The Love Patchwork & Quilting guide to fussy cutting EPP for modern, kaleidoscopic effects!

To see more of these particular finished examples and other amazing work, visit Alexandra Luenz over at her Instagram feed:

@ALEXOUQ

A big BIG thank you to Alex for entrusting these La Passacaglia pieces to our Editor Jenny for her QuiltCon 2015 demo!
NOTES
- Use a 3/8in seam allowance throughout.
- We recommend acrylic templates from Paper Pieces, or you can make your own.
- Press all fabrics well before cutting (a little starch helps to give crisp edges).
- Our EPP shapes are glue basted, but use your preferred method.
- We love The Bottom Line thread by Superior Threads for piecing the basted shapes together.

FABRICS USED
- The fabrics featured are from Cotton+Steel.

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- www.lovepatchworkandquilting.com

VARIATIONS FROM A SINGLE PRINT

1. When fussy cutting, you need to look at the allover print and consider what you want to emphasise – use a clear template to select the element you want to cut.
   It helps to mark the real size (without seam allowance) with a washi tape on the acrylic ruler. This allows you to imagine how the connecting pieces will look once pieced (Fig a).

2. Here we’re cutting five-point diamonds for the centre of a Passacaglia rosette. The print pictured is Viewfinders from the Playful collection by Melody Miller for Cotton+Steel. We have chosen to highlight the text and the basic colours of the print, (Fig b). As this will be the very beginning of a larger design, it’s important to consider that this palette is used in the other prints in the collection, giving us much more flexibility when selecting fabric for the coming wreaths.

3. Use your template to cut identical elements of the print (Fig c). We think that a small rotary cutter (we’ve used a 28mm) is ideal for us with a template of this size.

4. As you can see, cutting different sections of the design gives a very different finish – play around with different placements until you achieve the desired effect (Fig d).
1. These shapes (four pentagons and one ten-point diamond) will combine to form part of the outer wreaths of a large Passacaglia rosette. Choose any print you would like to fussy cut (the print shown is Sketchbook from the Mesa collection by Alexia Marcelle Abegg for Cotton+Steel). Place the paper shapes on the part of the print you want to fussy cut. To avoid slipping you can tape individual paper shapes together with washi tape, as shown (Fig e).

2. Always start with your central shape – in this instance, the diamond. Place in the middle of the section of print that you want to fussy cut, taking care to be exact (Fig f).

3. Add the next logical shapes. We added the uppermost two pentagons (Fig g).

4. Now place the acrylic ruler on top of the right pentagon (if you don’t have an acrylic ruler we recommend that you make your own from strong vinyl) and hold in place (Fig h). Take care that you don’t slip. Whilst holding the acrylic template in place gently slide the paper piece out from underneath.
DUPLICATING A SINGLE MOTIF cont...

5 Cut out, then replace the paper pieces and layer the acrylic template over the hole in your fabric, as shown (Fig i). This way you can check that the fabric you’ve cut is in the right place.

6 Consider which shape to cut next for maximum fabric efficiency. In this example, we chose the cut the bottom left pentagon (Fig j).

7 As in Step 4, position your acrylic template over the paper pieces, remove the papers and cut out (Fig k).

8 To cut the central shape, place one of your cut pieces of fabric in place over the print – matching it exactly. Place the acrylic template over the top and gently remove the fabric and instead insert the paper pieces (Fig l).
DUPLICATING A SINGLE MOTIF cont...

9 Use the paper templates to carefully position the acrylic template as shown (Fig m). Using the same technique as before, cut out the central shape.

10 To cut the remaining two pentagons, position the diamond cut for the centre of the EPP shape accurately over the same motif on the fabric. Position the acrylic template on top of this and use the template as a guide for positioning the pentagon papers (Fig n).

11 Follow Steps 2–7 to cut out the remaining two pentagon pieces (Fig o).

12 Once you’ve cut your first set of EPP shapes, consider how best to cut the next round for maximum fabric efficiency. Remember to use your acrylic template to ensure that your paper pieces are basted to your fabric accurately (Fig p).

MEET THE MAKER
Alexandra Luenz is the superstar behind our gorgeous Passacaglia rosettes (pattern taken from Millefiori Quilts by Willyne Hammerstein). She describes her style as “German precision meets world diversity expressed through modern colours, forms and fabrics”. She’s passionate about patchwork and is preparing all sorts of exciting ideas for patterns to share with the world very soon! Alex loves to travel and explore the world. She’s currently based with her family in the Munich outback preparing for their next adventure. Follow Alex’s fussy-cutting antics over at her Instagram feed: @ALEXOUQ