

TRANSPARENCY DESIGN

YVONNE FUCHS



I have developed an affinity for using transparency and color value as a technique for achieving a balance and interest in my quilt pattern designs. One definition of transparency is "something... viewed by light shining through it."¹ The design inspiration of streaks of sunlight as viewed underwater in combination with a large, graphic design make Sunburst a fun quilt to explore transparency.

Transparency quilts play with subtleties of fabric values to create layered effects. The key to creating a successful transparency quilt is in the fabric selection. I suggest starting by evaluating fabric side by side to select fabrics with the same color tones. For instance, if you would like to create a transparency quilt using red fabric, start by auditioning red fabrics together and remove reds with a blue under tone in favor of reds with an orange under tone (or vice versa).

Once an initial fabric pull has been made, it is time to evaluate the value of the fabric. The easiest way to evaluate the value of your fabric pull is to photograph the fabric together, open the photograph in a photo editor, and convert the photo to black and white. Note that this is not the same as applying a filter to the photo as filters do not create a pure greyscale image. Once the photo is converted to black and white (greyscale), you can evaluate how even the steps in tone are between your fabric choices. For fabrics that appear to close in tone, they will be almost the same shade of gray in the black and white photograph, and additional fabric editing would result in a more successful transparency design.

In addition to paying attention to the tone and value of the fabrics, scale (which is the size of a fabric's print) is also very important when choosing fabrics in a transparency quilt. Small-scale prints recede in a design and read as a single color, and large-scale prints with lots of color variation will be more difficult to successfully incorporate into a transparency design. One rule of thumb for those new to working with transparency would be to work with solids or modern blenders that read as solid, even at close range.

And like in this design segment, color value can also be used as a fun effect in blocks that do not have a transparency design to create the illusion of 3D or add interest to the design. In the Cross Check Mini Quilt, color value will be used to explore a 3D look of a traditional block, the King's cross, and the elements of the block extended into negative space to create a fun, modern design.

CROSS CHECK MINI QUILT

Light Value Fabric – ¼ yard

- Cut (1) 7" x WOF strip
 - Subcut into (3) 7" and (3) 3 ½" squares

Medium Value Fabric – ¼ yard

- Cut (1) 7" x WOF strip
 - Subcut into (3) 7" and (3) 3 ½" squares

Dark Value Fabric – 5/8 yard

- Cut (1) 12 ½" x WOF strip
 - Subcut into (2) 12 ½" and (2) 6 ½" squares
- Cut (2) 3 ½" x WOF strips
 - Subcut into (12) 3 ½" squares

Backing – 28" square / 1 yard

Binding – 3/8 yard

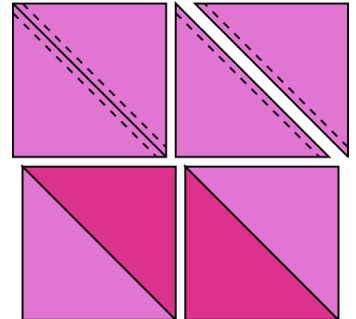


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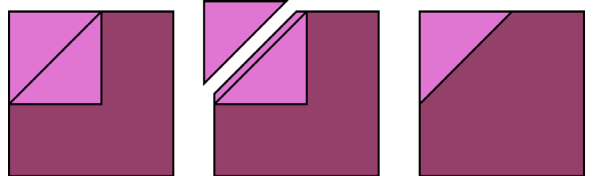
1. Pair (1) Light value and (1) Medium value 7" square right sides together (RST). Using a fabric marking device of your choice, draw a line diagonally on the wrong side of the lighter fabric. Sew a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on either side of the marked line. Cut apart on the marked diagonal line. Press seams open and trim to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square. Repeat to make (6) 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " half-square triangles (HSTs).



2. On the wrong side of the (12) Dark value 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares, (3) 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Light value squares, and (3) 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Medium value draw a line diagonally.
3. Place two Dark value 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares RST on HST as shown. Sew along the marked line and trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press open. Repeat to make (6) 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square blocks.



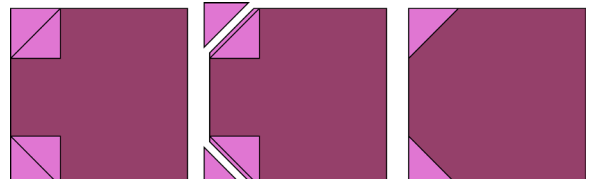
4. Place one Light value 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square RST on a Dark value 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square as shown. Sew along the marked line and trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press open.



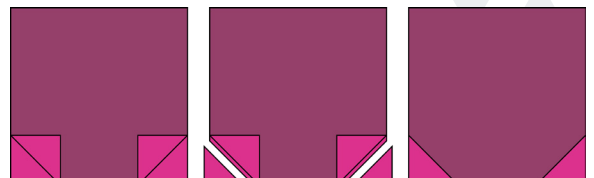
5. Place one Medium value 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square RST on a Dark Value 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square as shown. Sew along the marked line and trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press open.



6. Place two Light value 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares RST on a Dark Value 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square as shown. Sew along the marked line and trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press open.



7. Place two Medium value 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares RST on a Dark Value 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square as shown. Sew along the marked line and trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press open.



QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLES

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8. Arrange blocks as shown in the Cross Check Mini Quilt Assembly Diagram. Pressing seams open, sew sub-units into 12 1/2" blocks, then blocks into rows, and finally rows together to make 24 1/2" square quilt top.
9. Layer backing (wrong side up), batting, and quilt top. Baste the layers together using your preferred method. Quilt as desired.
10. From binding fabric, cut (3) 2 1/2" x WOF strips and join the strips together using your preferred joining technique to create a double folded binding roll. Trim quilt square and bind using your favorite binding technique.

I would love to see what you create using this pattern, so feel free to tag me on Instagram (@quiltingjetgirl), use #CrossCheckMiniQuilt, or email me a photo of your finished quilt (jetgirl8(at)gmail(dot)com).

ABOUT YVONNE FUCHS

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Quilting Jetgirl <http://quiltingjetgirl.com/>

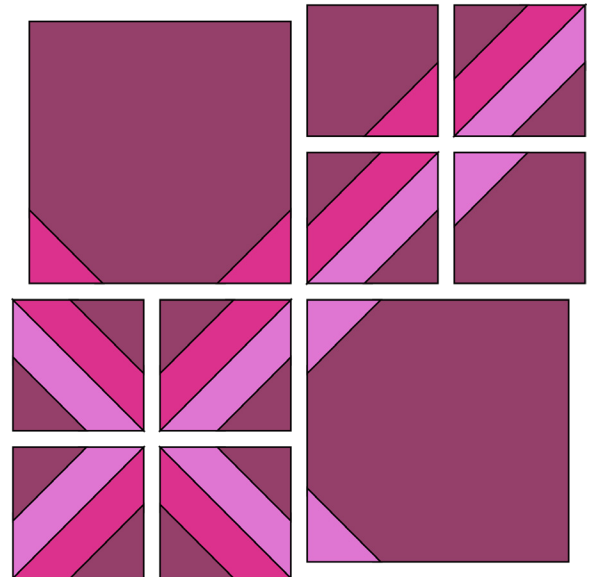
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Cross Check Mini Quilt Assembly Pattern

UNDERWRITTEN BY:

JANOME
WHAT'S NEXT



JANOME HORIZON MEMORY CRAFT 9400

SEWING MACHINE SPECS



JANOME HORIZON MEMORY CRAFT 9400

<http://janome.com/en/machines/sewing/9400/>

The time spent behind your sewing machine is some of the most precious, so you deserve a machine that lets you get the most out of it. Created with special, easy and time-saving features, the Horizon Memory Craft 9400 is unlocking limitless possibilities for quilters to escape into a world of pure creativity. Quilters now have a full 11" of bed space to the right of the needle to store extra fabric from a quilt. In addition, quilters can enjoy exceptionally smooth quilt piecing with the included AcuFeed™ Flex Layered Fabric Feeding System; achieve faster performance with a sewing speed of 1,060 SPM and view their work, shadow-free, with the machine's retractable High Light™. Navigation through all of these features has become easier with the MC9400's new LCD color touchscreen.

- Top loading bobbin system
- Straight stitch needle plate included
- Maximum sewing speed: 1,060 stitches per minute
- Improved ergonomic shape
- One-step needle plate conversion with 3 needle plates
- Create your own decorative stitch with Stitch Composer
- Full Intensity lighting system with cool touch LED lamps
- Superior needle threader
- Detachable AcuFeed Flex Layered Fabric Feeding system
- Variable zig zag
- Advanced needleplate markings
- Sewing Applications on-screen support
- 11" to the right of the needle
- retractable and adjustable sewing light



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WHAT'S NEXT

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