



*Welcome to Month #2 of  
"Diamonds & Drama Queens"*

**Incredible beauty is often accompanied by incredible stories.**

Welcome to our second month of *Diamonds & Drama Queens*! I'm delighted to introduce you to two gems: the Red Cross Diamond and Alva Vanderbilt.

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**Gem #1: The Red Cross Diamond**



*Intro images: Alva Vanderbilt and the Red Cross Diamond*

*Above: The Red Cross Diamond*

Our *Diamonds & Drama Queens* pattern for November is inspired by the **Red Cross Diamond**, an enormous 205.07-carat, cushion-shaped, brilliant-cut canary diamond.

The Red Cross is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest yellow diamond in the world. It was auctioned by Christie's of London in 1918 to benefit the British Red Cross Society. Its name is also appropriate since the diamond displays a very clear cross pattern from the table view.

It's believed that a member of a European royal family bought the Red Cross that day in 1918, that it changed hands several times, and eventually came into the possession of an American businessman.

## Gem #2: Alva Vanderbilt

Here's where I'm going to put a twist on the story and introduce you to an astoundingly wealthy woman of the American Gilded Age who also became an icon for women's suffrage: Alva Vanderbilt.

This woman owned scads of gemstones, one of which *could have been* similar to the Red Cross. Please know that I'm not suggesting that she actually owned it! I'm using this opportunity to introduce you to TWO "gems": the Red Cross Diamond and Alva Vanderbilt.



*Above: Alva Vanderbilt*

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## **The Pattern: "The Red Cross Diamond"**

The pattern showcases the cushion shape and cross image inside the gem that inspired it. One thing to keep in mind about this pattern is that the corner pieces must be cut off the freezer paper chart **FIRST**. That's because they need to be kept whole, since they are the last pieces to be sewn to the completed gem.