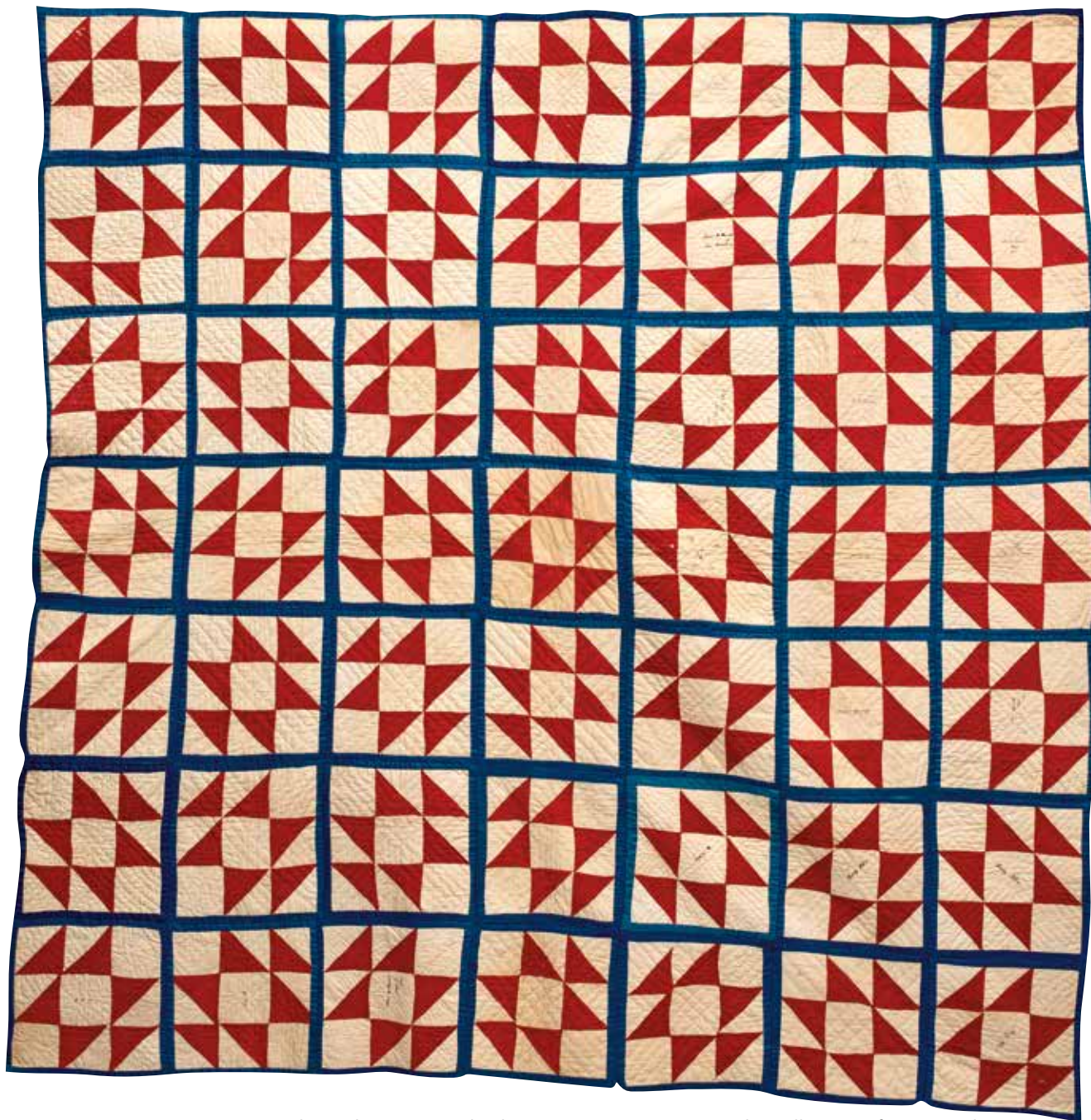


Crosses & Losses

by Pam Weeks



CROSSES & LOSSES, 71" x 71", maker unknown, inscribed 1862, Saco, Maine. From the collection of Pam Weeks.




Quilts made 150 years ago during the Civil War are very rare, and even more rare are those made block by block, or “potholder” style. (For more information on potholder quilts, read “Civil War Soldiers’ Potholder Quilts” in the September 2012 issue of *American Quilter* magazine, available online to AQS members.) The instructions that follow are for making this quilt in the traditional manner. To complete it potholder style, please see the “Block by Block” sidebar. For more detailed information on making quilts, see the AQS Quiltmaking Essentials at www.AmericanQuilter.com.

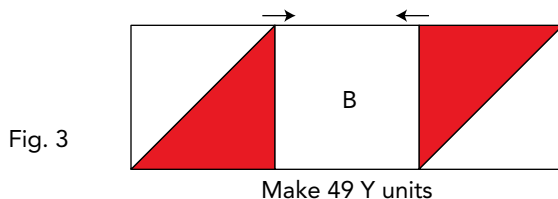
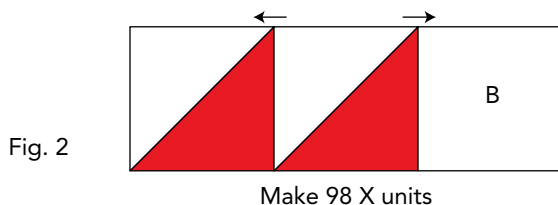
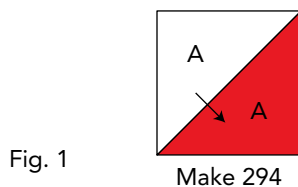
Piecing the blocks

Join a red A triangle and a white A triangle. Press seam allowances toward the darker fabric. Make 294 of these half-square triangle units (fig. 1). Editor’s note: For alternate methods of making half-square triangles, see “Half-Square Triangles: A Half-Dozen Ways” by Gail Valentine in the January 2010 issue of *American Quilter* magazine (available online for AQS members).

Following figure 2, join 2 half-square triangle units and a B square. Press seam allowances away from the center. Make 98 X units.

Following figure 3, join 2 half-square triangle units and a B

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS		Skill level: Easy
Quilt size: 71" x 71"		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements are based on 40" fabric width. • Strips are cut selvage to selvage unless otherwise noted. • An extra 2" has been added to the length of the border and sashing strips to allow for adjustments.
Finished block size: 9" x 9"		
Red – 1⅞ yards	• 294 A	
White – 3¼ yards	• 294 A, 147 B	
Blue – 2¼ yards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • border top/bottom, 2 strips 1½" x 73½"* • border sides, 2 strips 1½" x 71½"* • sashing, 6 strips 1½" x 71½"* 	
Binding – ⅝ yard	• 42 C	
Backing – 4¾ yards	• 8 strips 2¼" x 40" for 294" of continuous binding	
Batting	• 2 panels 40" x 79"	
		* These strips are cut parallel to the selvage
ROTARY CUTTING		Rotary dimensions include seam allowances.
	A – 3⅞" x 3⅞"	
	B – 3½" x 3½"	



square, this time in a different order. Press seam allowances toward the center. Make 49 Y units.

Following figure 4, sew 2 X units and 1 Y unit together to make a block. Press seam allowances all in one direction. Make 49 blocks.

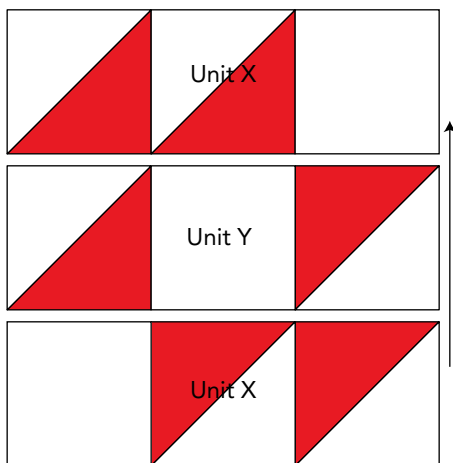


Fig. 4

Make 49 blocks

Assembling the quilt center

Referring to the quilt assembly diagram, lay the blocks out in 7 rows of 7 blocks. Pay attention to the orientation of the blocks. Place blue C (sashing) pieces between the blocks in each row. Sew the blocks and sashing pieces together into rows. Press all seam allowances toward the sashing pieces.

Measure the width of your rows. Take the average row width and cut 6 long sashing strips to this measurement. Sew the block rows and sashing strips together, alternating rows with strips, and starting and ending with a block row. Press seam allowances toward the sashing strips.

Adding the borders

Press the quilt center well. Measure the vertical length of the quilt through the center. Cut 2 border strips to this measurement. Sew them to the sides of the quilt. Press all seam allowances toward the border. Measure the width of the quilt through the center, in-

cluding the side borders you just added. Cut 2 strips this length and sew them to the top and bottom of the quilt.

Quilting and finishing

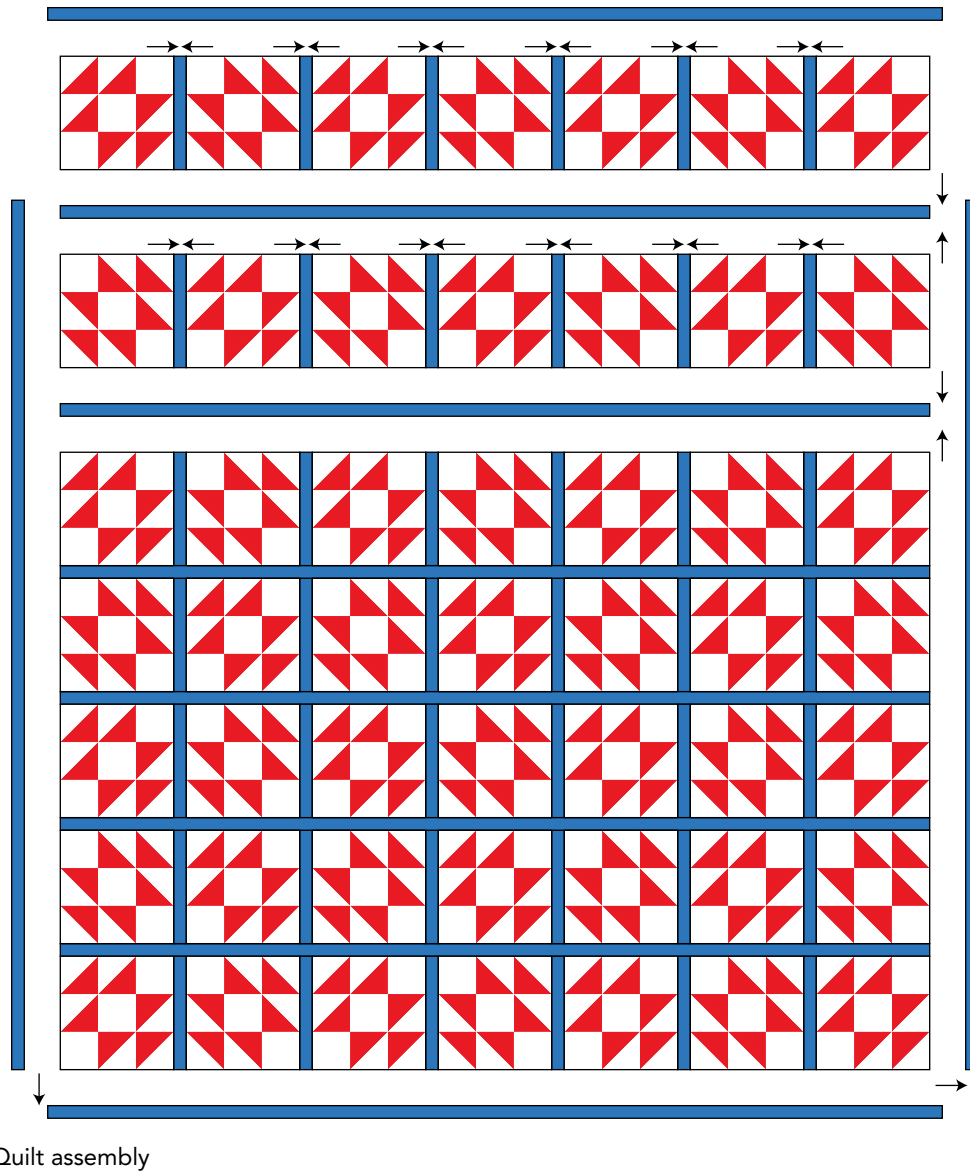
Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Baste the layers together. Stitch in the ditch around the sashing and triangles in the blocks, or free-motion quilt an overall design on the quilt. To make your quilt look like a potholder quilt, stitch lengthwise down the middle of the sashing.

Sew the binding strips together to make 294" of continuous binding. Finish the edges of your quilt with double-fold binding.

Block by block

This patriotic quilt is fun to piece and makes a great, portable project. Take it to a gathering and have your friends and family sign the blocks for an authentic Civil War-style remembrance quilt.

If you wish to make this quilt "potholder style" you do not need sashing. Instead you must finish each block individually. To do this, cut batting and backing pieces larger than the blocks, and quilt the blocks (by hand or machine) one at a time. Bind each block with single-fold binding (you will need a 42" length of 1 1/4" wide strips for each block). Make sure the binding corners are exactly square and the batting completely fills the binding so it gives a nice quilted appearance when the blocks are joined. Join the blocks by whipstitching by hand or by machine zigzagging only through the binding (not the batting).



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