

# YOU ROCK!

This quick little wall hanging pattern is my gift to you, my readers, because YOU ROCK! Make one for someone in your life that you appreciate, too!



## **BASIC INFO BEFORE YOU GET STARTED:**

- **Basic Quilting Skills:** This pattern assumes you know how to use rotary cutting tools and sew a quarter-inch seam. If you don't have a handle on these things yet, pop into your local quilt store and get a lesson or two. Once you have your basic construction skills down, quilting becomes a lot more fun!
- **Basic Finishing Skills:** This pattern also assumes you know how to add borders, construct a back, layer a quilt, quilt it (or send it out!), and put on the binding. Again, check with your local quilt store for lessons or youtube.com for tutorials, if you need a hand.
- **Pressing:** In general, press all seams away from the letters, if possible so that they lay flat. If that doesn't work, just press in the direction that fights back the least!
- **Printing:** When you print out the paper-piecing patterns, be sure to choose "Actual Size" in your Print Options dialog box. Any other option might print them smaller.
- **Paper Options:** Basic printer paper works fine for paper piecing, but if you want a treat, pick up some newsprint sheets (I use Carol Doak's Foundation Paper by C&T). The lighter paper sews like a dream, is semi-transparent, and tears off easily - all good things for paper piecing.

## **PAPER PIECING:**

There are many different ways to paper piece, and most people end up developing their own hybrid style from learning different techniques. When I first set out to learn paper piecing, I bought several books full of drawings and photos, and still struggled to understand it. It wasn't until I took a class that it all fell into place for me. I'm guessing that you, like me, probably learn best from a live demonstration, so rather than attempt to draw this for you, I'd like to refer you to some YouTube tutorials (on the next page) that I think do a great job of showing how it can be done.

## **PAPER PICEING (continued):**

Each of the videos tackles paper piecing a little differently and demonstrates some techniques and tools that you might find useful. So grab a cup of tea and take a look to come up with your own style.

Here are some recommendations (in no particular order, and with no affiliation):

- Paper Piecing Made Easy Tutorial, by TheCraftyGemini <http://youtu.be/8uaW26igyE>
- Paper Piecing by Leah Day of Day Style Designs <http://youtu.be/9Bc1mUOLMF8>
- Foundation Paper Piecing - how to, by Karen Johnson of Connecting Threads <http://youtu.be/Xv2gKMx9CCM>

If you prefer to learn from pictures rather than videos, put “paper piecing tutorial” into your favorite search engine and many, many helpful blog posts from around the world will appear.

## **CHOOSE FABRIC:**

- 1/4 yard (or fat quarter) of a feature print for the top and bottom borders, and binding
- 1/8 yard or scraps (or fat quarters) of three fabrics that coordinate with the print
- 1/4 yard (or fat quarter) of background

## **CUT FABRIC:**

Cut the following first, before doing any paper piecing. I recommend labeling all the pieces with sticky notes.

### Feature Print

Cut 1 rectangle 2" x 12 1/2" for A

Cut 1 rectangle 3" x 12 1/2" for B

Cut 55" total of 2 1/4" or 2 1/2" (your preference) strips for binding

### Background:

Cut 2 rectangles 1 3/8" x 12 1/2" for C

Cut 1 rectangle 1 3/8" x 8 3/4" for D

Cut 2 rectangles 3/4" x 3 3/4" for E

Cut 3 rectangles 3/4" x 2 7/8" for F

Cut 1 rectangle 3/4" x 6 3/4" for G

Cut 2 rectangles 1 3/8" x 6 3/4" for H

## **MAKE THE LETTERS**

Using the coordinating colors and background leftovers, paper piece the letters in the attached patterns.

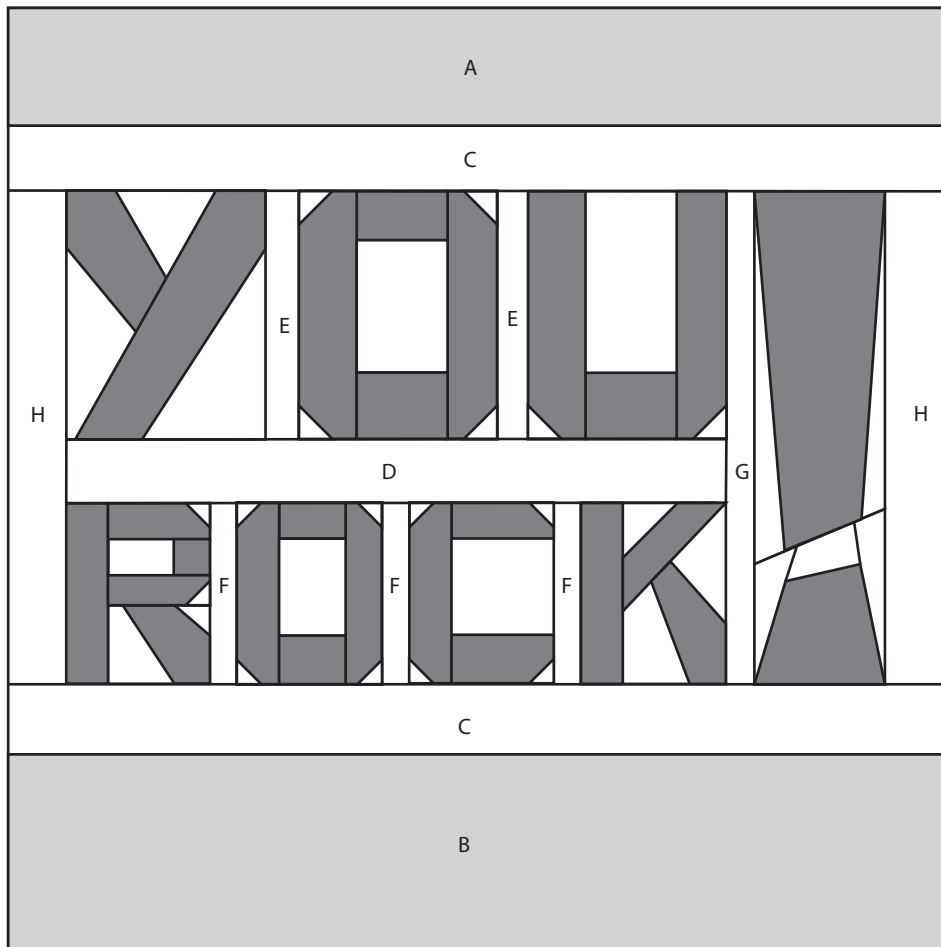
When I paper piece, I like to pre-cut all the parts before I get started. I usually add about a half inch all around so that I don't have to squeak out a decent seam allowance!

Note that the R and the ! are made in multiple parts. Use the alignment lines when putting them together.

Once the letters are done, press them well and trim them, being sure to leave SEAM ALLOWANCE ALL AROUND.

**ASSEMBLE THE TOP:**

Follow the drawing for placement of the pieces:



Sew one E between "Y" and "O"  
Sew the other E between "YO" and "U"

Sew one F between "R" and "O"  
Sew one F between "RO" and "C"  
Sew the remaining F between "ROC" and K

Sew D between "YOU" and "ROCK"  
Sew G to the right of "YOU ROCK"  
Sew the ! to the right of G  
Sew one H to the left of "YOU ROCK!"  
Sew the remaining H to the right of "YOU ROCK!"

Sew one C to the top of "YOU ROCK!"  
Sew the remaining C to the bottom of "YOU ROCK!"

Sew A to the top of "YOU ROCK!"  
Sew B to the bottom of "YOU ROCK!" to complete the quilt top.

**FINISH IT UP:**

Layer with batting and backing and quilt as desired. I used a tight stipple in the background space to push it back, which helps the letters puff up. I did some light echo quilting of the print elements in the border.

Make binding and apply it in your favorite method. I usually use 2 1/2" strips for my bindings on bed quilts, but on smaller things I like the tighter look of 2 1/4" binding. I machine to the front and hand finish on the back - my favorite way to finish a quilt!



Please share your version of YOU ROCK! on the Hunter's Design Studio Facebook page, and/or @huntersds on Instagram.

**Thank you!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam" with a smiley face below it.



