

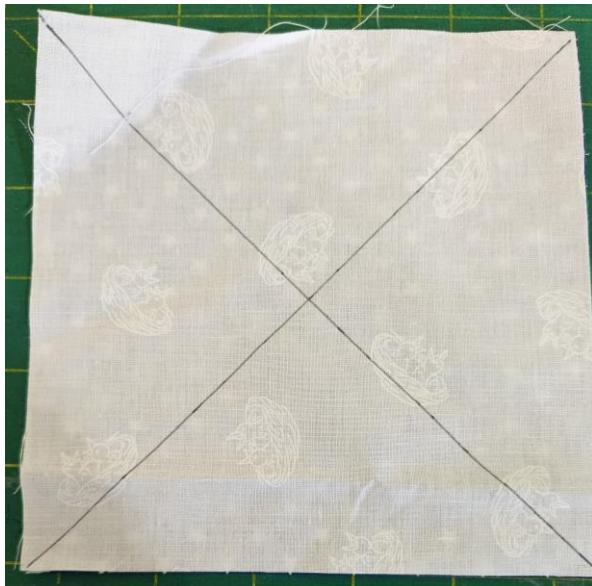
Block 5: January

This block includes a method of making eight half-square triangle units at once. If you wish to use other methods that will also work. All eight of our HST units will be the same color so if you wish your star to have all different colors, you will need to make four stars with four different colors and then arrange the colors.

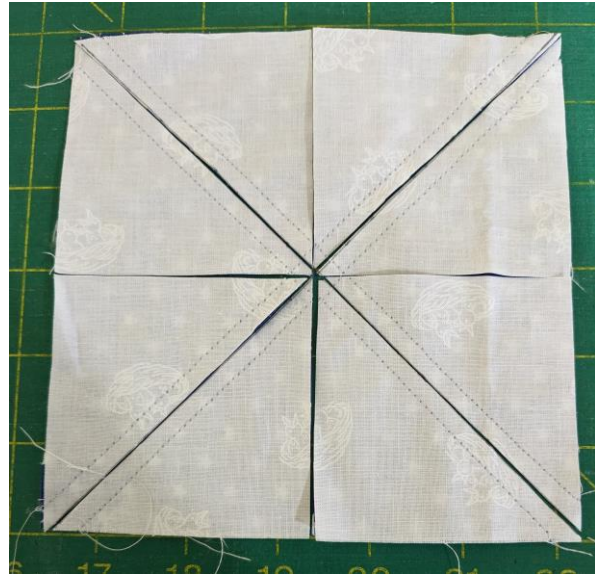
For EACH Block: Cut one 5 3/4-inch square of a color and one 5 3/4-inch square of the background. (Or cut them 6 inches—see NOTE below.) Also cut four 2 1/2 by 4 1/2 inch background rectangles.

Assembly:

- 1. Put the two squares right sides together and mark the diagonal lines in both directions. Sew a scant quarter inch seam on both sides of both lines.**

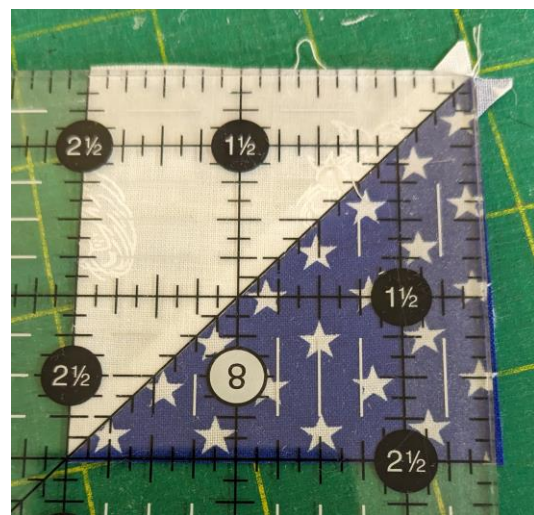


2. Cut the square in half vertically and horizontally and then cut both diagonal lines. Notice that the half-way mark is $2 \frac{7}{8}$ inches.

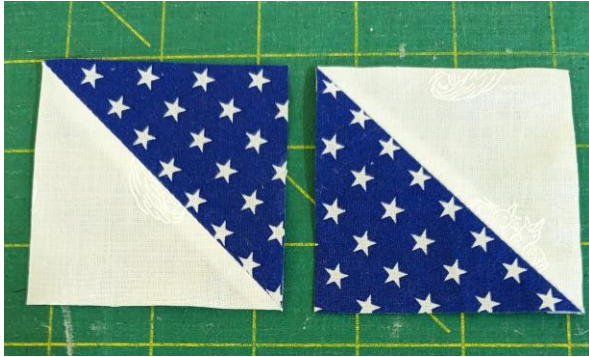


I press the diagonal seams open on these little blocks; it makes them lie much flatter. They should all be $\frac{1}{2}$ inches square. If you have cut and sewn an accurate scant quarter-inch seam there will be very little to trim. **NOTE: *If you don't feel that you are accurate in your seam allowances, then cut the squares 6 inches and cut apart at 3 inches vertically***

and horizontally. You will have a bit more to trim, but you won't risk having them be too small.



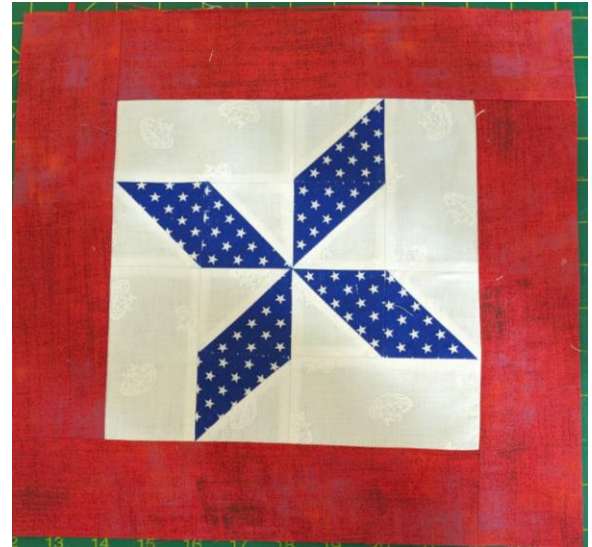
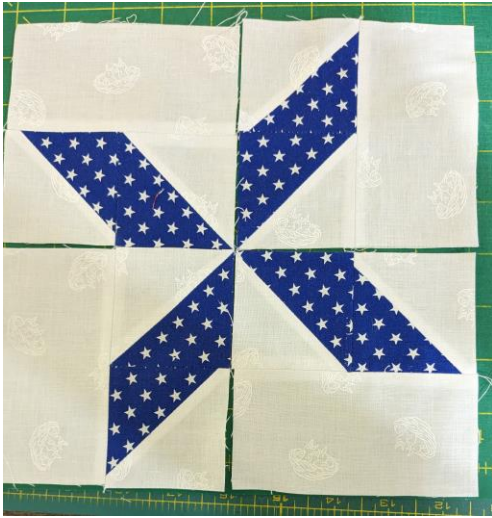
3. Lay them out in pairs like this and sew together: Press the seam under the right side.



4. Sew the background rectangle to the left side.



5. Arrange into a four-patch and sew:



**6. Add your final border.
Make 3 and add to your
growing stack of blocks.**

An update from December and additional information:

I cut up almost all that pile of scraps and started assembly. I made almost 300 blocks! Most of them do not have the final 2 ½ x 10 ½ inch border yet.



The first quilt top I made was the Month 2 blocks I made a long time ago when I made 100's of them. These were the last 25. Since I needed 30 for a complete quilt, I just added extra border strips at the top and the bottom.

Because the stars were SO scrappy, I only used 2 colors for sashing. If you want to do this on your quilt, you will need 1 ¼ yards of each of the two fabrics. Cut FOUR 10 ½ inch strips WOF from each fabric, stack them in sets of two and cut apart at 2 ½ inches. This should give you 15 sets of four strips of each color. (120 total strips for 30 blocks)

If you wish to use 3 colors, it will take 7/8 yard of each color. You will need to cut TEN sets of four of each color.



The second quilt top I made had all the leftover blocks I have collected for a while. Using the chart from November, I made them all 12 ½ inches. I added strips to the larger panel until it measured 24 ½ inches and it took the place of four blocks. Those 2 quilts used up almost 50 of the blocks.

I will continue to turn the rest into quilts in the coming months.

Don't forget that after you have assembled your 30 blocks, you should add a 2 ½ inch strip all around. First, this makes the quilt 64 x 76. Secondly, it is easier for your long arm quilter to quilt without all the ends of seams on the outside edges. It will take seven strips.