



DESIGNER DEBRA L. ROBERTS OF THE QUILTED MOOSE





# nature's neutrals

## materials

- ▶ 37—9×22" pieces (fat eighths) assorted light to medium prints in cream, gray, tan, pink, light blue, and light green (blocks)
- ▶ 37—9×22" pieces (fat eighths) assorted dark prints in black, brown, red, blue, and green (blocks)
- ▶  $\frac{5}{8}$  yard dark gray plaid (binding)
- ▶ 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  yards backing fabric
- ▶ 67×85" batting

**Finished quilt:** 59×77"  
**Finished blocks:** 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square

**Quantities** are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics. **Measurements** include  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

## cut fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

**From each light to medium print, cut:**

- ▶ 6—1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ×5" strips
- ▶ 6—1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ×3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips

- ▶ 6—1×3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips (you will use 220 of the 222 total cut)
- ▶ 6—1×2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips (you will use 220 of the 222 total cut)
- ▶ 3—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

**From each dark print, cut:**

- ▶ 6—1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ×5" strips (you will use 220 of the 222 total cut)
- ▶ 6—1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ×3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips (you will use 220 of the 222 total cut)
- ▶ 6—1×3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips
- ▶ 6—1×2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips
- ▶ 3—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (you will use 110 of the 111 total cut)

**From dark gray plaid, cut:**

- ▶ 7—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×42" binding strips

**KIT:** To order a kit of similar fabrics for quilt top and binding, send \$159.99 ppd. to The Quilted Moose, 109 Enterprise Dr., Gretna, NE 68028; 402/332-4178; [quiltedmooseonline.com](http://quiltedmooseonline.com). Fat-eighth bundles of five prints and three wovens are available for \$14.99 each plus shipping.



## assemble blocks

**1** For one dark block, gather two  $1 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " strips and two  $1 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips from one light or medium print, two  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 5$ " strips and two  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " strips from one dark print, and one assorted dark print  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square.

**2** Sew light or medium print  $1 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips to opposite edges of dark print  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square (Diagram 1). Press seams toward strips. Add light or medium print  $1 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " strips to remaining edges to make block center. Press seams toward strips.

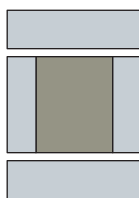


DIAGRAM 1

## tips for accurate blocks

- To tame loosely woven fabrics, or ensure stripes and plaids stay on grain, spray them with starch, Best Press ([maryellenproducts.com](http://maryellenproducts.com)), or Magic Sizing ([magicsizing.com](http://magicsizing.com)) before cutting and piecing.
- Cut all strips for the blocks lengthwise (parallel to the selvages) to make use of the more stable lengthwise grain.



- 3** Join dark print  $1\frac{1}{4}\times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " strips to opposite edges of block center (**Diagram 2**). Add dark print  $1\frac{1}{4}\times 5$ " strips to remaining edges to make a dark block. Press all seams away from block center. The block should be 5" square including seam allowances.

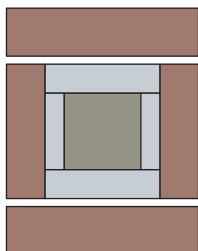


DIAGRAM 2

- 4** Repeat steps 1–3 to make 110 dark blocks total.
- 5** For one light block, gather two  $1\times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " strips and two  $1\times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips from one dark print, two  $1\frac{1}{4}\times 5$ " strips and two  $1\frac{1}{4}\times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " strips from one light or medium print, and one assorted light or medium print  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square. Referring to **Diagram 3**, repeat steps 2 and 3 to make a light block. Repeat to make 111 light blocks total.

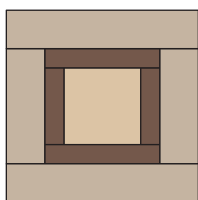


DIAGRAM 3

## assemble quilt top

- 1** Referring to **Quilt Assembly Diagram**, lay out blocks in 17 rows, rotating every other block to alternate block seams (**Diagram 4**). Designer Debra L. Roberts distributed light and dark blocks randomly to enhance the quilt's scrappy look.



QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

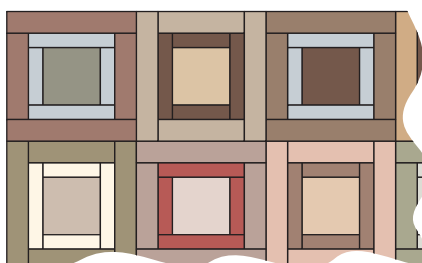
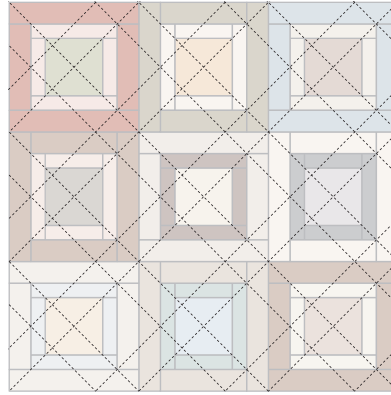


DIAGRAM 4

- 2** Sew together blocks in each row. Press seams in one direction, alternating direction with each row. Join rows to make quilt top. Press seams in one direction.

### finish quilt

- 1** Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. (For details, see Complete Quilt, Pattern Sheet 4.)
- 2** Quilt as desired. Debra stitched in the ditch around each block. She also created a diagonal grid across the quilt top by stitching from corner to corner through each block then adding a second line of stitching 1" away (Quilting Diagram).
- 3** Bind with dark gray plaid binding strips. (For details, see Complete Quilt.)



QUILTING DIAGRAM



### color option



Like shortcuts? A charm pack is perfect for this pattern's 2½" squares and narrow strips. Quilt tester Laura Boehnke used 1930s reproduction prints from Judie Rothermel's Aunt Grace collection for Marcus Fabrics ([marcusfabrics.com](http://marcusfabrics.com); charm pack from [fatquartershop.com](http://fatquartershop.com)). The result is a scrappy table topper with more pronounced color variations than the original.