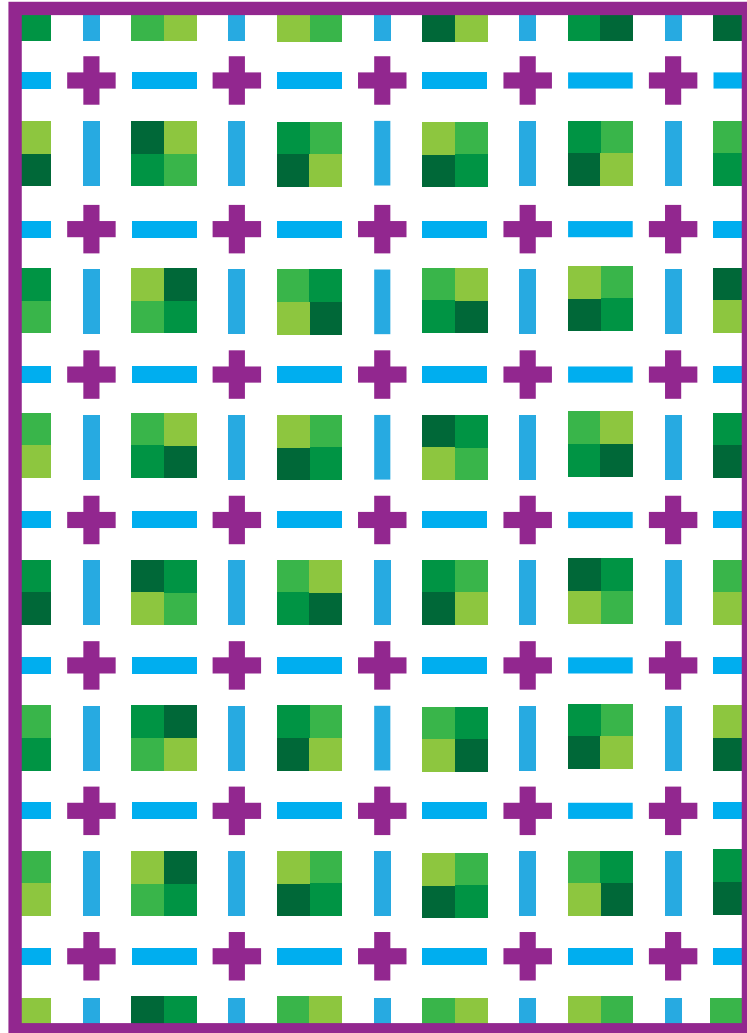


# Plus or Minus Quilt

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Pattern  
of the  
Month

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This crib or throw-size quilt was inspired by a pattern from a grown-up coloring book. It is block-based and while each block involves many pieces, everything can be sewn with simple straight seams -- no curves, angles, or paper piecing required!

The quilt top is made of 35 blocks (5 blocks wide by 7 blocks tall) that measure 9" square when finished for a total size of 45" x 63". If you want a larger quilt, that could be easily done by adding more blocks.

## Supplies

Quilt Top	Color A (Squares)	2/3 yd total of 4-5 similar colors/prints (or scraps)
	Color B (Background)	2 yd
	Color C (Minus signs)	1/2 yd
	Color D (Plus signs)	1/3 yd
Binding	1/2 yd	
Backing	3 yards (4 yards if using a directional pattern)	
Batting	53" x 71"	

Use a 1/4" seam allowance for all steps.

## Plus or Minus Block Introduction

This quilt requires 35 blocks, each made up of 23 pieces. Each block will measure 9 1/2" to result in a finished size of 9" square.

Note that the corner pieces (in green here) will form larger squares when the blocks are joined together. Instead of using the same color, it's more fun to use similarly colored fabrics or prints for a varied, scrappy look. As indicated on the supply list, to do this you will need at least 4-5 different fabrics that when combined total at least 2/3 yard. Fat quarters or fat eighths would work well. You could also use scraps from previous projects.



## Cutting Instructions

The table below contains all the information you need to cut your fabrics. For Color A, how you cut will depend on what combination of fabric sizes you are using (fat quarters, scraps, etc). For Colors B, C, and D you will cut strips according to the dimensions listed. Then subcut each set of strips into smaller pieces as described. These correspond to the piece numbers labeled in the block diagram above. Once you have finished cutting, you should have the number of pieces indicated in the far right column below.

Color	Size of Strip	# of Strips	Subcut Strips Into:	Piece #	# Needed	
					Per Block	Total
Color A	Cut fabrics/scraps into 2 1/2" squares.			A	4	140
Color B	2 1/2" x WOF	9	2 1/2" squares	B1	4	140
	2 1/2" x WOF	16	2 1/2" x 4 1/2"	B2	4	140
	1 1/2" x WOF	5	1 1/2" squares	B3	4	140
Color C	1 1/2" x WOF	9	1 1/2" x 2 1/2"	C	4	140
Color D	1 1/2" x WOF	3	1 1/2" squares	D1	2	70
	1 1/2" x WOF	3	1 1/2" x 3 1/2"	D2	1	35

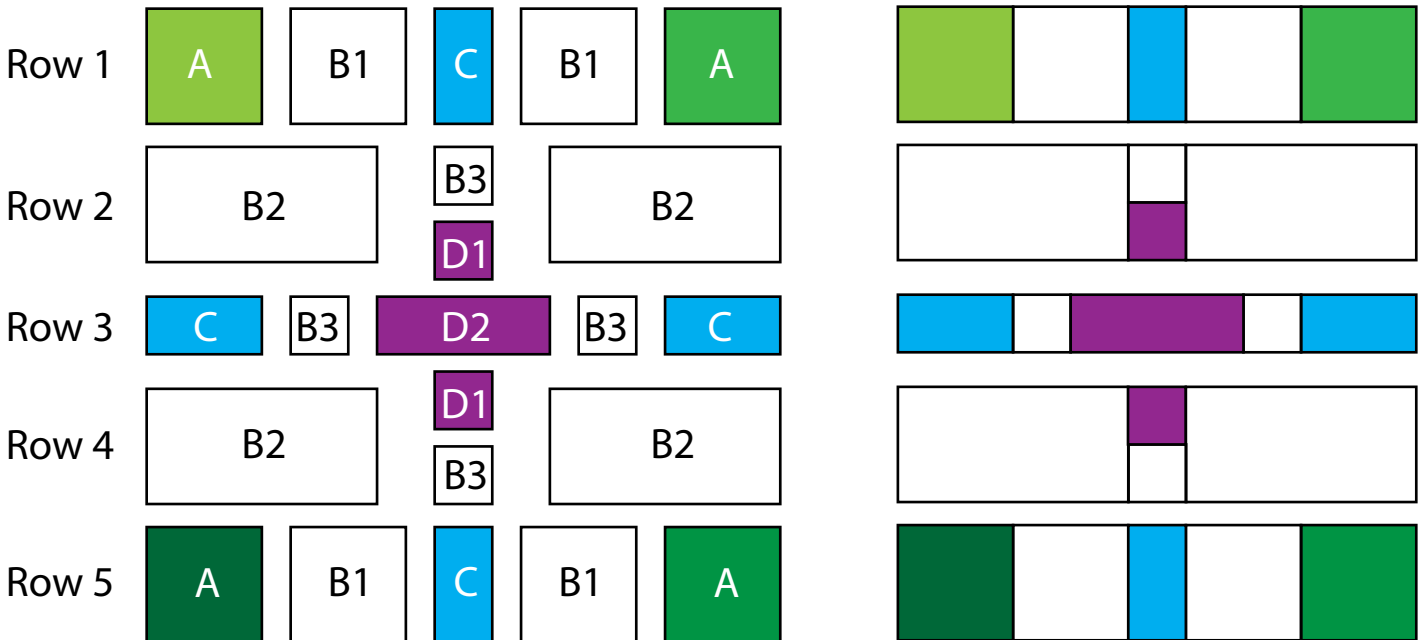
WOF = width of fabric

# Block Construction

The block unit is constructed of 5 rows. Rows 1 and 5 are identical. Rows 2 and 4 are also identical. Sew pieces together in the order listed below. Each row will measure 9 1/2" wide. Rows 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be 2 1/2" tall and Row 3 will be 1 1/2" tall.

Row 1 & Row 5: A - B1 - C - B1 - A  
Row 2 & Row 4: B3 - D1, then B2 - B3/D1 - B2  
Row 3: C - B3 - D2 - B3 - C

Once each row of the block is pieced, sew each row together to result in a 9 1/2" block.



Repeat until you have completed 35 blocks. Sew blocks together in rows of 5 to result in 7 rows. Sew rows together to complete the quilt top.

## Finishing the Quilt

### Backing

1. Cut backing yardage in half to result in two pieces measuring 54" x width of fabric. Trim off the selvages. (For directional patterns, cut yardage in half to result in two pieces measuring
2. Piece together along the long (54") sides. This will result in a backing measuring 54" x approximately 80". The seam will run horizontally across the back of the quilt.

Note: For directional fabric, cut yardage in half to result in two pieces measuring 72" x width of fabric. Piece together along the long (72") sides. Trim to 53" x 72". The seam will run vertically down the back of the quilt.

## Quilting

1. Layer the quilt top, batting and backing.
2. Baste and quilt as desired.

## Binding

1. From binding fabric, cut six 2.5" strips along the width of fabric.
2. Join the strips together end to end with a diagonal seam.
3. Press the binding in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.
4. Align the raw edge of the binding with the edge of the quilt. Sew the binding to the front of the quilt, joining the ends with another diagonal seam.
5. Machine or hand stitch the binding to the back of the quilt to finish.