

Modern Quilt Group



Tutor Box Number 3

Bright Crosses with Low Volume Background

Low Volume fabrics are characteristic of many Modern Quilts, they are usually very pale or have lots of light space between the print. Using them adds interest and makes a feature of the background in a design.

Cut:

Bright cross:

1 x 3½" x 1½" and 2 x 1½" squares

Background:

4 x 2½" squares and 4 x 1½" squares

This makes a 5" finished block

For my sample quilt I sashed four blocks with 4½" x 1½" strips and added cross pieces cut as above.

Sew:

1. Using a ¼" seam, stitch a background 1½" square to each end of the 3½" x 1½" bright cross strip.
2. Stitch each of the remaining small background squares to the bright squares in pairs.
3. Lay out the block with the pairs of small squares between the large 3½" background squares and the long cross strip along the middle.
4. Join up the top and bottom sections.
5. Stitch the centre section into place making sure the bright small squares are in the centre, not on the edge!

Other sizes

For a 10 inch finished block, cut 4 x 4-1/2 inch squares and 4 x 2-1/2 inch squares of background fabric

2 x 2-1/2 inch squares of cross fabric, plus one piece 2-1/2 by 6-1/2 inches

For the sashings on this size, cut 2-1/2 inch squares and 6-1/2 by 2-1/2 inch strips for the crossways parts, then 2-1/2 by 6-1/2 inch strips for the upright strips

For a 7-1/2 inch finished block, cut 4 x 3-1/2 inch squares and 4 x 2 inch squares of background fabric

2 x 2 inch squares of cross fabric, plus one piece 2 by 4-1/2 inches

For the sashings on this size, cut 2 inch squares and 4-1/2 by 2 inch strips for the crossways parts, then 2 inch by 4-1/2 inch strips for the upright strips

This pattern devised by Heather Hasthorpe and this worksheet was written by Heather and by Helen Howes

These instructions can be copied as much as you like and passed along; but please do not alter them in any way when doing this. Modern Quilt Group is keen on passing on the skills we all have to the next generations of sewists, in the knowledge that this is both satisfying and compulsive to a degree..



Teaching Notes

We are really happy to have you teach this block, and it's both easy and satisfying for students.. We have taught it many times; demonstrated it to lots of people, and often get emails with images of rather large quilts..

Please make a reasonable number of samples before you teach this on..

These cut economically and well from fat quarters. I recommend cotton fabrics, of course, and as with all patchwork, new students should use new cotton fabrics of good quality for the best results..

Because the blocks are each only two groups of fabrics, it's possible to add more colours or fabrics into a quilt at any time - you know that if you have a big and complex block with several colours, and then run out of one, it can ruin the result...

Seam allowances need to be consistent, and you should aim for 1/4 inch, but the basic block can be trimmed slightly if a little inaccurate. If teaching total beginners, perhaps make these bigger and trim down? Don't cut the sashings until you have finished enough blocks to finalise the size..

Pattern and teaching notes devised and developed by Heather Hasthorpe and Helen Howes, with sponsorship from Oakshott Fabrics and much help from many students and friends

You may copy these notes for teaching, personal or group use as you wish, providing that they remain in this form and include this statement and the Quilters' Guild logo.

Items made from this pattern can be offered for prizes, for sale and as gifts

If you wish to make any kind of commercial pattern using these ideas, you must devise your own written descriptions and diagrams; and I would regard it as a politeness if you would send us a copy..

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