

# gather in the square

by rhonda jordan



Rhonda Jordan of Tabby Fabric & Studio shared this Josef Albers-inspired design with *Generation Q* readers in our Spring 2013 issue, where we also wrote about her unique modern shop in Beaufort, South Carolina. In this simple design, Rhonda marries subtle texture with shape to create a freshened take on Albers' beloved square. Rhonda used Kona solid fabrics by Robert Kaufman Fabrics. The colors are listed in the materials list.

designed by rhonda jordan of  
 tabby fabric & studio  
 skill level: confident  
 finished size:  
 42" x 42"  
 block size: 21½ x 21½

#### overall materials:

- Inner squares: 5 ½" X 11" of (4) different solids (we used Kona Orange, Wisteria, Bubble Gum and Peridot) and:
  - ◆ ¼ yard of muslin
- First Border: fat quarter each of (4) different solids (we used Kona Azure, Navy, Tangerine and Turquoise)
- Second border: 1/3 yard each of (2) different grays (we used Kona Ash and Medium Gray)
- Outer border: 1 ¼ yard of white (we used Kona Snow)
- Binding: ½ yard of light green (we used Kona Peridot)
- Batting: 50" X 50"
- Backing: 2 ¼ yards

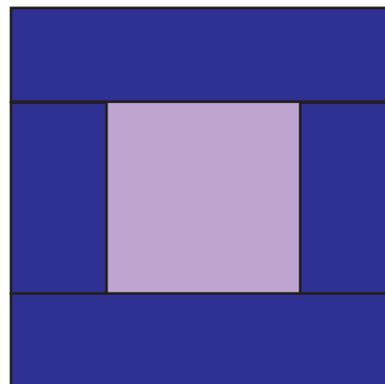
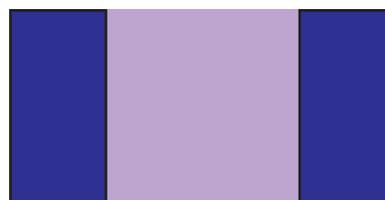
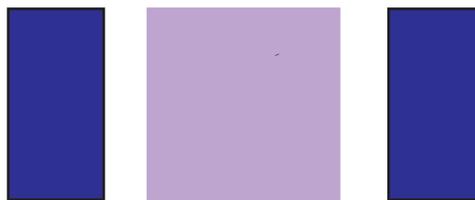
#### cutting:

- Cut (4) 5 ½" squares from muslin.
- From each inner square color, cut (1) 5 ½" X 11" strip
- First border: from each of the (4) colors cut: (2) 4" X WOF strips; then cut:
  - ◆ (2) 4" X 5 ½" rectangles, and (2) 4" X 12 ½" rectangles
- Second border: from each of the gray fabrics: Cut (3) 4" X WOF strips; then cut (4) 4" X 9 ½" rectangles, and (4) 4" X 16 ½"
- From the white: cut (8) 4 ½" strips; then cut (8) 4 ½" X 14 ½" rectangles; trim the strips to 3 ½" and cut (8) 3 ½" X 22 ½" rectangles.
- Cut (5) 2 ½" X WOF strips for binding

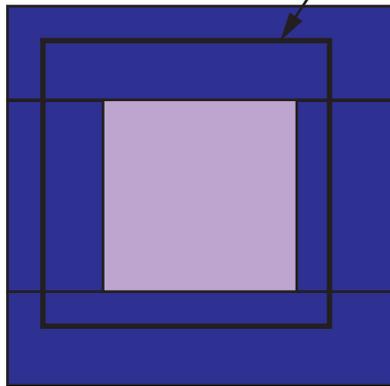
#### piecing:

- The inner squares get their texture from a decorative technique known as ruching. This is done with a gathering stitch on your machine. Set your stitch length to 3-4 on your sewing machine and stitch along the long sides of all four inner square fabrics using a scant ¼" seam. Pull the top thread until the 11" length 'shrinks' to fit the 5 ½" muslin base square. Pin in place, and stitch the gathered stitches in place within ¼" seam allowance.
- Add the 4" X 5 ½" rectangles to (2) opposite sides of

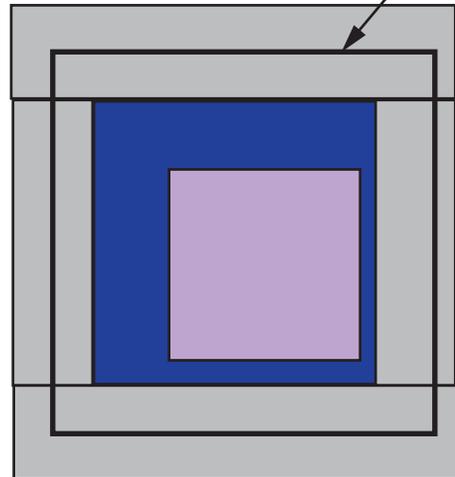
each square and press to the rectangles. Then, add the 4" X 12 ½" rectangles to the other (2) sides and press to the rectangles. Trim the blocks to 9 ½" square. They can be trimmed unevenly, so be creative.



trim block to 9 1/2" square



trim finished block to 21 1/2"



- NOTE: The easiest way to trim these large blocks is with a square ruler of at least 22". Since these rulers this big can be hard to find and pricey, you can instead work with two or three long rulers held firmly together to create the width you'll need. If you're really careful, you can also use the lines on your rotary mat to trim your larger blocks to size. Don't forget that if you're measuring the block from the true center and lining up the ruler's horizontal lines against the horizontal seam lines, you'll be following the right angles needed to accurately trim the blocks.

- Add the 4" X 9 1/2" gray rectangles to (2) sides, then add the 4" X 16 1/2" same gray rectangles to the opposite (2) sides. Press to the rectangles and trim the blocks to 14 1/2" square. (Again, be creative with your trimming so that they all look different.)

- Add the white 4 1/2" X 14 1/2" rectangles to (2) sides and the 3 1/2" X 22 1/2" rectangles to the opposite (2) sides. Press to the white and trim to 21 1/2" square.

- Sew the blocks together in a four-patch arrangement with the two different gray fabric opposite from each other.

- Layer, baste and quilt (ours is quilted in straight lines) and then trim and bind to finish. Add a fabric sleeve on the back if you'd like to hang it. ✨

