

CROSSES

(Quilts 4 Care Leavers April 2022)

This month's block is a simple cross block with three variations to allow you to make use of different sized scraps. All three variations produce blocks that are 9.5" square when you send them to me.

Please read all the instructions before you start, and use a 1/4" seam throughout. Press seams as directed.

Choosing Fabrics – Colour Scheme

As usual, please use good quality, 100% cotton quilting weight fabric. No licenced fabrics, please.

Each block uses a single bright rainbow colour plus EITHER white / off white / low volume OR black / charcoal / dark grey.

I am planning to make quilts that use these kinds of bright colours:



So, for the brights please use fabrics that read predominantly as a single bright colour from this list: red, orange, yellow, green, aqua, blue, purple, bright pink. Blenders, tone-on-tone fabrics, solids would work well.

The bright colour can be either the cross or the background of the block. In each block, please use a single fabric for the cross. The background can be scrappy but all one colour. See the example blocks below for suitable fabrics and colour placement.

For the mathematically minded, there are 96 different possible block / fabric combinations! For each of the 8 colours, you could combine it with black or white, with the colour as the background or as the cross. And there are 3 different crosses you could choose. $8 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 = 96$.

Making the Blocks - Cutting

Variation 1: thin cross

- Background (scrappy):** A: Four 4.5" x 4.5"
B: Four 1.5" x 2"
- Cross (one fabric):** C: One 1.5" x 6.5"
D: Two 1.5" x 3"

Variation 2: medium cross

- Background (scrappy):** A: Four 4" x 4"
B: Four 2.5" x 2"
- Cross (one fabric):** C: One 2.5" x 6.5"
D: Two 2.5" x 2.5"

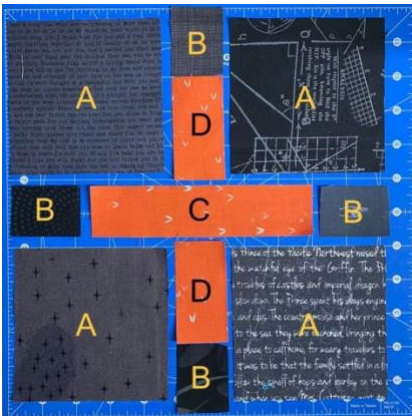
Variation 3: thick cross

- Background (scrappy):** A: Four 3.5" x 3.5"
B: Four 3.5" x 2"
- Cross (one fabric):** C: One 3.5" x 6.5"
D: Two 3.5" x 2"

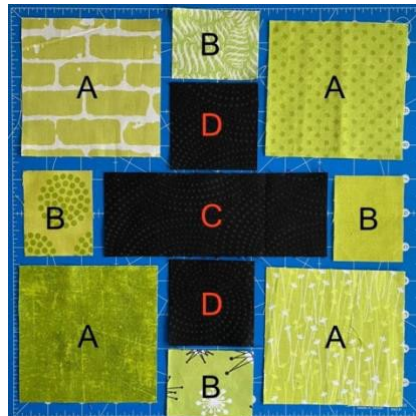
Making the Blocks - Sewing

All blocks are constructed in the same way.

1. Lay your pieces out before you start sewing.



thin cross

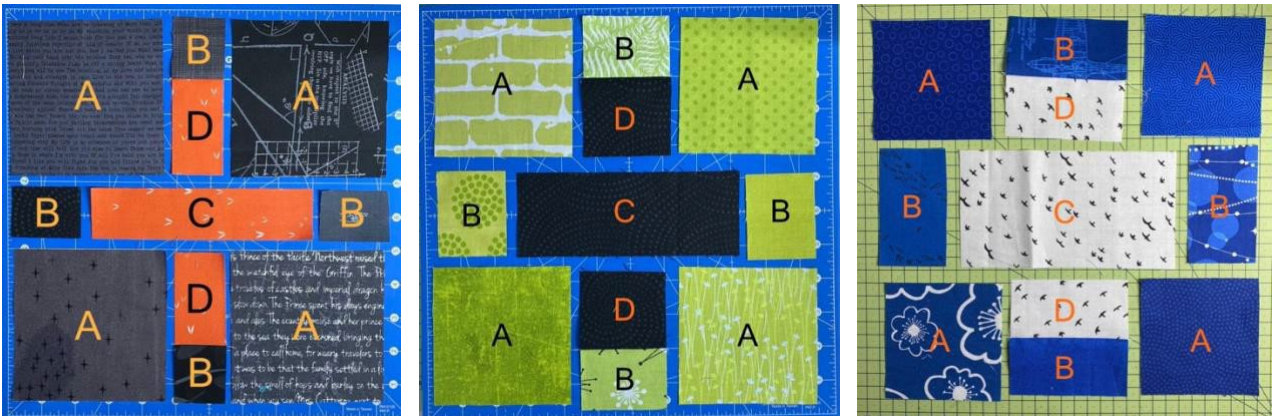


medium cross



thick cross

- Sew a background B piece to a cross D piece. Repeat for the other pair of pieces. Press seams towards the darker fabric.



- Sew the remaining background B pieces to either end of the cross C piece. Press seams towards the darker fabric.



- Sew two background A pieces to either side of a B-D unit. Repeat for the other background A pieces and B-D unit. Press seams towards the A piece.



5. Sew the 3 rows of the block together. This step will be more accurate if you pin both ends of the seam and all intersecting seams before sewing. Press seams towards the centre B-C unit.



6. Your block should now measure 9.5" square. If it is too large, please trim to size, making sure that the cross is centred.

