

Block 8: April



Cutting:

For each block cut:

Color 1: Four 2 ½ by 4 ½ inch rectangles

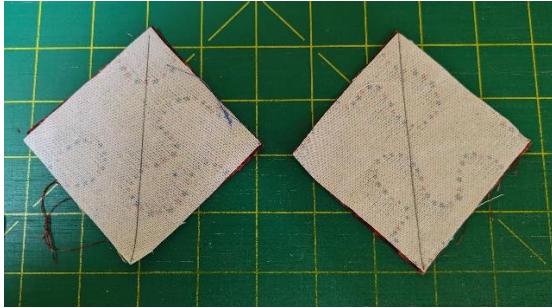
Color 2: Two 3-inch squares

Background: Eight 2 ½ inch squares and two 3-inch squares.

Border: Color 3 (or you may repeat color 1 or 2): Four 2 ½ by 10 ½ inch rectangles.

Assembly:

- 1. Pair the 3-inch squares and draw a diagonal line. Sew on both sides of the line, cut on the line, press, trim to 2 ½ inches. These are your half square triangles.**



- 2. On four of the 2 ½ inch squares draw a diagonal line. Place each of them on the rectangles, on the same ends, with the lines all going the same direction. Sew on the line. Trim away the excess and press.**





3. Sew the half-square triangles to the rest of the 2 ½ inch squares like this: They must be turned this way.



4. Sew the two rectangles together like this:



5. Arrange the four squares to form a star:



6. Sew the 2 ½ x 10 ½ inch rectangles on with the partial seam method we learned in Month, and you have a finished square.



7. If you have been making 3 each month you should now have 24 squares. Only 2 more months to go!! And we will have 30 squares for a complete quilt. As before, you could make 30 of this block for a quilt, or you could make 42 of the stars without the border, and sash them.

Since I have room on the page: This Month's hint:

I make a lot of scrappy Quilts of Valor. I save everything--edges cut off from the backing, leftover binding, small scraps. I throw them all in a box. I do not precut them into any special size. Anything smaller than 2 ½ inches, I leave in strips and put into my string box.

Instead of precutting squares, I decide on a pattern I want to make and then go through the box and cut everything I can from the scraps, starting with the largest piece I need. If this doesn't give me enough for a whole quilt, then I may cut into my yardage.

This method worked well for me in months 1 and 4, because I didn't have to worry about background—that month, anything could be background, even my darkest or busiest fabric.

