZE:** 41" x 65"

MATERIALS	YDS.	CUTTING
Assorted Solids	3 3/8	2 borders 3" x 65 1/2", 2 borders 3" x 36 1/2", 24 A*, 48 B*, 48 C*, 24 D*
Binding	1/2	6 binding strips 2 1/4" x 42"
Backing	2 3/8	2 horizontal panels 35" x 45"
Batting		45" x 69"

*Read step 1 of the assembly before cutting patches.

TECHNIQUES USED: improvisational piecing, machine piecing, machine quilting

Because the inspiration for *Kuba Cross* is a textile made of dyed and undyed raffia, Rocco stuck with a monochromatic palette of warm neutrals. The key lies in exploring the contrast of the different values – light, medium and dark – no matter what color family you work with. These blocks are fast and easy to make, so have fun with your fabric choices and don't be afraid to try a variety of combinations.

Remember – when you make a quilt from a Pam Rocco pattern, irregularities are to be welcomed. Read the Designer Tip for ideas on how to "Rocco-ize" this pattern to suit your tastes.

You can read Rocco's full column, "Words to Quilt By," in the April/May 2013 issue of *Quilters Newsletter*. *Kuba Cross* 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. Refer to the Designer Tip for ideas on cutting patches of different sizes. Cut B's in sets of 2; cut C's and D's in sets of 2 C's and 1 D.

2 Referring to Fig. 1, cut an A on the diagonal. Working with one set of B's at a time, join the two halves of the A to either side of a B (Fig. 2). Press the seam allowances toward the B. In a similar fashion, cut the A/B unit on the opposite diagonal (Fig. 3). Join the two halves of the A/B unit to either side of the remaining B to make a block center. Press the seam allowances toward the B then trim the ends of the B's (Fig. 4).

Referring to the block piecing diagram and working with one matching C/D set at a time, join 2 C's and a D to the block center to make a block. Make 24. ▶

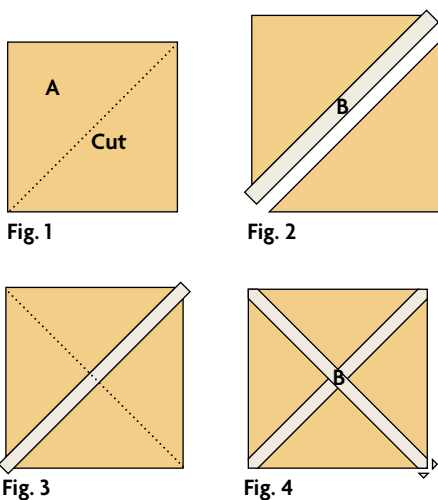
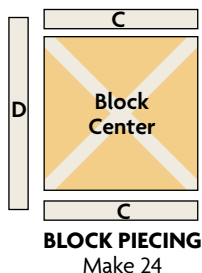


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4



BLOCK PIECING
 Make 24

DESIGNER TIP

ROCCO-IZE YOUR QUILT

If you study the quilt photograph, you can see small irregularities in *Kuba Cross*; for instance, the corners of Pam Rocco's blocks don't always match from horizontal row to horizontal row. Refer to the tips below as you work your way through the pattern for ideas on how you can introduce some flexibility into your construction.

■ Use B's cut from different fabrics in a few blocks.

■ For skinnier crosses, cut B's 1" wide so that they finish at 1/2" wide. Cut the A's larger, at 8 1/2" x 8 1/2", for block centers that finish at 8".

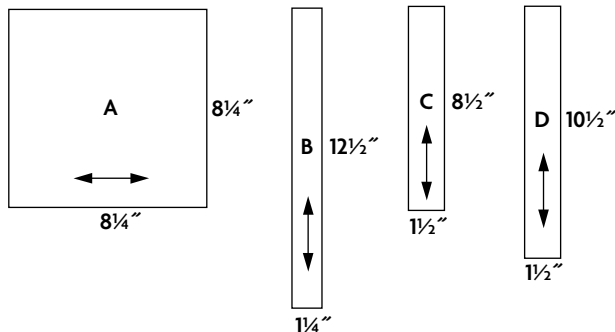
■ We call for assorted solids in the materials and cutting box, but you can see that Rocco used a plaid print for the C's and D's in a few places. Once you've chosen the fabrics for your version of *Kuba Cross*, throw in one more fabric that doesn't quite "fit" for extra contrast.

■ Cut C's a little wider than called for, say at 2" or 2 1/2" wide (increase the length of the D's accordingly). After you've sewn a block, trim it slightly off-center to 9 1/2" x 10 1/2" so the C's end up finishing at different widths.

■ Vary the width of the D's by 1/4" more or less than specified for blocks that don't always meet at the corners from row to row. When you arrange the blocks in rows, take into account which blocks are under- or oversized and adjust them as necessary to make horizontal rows of even lengths.

ROTARY CUTTING

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



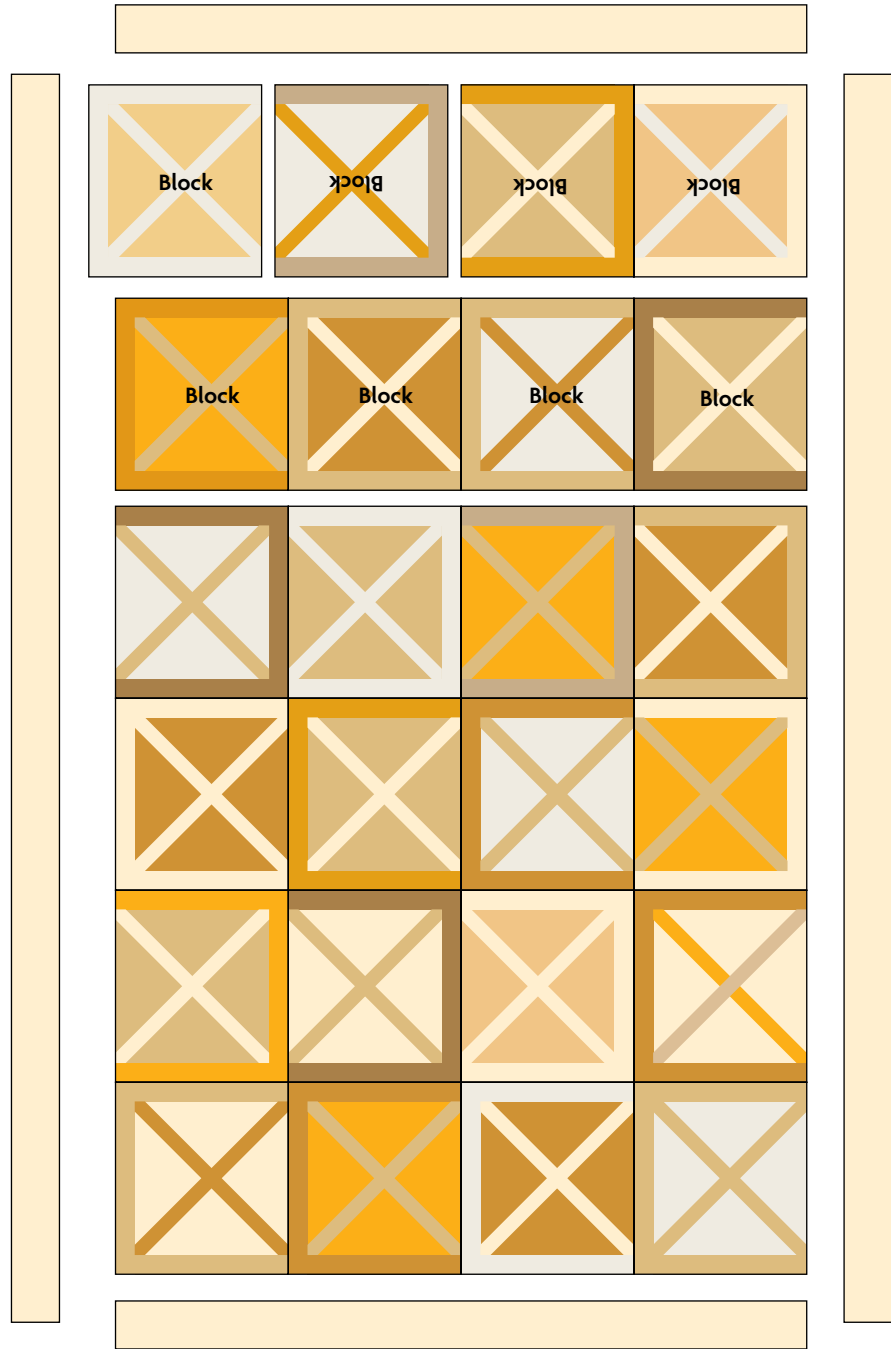
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3 Referring to the quilt assembly diagram and working on a design wall or large, flat surface, arrange the blocks in 6 rows of 4 blocks each. Position the blocks as desired, but note that since the blocks are not square, they should be rotated so the D is on the right or left edge of the block and the C's are on the top and bottom. When you are satisfied with the arrangement, join the blocks into rows then join the rows.

4 Join the 36½" borders to the top and bottom of the quilt. Join the 65½" borders to the sides of the quilt.

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



QUILT ASSEMBLY