



Crosscut Quilt Supplies

pam@lovedtopieces.com

Welcome! A special thank you to Debbie Jeske who blogs at A Quilter's Table, <http://aquilterstable.blogspot.com/>. Debbie generously granted permission for me to teach her Crosscut Quilt. I first saw her quilt on her Instagram Feed @aquilterstable, <https://www.instagram.com/aquilterstable/> and fell in love with the quilt. What a fun process and great way to play with improv patchwork! The quilt is made in two phases: make "X" blocks and sew them into 4x4, 4x6 or 5x5 grid(s). Phase 2 is the crazy phase ... cut squares from your grid of "X" blocks and sew them together! I often find it challenging to allow enough spontaneity in my quilts. With Crosscut, it's all about spontaneity and the surprise of secondary patterns that emerge to create a beautifully rhythmic quilt.

As you consider your fabric choices, think about contrast. Strong contrast is needed between the crosscut strips and the background fabrics. Whether light or dark, an array of background fabrics that are close in value will read in a visually unified manner. Because the crosscut strips are narrow, they can be vivid and colorfully vibrant. For my quilt, I wanted to experiment with a neutral palette of low volume prints ranging from cream/white to dark gray. I made two "X" block grids, each 5x5. In the first grid, I used only cream to medium gray prints then used medium to dark gray prints in the second grid. Inspired by Valori Wells' love of blue, I chose a variety of vivid blue prints for my crosscut strips.

Please bring

- Block background squares: Fifty to eighty 10" squares depending on the size quilt you wish to make. I happened to have on hand two layer cakes of low volume neutral prints. If you prefer yardage, use fifteen to twenty $\frac{1}{3}$ -yard cuts and/or scraps. For favorite fabrics you want to occur more often in your quilt, get larger $\frac{2}{3}$ or 1-yard cuts of those. Ombre or gradation fabrics are beautifully effective.
- Crosscut strips: a variety of 1" to 1½" strips. Scraps are great for the crosscut strips. Think about the color story ... ideas might include brightly colored strips in a single hue or a trio of hues that are close together, a rainbow assortment of brights, a palette of warm colors or an assortment of cool hues.
- No pattern is required; I will provide complete instructions in class.
- Sewing machine in good working order with power cord, foot control, manual, matching thread, small sharp scissors/snips, seam ripper, pins, marking pens/pencils, ¼-inch sewing machine foot.
- Basic sewing supplies including spare sewing machine needles.
- Cutting supplies: medium cutting mat, long rectangular ruler, 8½" square ruler or larger, rotary cutter with fresh, sharp blade.
- Irons and ironing boards are provided in the classroom.

Before Class

Please cut the background squares and crosscut strips:

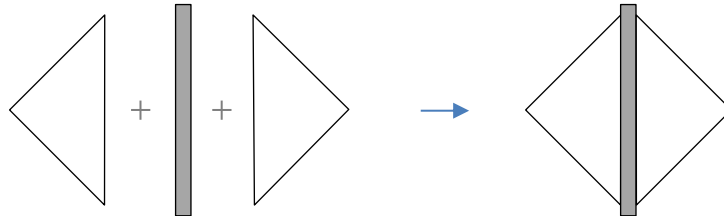
- From the block background fabrics, cut at least sixty 10" squares. That will give you enough squares to make two 5x5 grids and have some leftover squares that you can use when you assemble the blocks in phase 2.
- From the crosscut strip fabrics, cut a variety strips 1" to 1½" wide by 16-18" long. I wanted to experiment with strip widths ranging from 1" to 1½" but they can all be the same width if desired. Shorter strips may be pieced together. You need a total of ~100 strips, two per block.



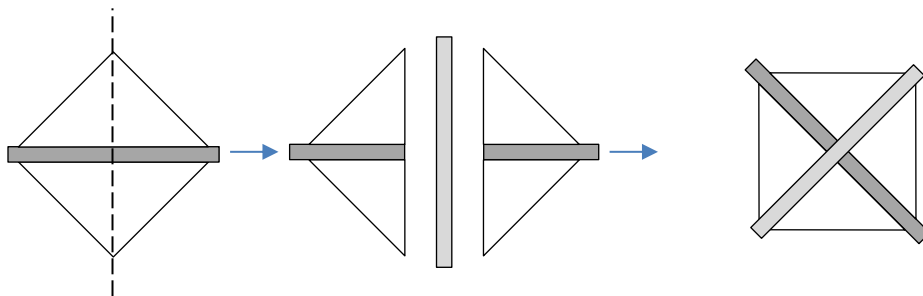
Construction

If you'd like to get a jump on things, you may piece strips into your background squares. Class mantra: precision is *not* required!

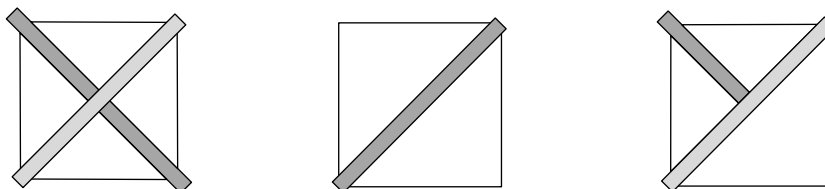
1. Stack and align 3 or 4 background squares right sides up. Cut along the diagonal from corner to corner.
2. Sew a strip to half of the background triangles. Sew a second background triangle to the strip. Consider whether you want to match or vary the combinations of triangles used in the blocks ... or spontaneously mix it up. If there are long bothersome tails on the center strip, trim them so they are out of your way but leave $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" so you have a block corner. Press seam allowances towards the center strip or as desired.



3. Crosscut each block along the diagonal, aligning a ruler so it is perpendicular to the center strip. Sew a second strip to half of the background triangles. Complete the block by sewing a second background triangle unit to the strip again considering whether you like matched or varied combinations. Press seam allowances towards the center strip or as desired.



4. Block variations include the ideas shown below. The four background fabrics might match or be completely random or anything in between ... what if you piece some of the background scraps together? Experiment!



5. Take a look at your blocks before squaring them up. How much do they vary in size? I was able to square and trim the background blocks to $9\frac{1}{2}$ ". Other sizes are perfectly fine.

I look forward to a day of spontaneous sewing with you!