

# Online Quilt Magazine.com

Big Bumper  
Mother's Day  
Issue – 9 New  
Projects!

Nora's Rose –  
FMQ Tutorial  
Quilting – A  
Blueprint to  
Mastery

What's New  
from the Fat  
Quarter  
Shop

NEW  
PROJECT –  
Stars of  
Liberty Quilt

Premium Issue Vol.8 No.5 – May 2017

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## Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

Welcome to our Super-Duper Project-Heavy May Issue! Aside from my young Master 12 becoming a teenager (!?), May brings Mother's Day, when we are supposed to spoil and in turn, be spoiled by our appreciative children. (Ha! He's just appreciating that he doesn't have to share 'his' day with me this year!!)

We were lucky enough this month to get our hands on a selection of new Liberty fabrics from Alice Caroline in the UK, and we've had a ball making up all sorts of wonderful Liberty-inspired patterns for you to spoil Mum (or yourself) with this month. There's our "Stars of Liberty" quilt, our "Taking Liberties" wallhanging and so much more...! Catch up with Block 4 of our Exploring Blocks Sampler Quilt, and Lori shares a gorgeous FMQ rose motif that Mum will love too.

Enjoy your Mother's Day, and remember – there's no rule that says you can't spoil yourself!!!

*Jody*



## Free Motion Quilt Tutorial – Nora's Rose

By Lori Kennedy from [www.theinboxjaunt.com](http://www.theinboxjaunt.com)



Good morning, Quilters! Welcome to my sunny garden...it's a bed of roses...**Nora's Roses...**

This pattern is named after my oldest daughter, Nora Rose ...I first saw this pattern on a scrap she doodled. (It's really a shame Nora doesn't free motion quilt—her doodles are AMAZING!)

The other reason...her name is Honora Rose or Nora Rose for short.

So let's get started on this beautiful and versatile flower...

### **NORA'S ROSE TUTORIAL**

**Nora's Rose** is a **BEGINNER** free motion quilt pattern *to stitch*—(but an advanced pattern *to explain* in words...so bear with me...)



Begin by drawing a square. This rose will morph into any size or shape, but for today, we'll start with a 3 inch square.

Begin sewing in the middle of the square. Stitch a rounded triangle and then stitch beyond your starting point...



Stitch counter-clockwise around the triangle...



Keep stitching counter-clockwise around..



Add “waves” and “bumps” as you stitch around and around...



Keep moving in a circle around the center, re-shaping as you make each pass around...



Then add a leaf...Stunning! An award-winning rose–YOU be the judge!



NOTE–In the sample below, the stitches echo the previous line of stitching–perhaps too much...

To my eye, the rose above is prettier...less uniform, more interesting...

Again, YOU be the judge...



You won't be able to plant just one Nora Rose!  
You'll have a full rose bed in no time at all...

And the best thing...NO WEEDS!!





NOTE-In the Garden above....after completing the first rose, stitch a long trailing line to start the next flower. Then stitch clockwise AND counter-clockwise, never crossing over the long, trailing line...

Signed,

Master (Free Motion) Gardener,

Lori

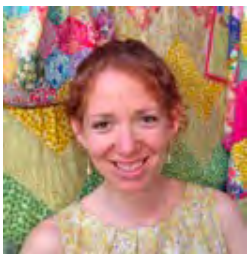
**About the Author:** Lori Kennedy claims she has been passionate about quilting since birth and believes quilting is in her blood--her grandmother, mother and two sisters are all quilters. She can't stop talking (about quilting) and can be found discussing free motion quilting daily at [www.theinboxjaunt.com](http://www.theinboxjaunt.com) and bimonthly in her column, 'My Line with Lori Kennedy' in American Quilter Magazine.

When she's not blogging, taking photos or quilting, she can be found hiking the trails of Minnesota with her husband, six kids and two Australian Shepherds.

Look for her Craftsy Classes [Divide and Conquer: Creative Quilting for Any Space](#) , and [Creative Free-Motion Techniques, From Doodle to Design](#)







## New Exclusive Liberty Collection

By Alice Caroline from [www.alicecaroline.co.uk](http://www.alicecaroline.co.uk)

Alice Caroline is delighted to announce the launch of our brand new and exclusive Liberty collection of fabrics. Designed in collaboration with the Liberty design team, Alice Caroline is very excited and proud of this beautiful new range which is sure to get fabric lovers excited in both the UK and across the globe.

Working closely with Liberty, Alice has designed a range of her favourite prints in gorgeous new colourways which is available to Alice Caroline exclusively on their website now. The 'Alice Caroline Exclusive Collection' is made up of 16 stunning Liberty prints. These include brand new colourways of Betsy, Mitsy, Poppy and Daisy as well as some very exciting printed patchworks which have never been seen before.



The two printed patchworks are especially exciting as these are brand new for both Liberty and Alice Caroline. In one of the patchwork prints Alice has revived her favourite purples in

this stunning collection of much loved and vintage prints.



The other patchwork print brings together the beautiful Alice Caroline exclusive prints from the collection.

Alice Caroline Garrett, owner and inspiration behind Alice Caroline said “This project is an absolute dream come true for me as a designer. It was such an honour to go to London and work directly with the designers of Liberty fabric to develop this new collection. I have been really



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enjoying working with the gorgeous new fabrics creating new quilting designs and patterns. My list of projects and ideas is endless! I am really over the moon too, to be offering this collection to my customers – they are already getting really excited!”

Alice has spent years of searching rare colourways of Liberty whilst on several visits to Japan. Her collection has been inspired by colours that just aren't available further afield.

Designing the collection was great fun - Alice spent hours looking through the Liberty archive books which is an honour and very rare treat.

Whilst hunting in these archives she found her favourite retro 'Wiltshire' fabric and took the colour theme for the collection from this, coupled together with a mint colour theme which is really popular in France, Alice is delighted with the result of a beautiful exclusive new collection.

This beautiful new collection is available now at [www.alicecaroline.co.uk](http://www.alicecaroline.co.uk)

## Exclusive Reader Offer

Alice Caroline would like to offer a **10% discount** off this New and Exclusive Liberty fabric range until the end of May 2017 to Online Quilt Magazine subscribers.

Use **code OQ17** at the checkout. The discount is only available on the new exclusive range of fabrics which can be found here –

<https://www.alicecaroline.co.uk/product-category/liberty-fabric/liberty-by-season/alice-caroline-exclusive/>





## Project – “Stars of Liberty” Quilt

By Jody Anderson from [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)



This stunning quilt features our new Liberty Star block, alternated with Friendship Star blocks, for a wonderful way to show off the newest range of Liberty print fabrics.

It is deceptively easy to piece, and a few quick tricks will have you making these blocks in no time at all!

*(\*\* We Used our new Liberty fabric pack of 16 Fat Quarters and one ½ yard length to make all of the Liberty projects in this issue, plus a second quilt featured in our next (June) issue!!)*

This quilt measures 56 inches square.

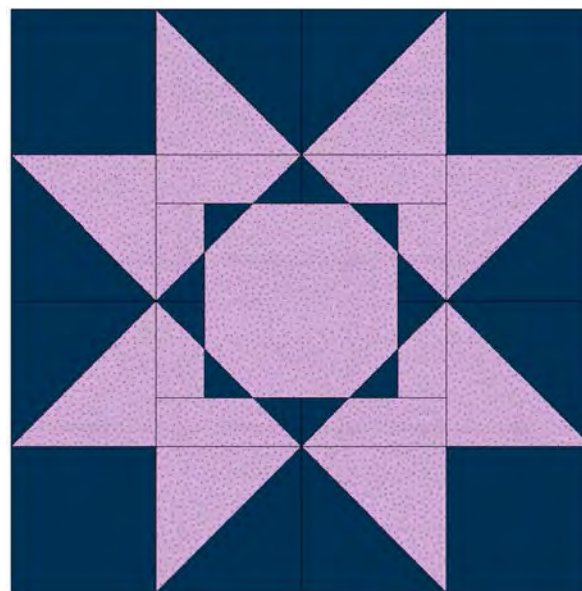
## You Will Need:

3 metres/ yards plain navy blue fabric

16 assorted Liberty fabric prints – we used a different print for each star. \*We used a Fat Quarter pack for this quilt (and all of our other Liberty fabric projects), and a ½ metre/yard of one print extra, for the first border.

Batting measuring at least 60 x 60 inches

Backing fabric measuring at least 60 x 60 inches



## Cut:

You will need to make 8 of each of the Liberty Star, and Friendship Star blocks.

The **Liberty Star block** looks tricky to piece, but simple snowballing of the inner corners gives a wonderful star-within-a-star block.

We made 8 stars in 8 different fabrics, so the cutting instructions are PER BLOCK.

From the print fabric cut:

4 squares measuring  $3\frac{7}{8} \times 3\frac{7}{8}$  inches

4 strips measuring  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches

4 strips measuring  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches

1 square measuring  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  inches

From the navy blue fabric cut:

\*4 squares measuring  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches square

(You need 32 total for the 8 blocks)

\*4 squares measuring  $3\frac{7}{8} \times 3\frac{7}{8}$  inches square

(You need 32 total for the 8 blocks)

\*12 squares measuring  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches square

(You need 96 total for the 8 blocks)

\*Note – You need blue strips for the second border too – cut and put aside four,  $3\frac{1}{2} \times$  approx. 60 inch strips before you cut the pieces you need for your blocks.

### **Liberty Star Block Piecing:**

Start with the centre unit.

As shown, position one  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch blue square on each of the 4 corners of your  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch print fabric square, so that right sides are together.



Pin, and sew together diagonally across the corners.







Trim off the corners and press open.



Next, snowball the corners of your strips.

Start with the 3½ inch print fabric strips and arrange them as pictured.

A 1½ inch blue square goes on each of the inner ends of the four strips.



Sew diagonally across the corners, and trim off the excess from the corners.



Open out and press well.



Now do the same for the 2½ inch print fabric strips. Arrange so they run vertically as pictured, and position a 1½ inch blue square on the inner ends.



Sew diagonally across the blue square to snowball the corner on each strip, and trim the corners. Open out and press.



Now assemble the centre star of your block.

The 4½ inch print fabric square is in the centre, with the 2½ inch print strips to the sides, and the 3½ inch print strips across top and bottom as pictured.

The strips need to be arranged so that the snowballed corners meet in the centre as shown.

Sew the pairs of strips together, and press well.



Join the side strips to the centre unit and press.



Then join the top and bottom strips to complete the centre unit of this block.



Pair up the four sets of 3.7/8 inch squares. One blue with one print fabric, with right sides together.



Mark a line diagonally from one corner to the other, and sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam to either side of that line.



Cut on the line as shown.



Open out and press, to make 2 half square triangles.

Do this for all 4 pairs of squares, to make 8 half square triangle units.



Lay out your block as shown, so the half square triangles form the larger star points, and the blue  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch squares fit in the corners of the block.



Sew the half square triangles together, taking care to match the seams, and press well.



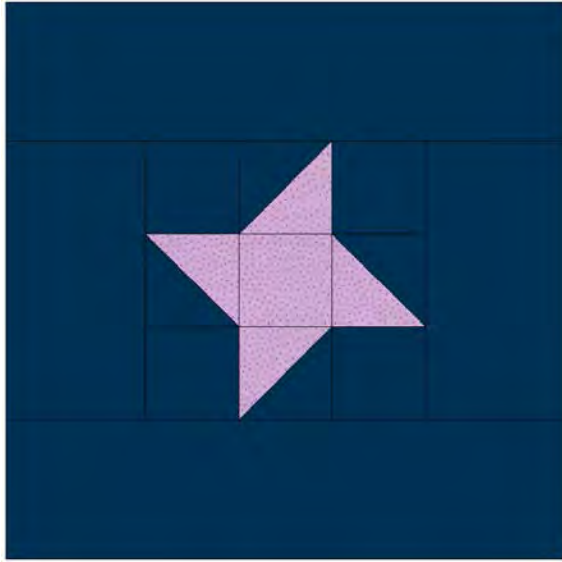
Join the units into rows, and join the side star points to each side of the snowballed centre unit.



Join the rows together and press block well to finish.

Make 8 of these Liberty Star Blocks. Your finished block should measure 12½ inches square.

**Cut:**



The **Friendship Star blocks** have a simple border added to each, to bring them up to the 12½ inches needed for this quilt.

We made 8 stars in 8 different fabrics, so the cutting instructions are PER BLOCK.

From the print fabric, cut:

1 square measuring 2½ x 2½ inches

2 squares measuring 2.7/8 x 2.7/8 inches

From the blue fabric cut:

\*4 squares measuring 2½ x 2½ inches

(You need 32 total for the 8 blocks)

\*2 squares measuring 2.7/8 x 2.7/8 inches

(You need 16 total for the 8 blocks)

\*2 strips measuring 3½ x 6½ inches

(You need 16 total for the 8 blocks)

\*2 strips measuring 3½ x 12½ inches

(You need 16 total for the 8 blocks)



### Friendship Star Block Piecing:



As you did before, match up the two pairs of 2.7/8 inch squares. One blue with one print fabric, with right sides together.



Mark a diagonal line and sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$  either side of it.



Cut on the line.



Open out and press. Make 4 half square triangles.

Join the rows together and press well.



Lay out your friendship star unit, with the 2½ inch squares as pictured. The half square triangle units form the points of the star. Join into rows and press seams on alternating directions between the rows.



Add the 6½ blue strips to either side of the star unit and press.

**Assembly:**

This quilt is laid out in a simple 4 x 4 grid.

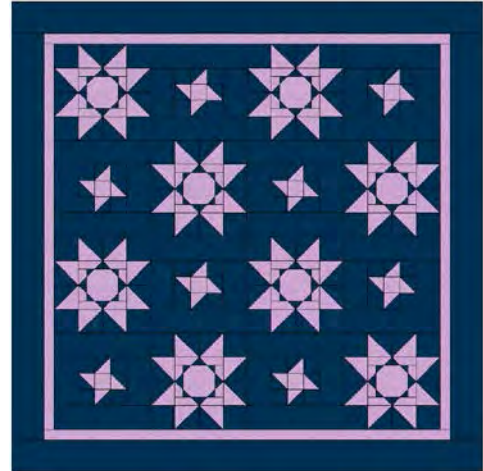


Finally add the 12½ inch strips to top and bottom to finish this block.

The block should measure 12½ inches square.

Press well.

Make 8 of these blocks.



When you are happy with the colour arrangement, sew the blocks into rows and press seams in alternate directions between the rows.

Join the rows together and press well.

### **Borders:**

From the ½ metre/yard of extra print fabric, cut sufficient 1½ inch strips for the first border. You will need to join the border fabric strips.

Measure the quilt first, and cut the border to suit. It should measure about 48½ inches for the side border strips, and about 50½ inches for top and bottom borders. Join the side borders first, and press, then add top and bottom.

The second border is a plain blue one. Again, measure your quilt, and cut sufficient 3½ inch strips from your blue fabric (if you didn't earlier). They should be approximately 50½ inches for the side borders and about 56½ for top and bottom

borders. Join the sides first, then top and bottom to finish. Press well.

### **Quilting:**

Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top. Put your quilt top on top of that, centred and smoothed flat.

Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting. We used a walking foot to quilt around the borders and star shapes, then free motion quilted the stars and background.







### Finishing:

Trim the batting and backing to match your quilt top.

Cut sufficient 2¼ inch binding strips from the remainder of the plain blue fabric and join together with 45 degree seams. Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press.

Join the binding to the right side of the quilt edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go. Turn the folded edge of the binding to

the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding to finish.

~~~~~

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## Blueprint to Mastery

By Leah Day from [www.FreeMotionQuilting.blogspot.com.au](http://www.FreeMotionQuilting.blogspot.com.au)

### Time and Negativity.

These seem to be two big factors that constantly work against us when quilting: finding the time to quilt, and finding the break in the negativity that might be limiting the experience.

This weekend I received two great questions that have stayed on my mind. The first was from Mike:

*I have been following along, but I have not been doing any free motion quilting :( I do have a question. I know practice is important, but I often find myself getting really good at FMQ while I am doing it, but then I start another project (mostly piecing) so that when it is time to FMQ again, I feel like I lost some of my improvement. Unfortunately, with my career (the one that pays for supplies for projects), I do not get to sew everyday. So, this can be a long time between*

*FMQ. I do feel like I'm getting better, but it's taking a long time. Do you have any suggestions for this problem?*

This is a great point because free motion quilting really is a totally different skill to learn in comparison to piecing and applique.



With piecing and applique you can work on small projects - a single block at a time is common - and the stress of messing the project up isn't huge. If you mess up a block bad enough you just throw it away and cut a bit more fabric!

I also hazard the opinion that the skills required to piece and applique are easier to learn simply because you're using the machine in the typical way: feeding the fabric forward like the machine is supposed to work, so it's generally easier and decent looking stitches can be found within a block or two of trial and error.

Practicing free motion quilting can be more challenging because you might feel the need to have a finished project: a quilt or block to work on. As we all know, this isn't a requirement - a solid piece of fabric works great for practice and is an excellent way to build skills without stress.

Even if you don't put that kind of pressure on yourself, **it's good to understand that free motion is a very different skill.**

We're using the machine in a truly different way, not using the feed dogs, not allowing the machine

to do the work, relying completely on our hands and foot to find a balance of speed and movement that produces great stitches.

It takes time and practice to find that perfect balance of speed and movement. Once you gain this control, free motion will be just like riding a bicycle and you'll be able to pick it up anytime, anywhere, and on any machine.

**But until you GET that balance logged into your mind and body, you really need to practice free motion quilting daily.**

Otherwise you may find, as Mike described, a frustrating cycle of building and losing skill. As you quilt a large quilt, you will definitely see your skills improve, but if you stop for several weeks to piece or applique, those skills you built may get rusty.

And this brings me to the second question I've thought about a lot this weekend. This one is from Catherine:

*I read your blog and I'm so excited about going to quilt and then it happens..."why quilt, it won't*

*turn out right. You always make a mistake." So Leah, how do I get over that negative thought?*

I so *get* where you're coming from Catherine!  
You've taken the time to piece or applique a project, it's all together and looking terrific, but...

*What if I mess it up? What if I stitch something and it all goes wrong? What if I fail?*

*What if all that time and effort piecing this quilt goes right down the drain?*

*What if I mess this up so badly I can't even give it to someone I love? What if I'm embarrassed?*

Do you struggle with these thoughts?

Guess what? I DO TOO!

Even now, even after stitching out over 400 designs, even after blogging weekly about quilting for more than two years, even after making countless videos, even after winning at

quilt shows, I STILL FEEL FEAR ABOUT FREE MOTION QUILTING!

What the heck do you think this quilt was about?!



If you let it, fear will lock you into place quite easily. You've put time, effort, money, passion, and love into a project, and fear will drive you to fold it all up and stick it on a shelf, never to be finished and enjoyed.



**Or you can choose another route.** You can choose to stomp out this fear, to face it head on and walk INTO it rather than let it tear you down.

After all - this is just a QUILT! It's just fabric and thread! Are you really scared of a big ball of cotton?!

**The fact is: No quilt can ever be ruined if you work at it with effort and attention.**

But the more I think about it, the more I think we need a blueprint for dealing with both Mike and Catherine's issues.

We need to find a way to work at free motion quilting steadily enough so that skills are built without being lost, which will in turn eliminate fear which thrives in the abstract.

Chances are you won't fear a task if you do it every day, and see yourself getting better at it weekly.

**So here's the blueprint for Mastering Free Motion Quilting:**

Cut a stack of 10 - 15 inch squares of fabric and batting and layer and baste them so they're completely ready to go. Start with a stack of 10 squares just to get started.

Every day for the next 10 days, pick up a square and quilt it. Stick with simple things: straight lines, wiggly lines, different shapes of stippling, and then branch out to other designs when you get bored.

Don't worry about it. Don't fret. Don't stress out. Don't pass go. Don't collect \$200.

Don't try to make it something it's not. This will not be a quilt unless you WANT it to be a quilt. I give you permission to throw away these squares after you've quilted them.

Just sit down, quilt the square, then go do

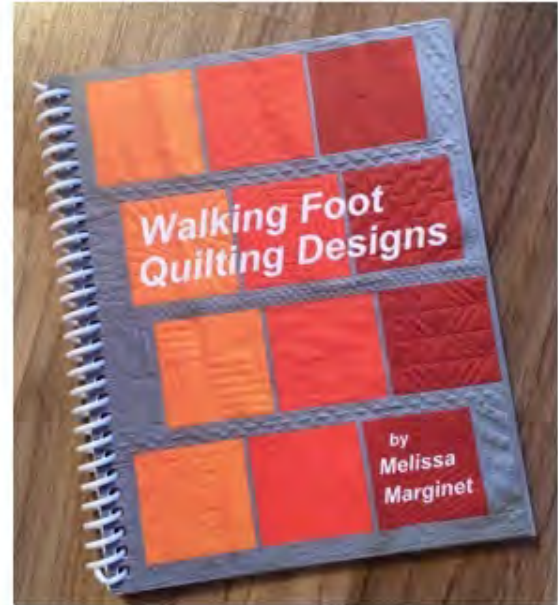
something else. If you're in the middle of a piecing project - go piece! You're just taking the time to put in a bit of practice before getting back to your main project.

It may only be 10 - 20 minutes, but this little bit of practice can do a lot. It keeps you moving in free motion, keeps the "flow" going so you'll quickly find the magic balance between the movement of your hands and foot.

**You think you don't have 10 minutes, but I challenge you to find it.**

A good quilting friend Susan Brubaker Knapp makes gorgeous art quilts, but frankly admits that she has to make them around her family and busy schedule. 15 minutes might not seem like much, but she uses every minutes she gets in her studio to get one step closer to finishing a project.

This process can be made easier if you happen to have two sewing machines. Use one machine for



- Quilt your own quilts on your home sewing machine with a walking foot
- Easy to follow step by step diagrams
- Tips to help you gain confidence

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your current project, and keep the other always set up for quilting with your tools in place ready to go. This will save you time getting started so all you have to do is sit down and turn on the machine.

If you really want to get the hang of free motion and you feel your skills yo-yoing like a bad diet, this is a great blueprint for gaining a solid base with free motion quilting.

Quilt your 10 squares and see how you feel. Can you do this for 10 more days? Do you feel your skills increasing? Do you feel more comfortable every time you sit down to work?

And as you feel more comfortable, is it easier for you to tell those fearful thoughts to take a hike?

Leah

**About the Author:** Leah Day is the author of the [Free Motion Quilting Project](#), a blog project dedicated to creating new free motion quilting designs each week and

sharing them all for FREE! Leah is also the author of [From Daisy to Paisley - 50 Beginner Free Motion Quilting Designs](#), a spiral bound book featuring 50 designs from the project, and she now has three Free Motion Quilting classes available through [Craftsy.com](#). [www.daystyledesigns.com](#)

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## Project – “Taking Liberties” Wallhanging

By Annette Mira-Bateman from [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)



Practice your 60 degree triangles with our scrappy modern quilted wallhanging.

Based on just four repeated blocks, this is perfect for showing off those pretty (Liberty) prints!

This wallhanging measures 29 x 37 inches.

### **You Will Need:**

½ metre/yard of plain light blue fabric for the background

Selection of Liberty print fabrics for the feature blocks

1/3 metre/yard contrast fabric for binding

Batting measuring at least 31 x 40 inches

Backing fabric measuring at least 31 x 40 inches



### Construction:

Use the attached templates to cut the four sets of different blocks. Refer to the assembly diagram and photo for block and colour placement.

You will find it easier to construct the blocks in rows as you go. You will need to refer to the assembly diagram and photo for a guide to block and colour positioning, and it is easier to do this row by row.



This is the plain triangle block.

You will need to cut 5 triangles from your print fabrics, and 16 triangles from your light blue fabric.

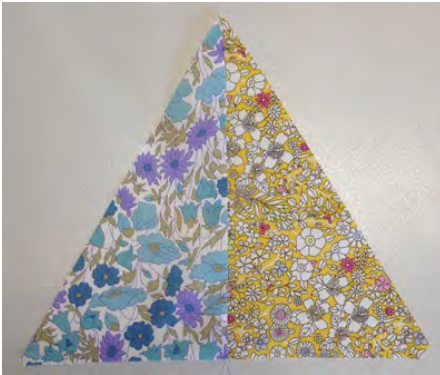


The half and half block.

You will need to reverse the template for the second half of each block.

Cut pieces to make 5 blocks.

You will also need to cut 12 half pieces for the sides. 6 are cut as is, and 6 are with the template reversed.



To make this block, simply sew the two halves together and press.



The third block is the stripe block.

You will need to cut 7 of these blocks. Again, refer to the diagram to determine colour and stripe placement.



With right sides together, sew the stripe to the triangle and press well.



Join the side triangles first, one after the other, and press.

The final block is the mini triangles block.

You will need to cut 9 of these blocks.

Note – the centre triangle uses the smaller of the two templates.

Again, refer to the diagram for colour and positioning guidelines.



Add the top triangle to finish.



Start with the bottom row and lay out the blocks in order.



When you are happy with the colour placement, join the blocks together in rows.

Press seams well.

Join the rows together to finish the wallhanging top.

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## Assembly Diagram

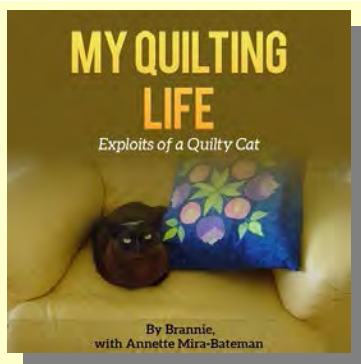
Plain spaces are the light blue background, and the coloured-in sections indicate patterned fabric pieces.

Black triangles are the single large triangle.

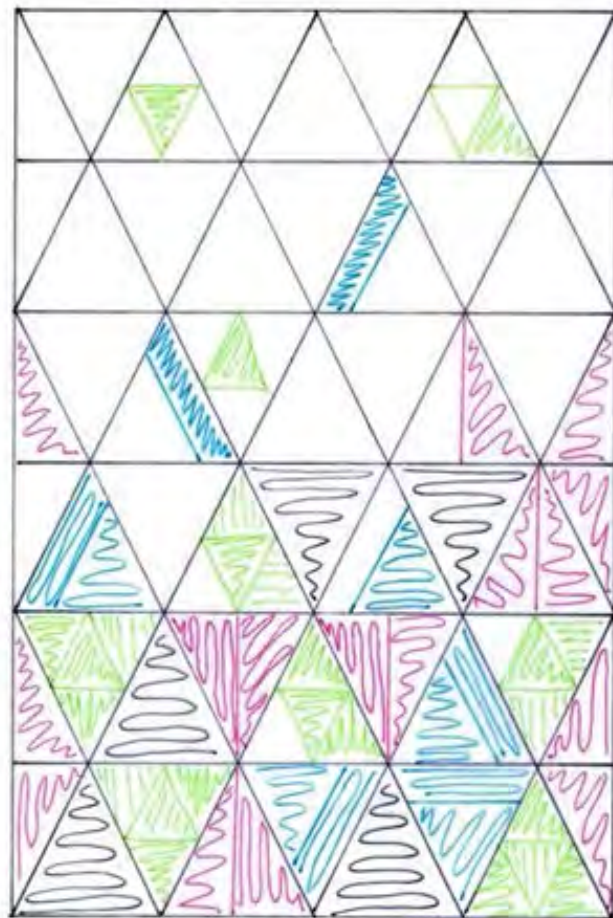
Red are the half triangle blocks/units.

Blue is for the stripe block.

Green is for the mini triangle blocks.



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## Quilting:

Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top. Put your table runner on top of that, centred and smoothed flat.

Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting.

We used a walking foot to quilt in the ditch and then echo quilt each triangle block a ½ inch in from the seam lines.

## Finishing:

Trim the batting and backing to match your table runner top.

Cut sufficient 2¼ inch binding strips from the contrast fabric and join together with 45 degree seams. Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press.

Join the binding to the right side of the quilt edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding to finish.

Add a rod pocket and label and you're ready to find a space on your wall!

Download the templates at:

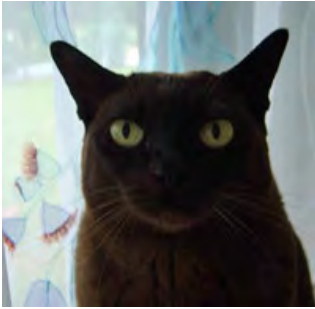
<http://www.onlinequiltmagazine.com/members/content/f/id/540/>

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For More Great Quilt Patterns, Go To:

[www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)

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## Hints and Tips From Brannie

By "Brannie" Mira-Bateman

There's a mouse in the house! Or at least there was until recently.

He was in the cupboard under the water stuff in the food room. My bag of cat biscuits lives in there, so I was quite concerned.

I could smell him for some days before my Quilty-Mum said, "I think we have a mouse in the cupboard! Look at all these little bits!"

My Dad later got down on the floor and pulled everything out. He said he didn't want any help, so I sat back and watched. He fiddled around and cleaned the shelf and then put everything back.

Next time the door was open, I stepped in for a sniff; it was a very interesting smell. Mouse? Cheese? I stepped in a bit further....

"Look out!" someone yelled. "Come out! Come out! There's a trap!"

My Quilty-Mum grabbed my tail and dragged me out backwards.

Well! I was just following that mousy smell. What's a trap?

I found out later when it went Snap! and my Dad showed me a dead mouse. The problem was that mousie had climbed up onto my bag of biscuits and chewed along the top. Now my Quilty-Mum can't get the bag to seal properly any more. She has to put a put a peg on it. Naughty mouse!

I suppose I should be glad he didn't chew a hole in the bottom of the bag and eat my biscuits.

Dad caught 2 mice in the trap and stopped up the hole where they were getting in, so we've seen the last of them. I would still like to have checked out that cheesy smell on the trap though.

My Quilty-Mum went away for a couple of days and Topsy-poodle's Mum came in to feed me. I was frightened of her at first, but then I realized she was giving me dinner and breakfast, so I welcomed her in with much purring and smooching.

When my folks came back she told them I was her New Best Friend. Should that be NBF?

I found a new favourite-place-to-sit too... I get creative when they're away. What do they say – 'When the cat's away...???'

Something like that anyway.

There is lots of hand sewing going on here.

Watch this space.

*Love Brannie,*

the Quilt Block of the Month Club Cat!







## Project – Liberty Table Runner

By Jody Anderson from [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)

Try our Liberty Table Runner as a fun, quick project to use up and show off those fabulous patterned fabrics. Paired with a plain white background, these lovely bright prints are shown off beautifully, and made from half square triangles means you'll whip yours up in no time!



This table runner is 36½ inches long and 16½ inches wide.

### **You Will Need:**

¾ metre /yard of plain white fabric for the background and binding

Selection of Liberty print fabrics for the feature blocks

Batting measuring at least 40 x 20 inches

Backing fabric measuring at least 40 x 20 inches

### **Cut:**

From the plain white fabric, cut 18 squares measuring 5 x 5 inches

From your assorted bright fabrics, cut 18 squares measuring 5 x 5 inches

### **Construction:**

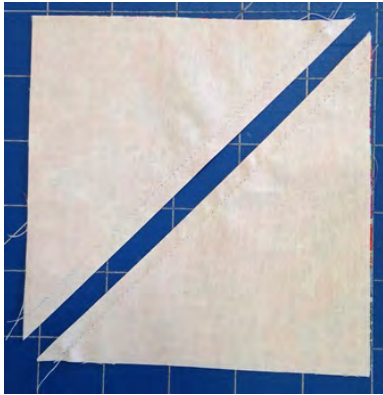


With right sides together, pair up each of your coloured fabric squares with one white square, and place them right sides together.

Mark a diagonal line on the wrong side of the white fabric for each pair of squares.

Sew ¼ inch either side of the marked line.

(You can chain piece these to make it quicker.)



Cut on your marked line to separate the two halves.



And open out and press well.

Put two pairs of matching squares aside for now.



Join the rest of your matching squares into pairs as pictured.

Join eight (8) matched sets of squares into pairs like the ones shown to the left, and join the remaining eight sets of squares into pairs like that on the right.

Join all remaining squares into matched pairs.



Lay out your table runner as pictured, with the pairs of squares in vertical rows.

Start with one single square for the first row, and add 4 pairs of squares below it.

The second row begins with 4 pairs of squares and ends with a single square.

Repeat this series once more to give you four vertical rows with an alternating chevron pattern.

When happy with the colour placement, sew into vertical rows and press seams, before joining the rows together to complete your table runner top.

### **Quilting:**

Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top. Put your table runner on top of that, centred and smoothed flat.

Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting.

We used a walking foot to quilt in the ditch of the chevrons and added an extra point to point row in alternate rows of the chevrons. We echoed the in the ditch stitching in the other alternate rows.



## Finishing:

Trim the batting and backing to match your table runner top.

Cut sufficient 2¼ inch binding strips from the remainder of the white fabric and join together with 45 degree seams. Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press.

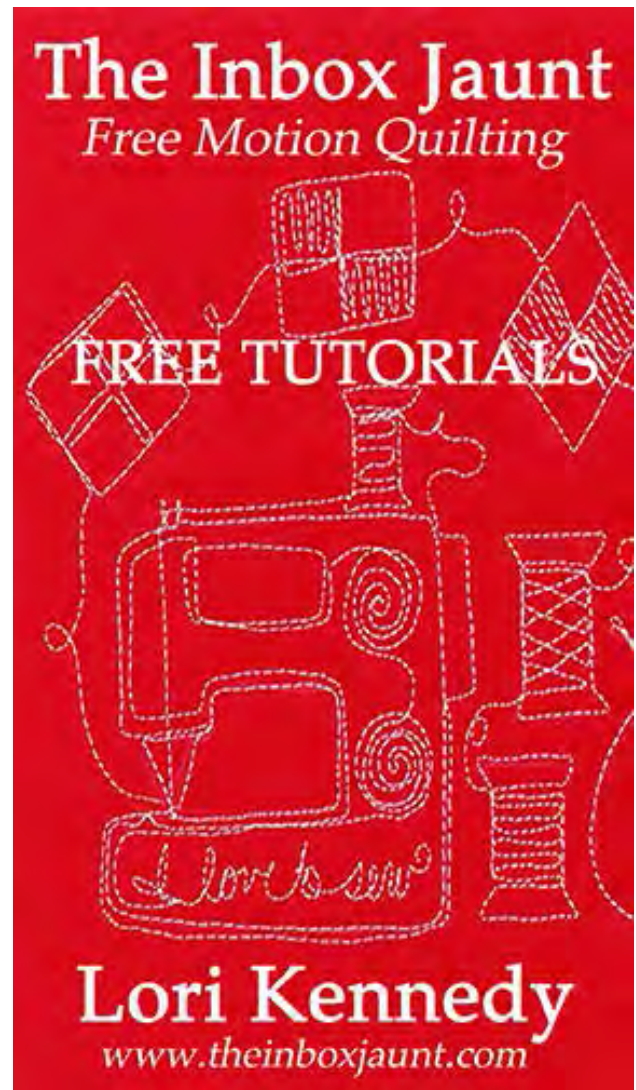
Join the binding to the right side of the quilt edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding to finish.

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## What's New from The Fat Quarter Shop

From Kimberly Jolly at [www.FatQuarterShop.com](http://www.FatQuarterShop.com)

We're pleased to be able to bring you a selection each month of the Newest Fabric Releases and the new season fabric "must haves".



**Guernsey by Brenda Riddle for Moda Fabrics**

Guernsey by Brenda Riddle for Moda Fabrics is a collection of feminine florals and classic gingham prints!

You'll find so many inviting colors in this collection including cheerful yellows, limey greens and petal pinks.

One wonderful twist is the addition of five black-based prints, to add a different spin on your project if you wish!

See this Collection at:

<https://www.fatquartershop.com/guernsey-fat-quarter-bundle>



### **Ava Rose by Deena Rutter for Riley Blake Designs**

Ava Rose by Deena Rutter for Riley Blake Designs is right on trend in punchy corals, soothing teals, and deep navy. The desert-flower-inspired prints pair perfectly with the geometric prints and patterns in the collection. The range of large and small prints yield a large variety within this one collection!

Check this out at:

<https://www.fatquartershop.com/ava-rose-fat-quarter-bundle>



### **Charleston by Amy Sinibaldi for Art Gallery Fabrics**

Charleston by Amy Sinibaldi for Art Gallery Fabrics showcases a quaint little town with a touch of Southern hospitality in navy, corals, and cream hues. These whimsical flowers, houses and pineapples are a fun and imaginative mixture of prints in this unique collection!

View this Range at:

<https://www.fatquartershop.com/charleston-fat-quarter-bundle>



## Project – Pincushion Trio

By Jody Anderson from [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)



Pincushions are always fab for using up smaller pieces of fabric, and as we couldn't let any of our Liberty print fabrics go to waste, we came up with a few fun ways for you to make some!

There's our Teacup Pincushion, a paper pieced Star Pincushion and an always fun Improv Pincushion.

(And all make great gifts for Mother's Day too!!!)



### You Will Need:

Small amounts of Liberty print fabrics for these projects

Plain coloured fabrics for contrast – we used dark blue, and stone coloured fabrics

Hobby Fill / toy stuffing

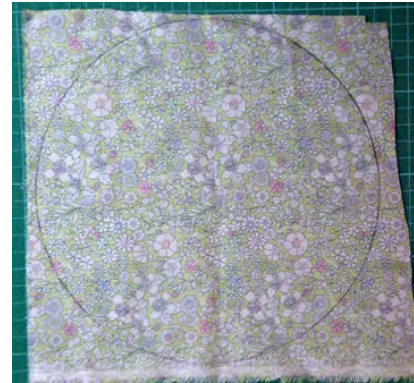
Teacup and saucer

Fabric glue

Needle and thread for hand sewing

## Teacup Pincushion

This is a very practical pincushion, as the teacup is glued to a matching saucer, which gives you a lovely portable sewing station for holding small scissors and needle books etc for your hand sewing. In fact – make this one first, then you can use it while you are paper piecing the Star Pincushion next!



On the wrong side of your chosen fabric, trace around a circular template or plate, to make a circle with a diameter of about 8 inches.

Cut out the shape.



Use a long length stitch on your sewing machine and run a row of stitching about a ¼ inch in from the edge.

Use the thread ends to gather the circle in.



Stuff the circle with your hobby fill as you gather it.

Double check the fit in your teacup, and when your circle is filled to suit, tie and knot the thread ends to keep it secure.



We used a strong fabric glue to keep our stuffed circle in place in our teacup.

Put some glue in the bottom of the teacup and spread some around in the insides as well.

Push your stuffed circle in place and let the glue dry.



We found a lovely teacup set at our local Charity Shop – it came with several matching plates, and we chose to use the middle sized plate for this project, as it was flatter and slightly larger than the saucer.

Put some more glue around the base of the teacup, position it to one side on your plate, and let it dry.



Our finished teacup pincushion – pretty, recycled and wonderfully practical!

## Star Pincushion

This English paper pieced pincushion is fun and quite easy to make, and perfect for when you want a relatively quick hand sewing project to work on.

Best of all, it shows off those favoured fabric scraps beautifully!

You will need 18 paper diamond templates to make this project, and the diamonds need to fit together to make a 6-pointed star.

\*\*\* We found free printable templates at <http://imaginesque.blogspot.com.au/p/quilt-diamonds-templates.html>, and if you scroll down that page, you will find a sheet with 5cm wide diamonds – and it just so happens you can get the 18 you need from that one page!



You need to make 12 printed fabric diamonds, and 6 plain blue diamonds.

Cut out a fabric shape slightly larger than your paper template, then fold it over the template, basting it in place as you go.

Use a contrasting thread, and you can finish with a backstitch.





Arrange your 12 printed fabric diamonds to form 2 stars as pictured.



Using a matching thread, and a whip stitch, and sew the diamonds together.

Place adjoining diamonds with right sides together, and whip stitch over the top edges, taking care to catch both fabrics, and not the papers.

Assemble both printed fabric stars.



Now use the blue diamonds to join the stars together. Place one blue diamond as shown and sew it to the star.



Opened out, the blue diamond looks like this.



Fold the blue diamond neatly in half and curve it around so you can sew the other side of the blue diamond to the other side of the printed fabric diamond.

Sew the 6 blue diamonds to one star like this.

Carefully turn right sides out, and use a pencil to carefully poke out the points.



Stuff your star fairly firmly with hobby fill, then hand sew the gap closed to finish.



Now sew the second star to the remaining sides of the blue diamonds.

Leave a gap between two points of the star.

Now snip the basting threads, and remove them, so you can take all of the papers out.

You may find it better to re-baste the edges at the gap to keep them turned under.

## Improv Pincushion

This little pillow style pincushion gives you a chance to play with no rules! Piece, cut and sew back together, and make a one-off pincushion with your last little leftovers!!



Cut and piece a strip of fabric.

Ours was about 1 inch wide, but it doesn't matter what width you choose, or even if it's an even width along the length of the strip.

For this pincushion, the strip was about 8-9 inches long.



Grab a larger piece of fabric for your background.

Ours was about 7-8 inches in size.

Cut a slash in it on whichever angle you like.





Insert the coloured fabric strip and sew back together.

Try and match the edges of the background fabric as best you can, as this just gives you a larger workable piece of fabric at the end.



Slash it again...

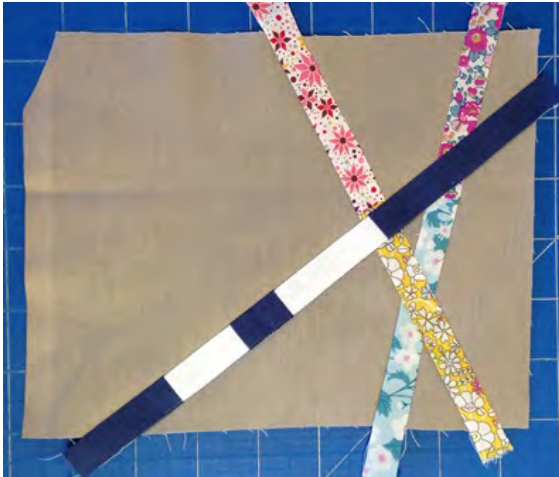


...and add another strip.

Cut again on a different angle.



Try piecing different colours and textures to add some interest.



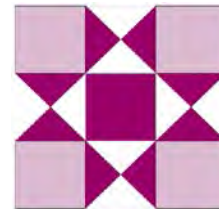
Re-piece the panel.

You can continue with this as much as you like – there's no wrong way of doing it!



When you're happy, trim to square up the panel.

We trimmed ours to measure 6½ inches square.





Cut a backing to match, and with right sides together, sew around the pincushion, leaving a small gap in one seam.

Turn right sides out through the gap.



Stuff your pincushion with hobby fill and hand sew the gap closed to finish.

~~~~~

For More Great Quilt Patterns, Go To:

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## Project – Flying Geese Cushion and Quilted Mat

By Annette Mira-Bateman from [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)

Make a modern pieced cushion cover to show off even those small scraps of your favourite Liberty prints. The two-tone backing gives a nice twist, and best of all, there's no wastage at all – you can make a small quilted mug rug/potholder/candle mat with the scraps!!



This cushion is 26 inches long and 16 inches wide.



**You Will Need:**

½ metre /yard of plain white fabric

¾ metre / yard of plain stone coloured fabric

Small amounts of 9 different Liberty print fabrics  
for the feature blocks

This cover fits a rectangular cushion insert  
measuring 16 x 26 inches

**Cut:**

From each of your 9 Liberty print fabrics, cut one  
rectangle measuring 2½ x 4½ inches

From the white fabric,

cut 9 squares measuring 2½ x 2½ inches

From the stone fabric,

cut 9 squares measuring 2½ x 2½ inches

From the white fabric, cut:

1 strip measuring 2½ x 4½ inches

1 strip measuring 2½ x 6½ inches

1 square measuring 4½ x 4½ inches

1 rectangle measuring 4½ x 6½ inches

1 large rectangle measuring 6½ x 16½  
inches

1 panel measuring 13 x 16½ inches for the  
back

From the stone fabric, cut:

1 strip measuring 2½ x 4½ inches

1 strip measuring 2½ x 6½ inches

1 square measuring 4½ x 4½ inches

1 rectangle measuring 4½ x 6½ inches

1 large rectangle measuring  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 16\frac{1}{2}$  inches

1 panel measuring  $20 \times 16\frac{1}{2}$  inches for the back

### Construction:



You will make 3 flying geese units with an all-white background, 3 units with an all stone coloured background, and 3 units with half white and half stone backgrounds.

The all-white and all stone units point downwards, and the half and half units point upwards.

To make the half and half flying geese units lay a print fabric rectangle face up on a flat surface.

Position one white square face down over the right hand end as shown, and sew diagonally from top left to bottom right.



Sew a second row a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from the first row, on the top side of the diagonal row.



Cut between the stitched rows.

Put the cut off corner aside for now.



Open out and press the corner.



Repeat to add the second (stone) square to the other side of the print rectangle.

Sew the diagonal row from bottom left to top right, and sew a second seam a ¼ inch away on the top side of that as pictured.



Cut the corner off again, between the stitched rows, and put aside for later.



Open out and press to finish one flying geese unit.



Do the same with the half and half units, then sew each set of three together, and press well.



Arrange your 3 white and 3 stone units in an order that you like.





Lay out your pieced units as pictured above, with the smaller white and stone pieces you cut earlier.

Sew the white and stone  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch strips together, then join to the half and half flying geese unit, so that the background colour matches through the centre of the strip.

The shorter ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch) length is at the top, with the  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inch length at the bottom as shown.

Join the  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  inch white rectangle to the top of the all-white units, with the  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  inch square at the bottom.

Do the same with the stone fabric pieces.

Press seams well.



Join the three rows together, as shown.



Finally, add the larger white and stone rectangles to each side, to finish the front of your cushion cover.



The back of this cushion cover is just a simple overlapped fabric sleeve.

Using your iron, fold over a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, and then fold over again a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to make a hem on one  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inch side of both the white and stone back panels.

Topstitch the hems.

With right sides together, place the white backing on top of the pieced cushion front panel as pictured, so the edges are aligned, and the hem is facing up.

The edge of the hem should also line up with the white edge on the front panel.

Next, lay the stone backing panel on top, face down, and overlapping the white backing panel.

Pin and sew around all sides of the cushion, before turning right sides out to finish.

~~~~~

## Quilted Mat

Don't waste your scraps! Use 16 of your trimmed corners from the cushion project to whip up a quick quilted mat, that is perfect as a potholder, a mug rug, or even a small candle mat.

### You Will Need:

16 Half Square Triangle units left over from the cushion project

Small piece of batting measuring 8 inches square  
(Note – you might like to double up the batting if making this as a potholder)

Small piece of backing fabric measuring 8 inches square

Approx. 35 inch length of binding



Open out and press your half square triangle units.

Arrange them as you like in a 4 x 4 grid. We chose to make alternating colour chevrons with ours.

Sew together in rows and press seams so each row runs in alternate directions.

Join the rows together and press well.



Lay your backing on a flat surface and smooth the batting on top. Position your pieced top and pin well.

We quilted ours simply, following the chevron shapes.



Trim the backing and batting and add your binding to the edges to finish. Our mat measures 7¼ inches square.



For More Great Quilt Patterns, Go To:

[www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)







## 2017 Project – Exploring Blocks Sampler Quilt

By Jody Anderson from [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)

This month we're still exploring... Quilt Blocks, that is! Over the course of this year, we're going to take a good look at a different block each month, and we're going to investigate some fun ways of playing around with these classic blocks, to discover whole new layouts and designs.

Of course, there's not much point making practice blocks without then being able to do something with them at the end, so after our final block in the series, we will show you how to put them all together into a fun Exploring Blocks Sampler Quilt, so it's always there and easy for you to use as a reference for when you want to try some of these blocks again in other projects.

### For This Project You Will Need:



As the blocks will all be incorporated into a quilt at the end, we chose to make our blocks from a selected range of colours. What you choose to do is up to you, but we selected plain colours for ours.

You will need at least a ½ metre/yard of each fabric. We want a more modern looking quilt, so we chose 8 colours, ranging from a maroon, red, orange, yellow, charcoal, pewter, silver, to a very pale blue. We bought slightly more of each

## Block 4 – Ohio Star Block



### You Will Need:

Three (3) fabrics that contrast. We used silver, red and yellow.

\* You will need to make FOUR (4) of these 10 inch Ohio Star blocks. Refer to the rotary cutting guide below for cutting directions and quantities for EACH block.

fabric, but this was just to piece a quilt backing from as well.

At the end, you will need also to add fabrics for the sashing and borders, but you can leave this until the final month, as you will not need them until then.

All blocks will start as 10 inch blocks. Please try to keep your seam allowances consistent, as this will make it easier to manipulate the blocks.

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**FREE**

Patterns to download on both...

[www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)

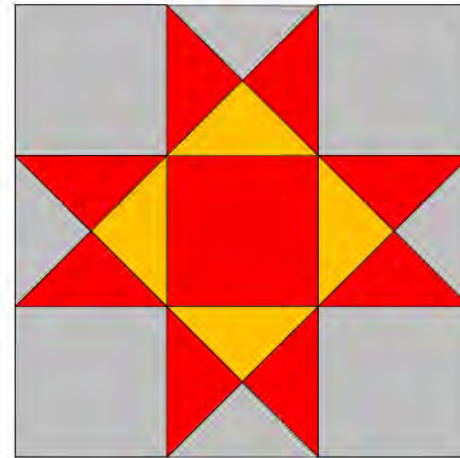
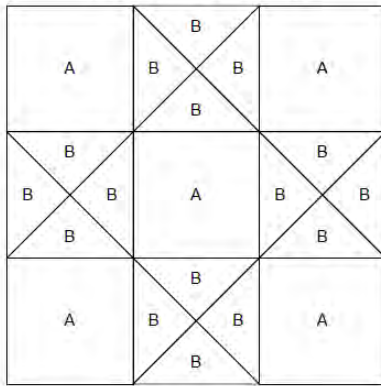
[www.BagMakingPatterns.com](http://www.BagMakingPatterns.com)

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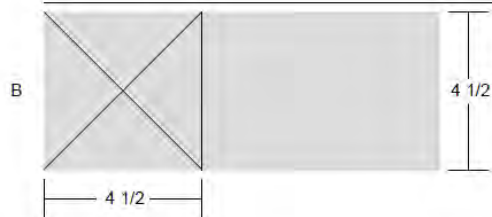
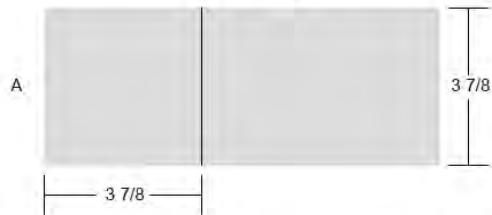
[www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)

# Ohio Star

Key Block (5/20 actual size)



## Cutting Diagrams



## Patch Count



4 patches



1 patch



4 patches

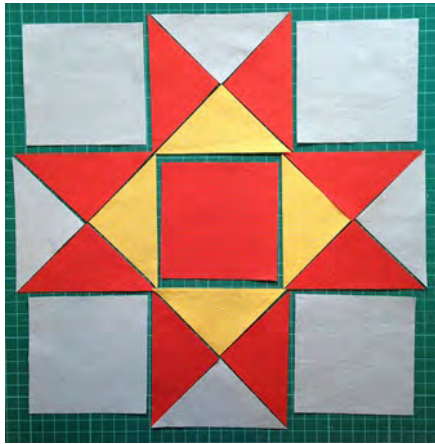


8 patches

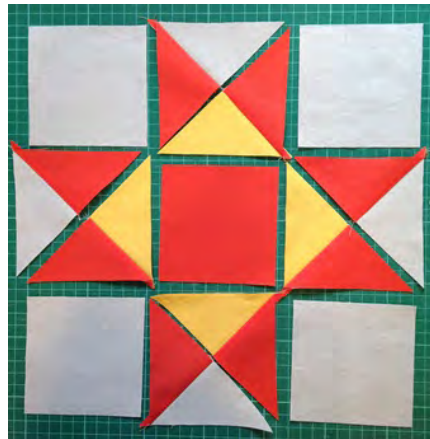


4 patches

**Assembly:**

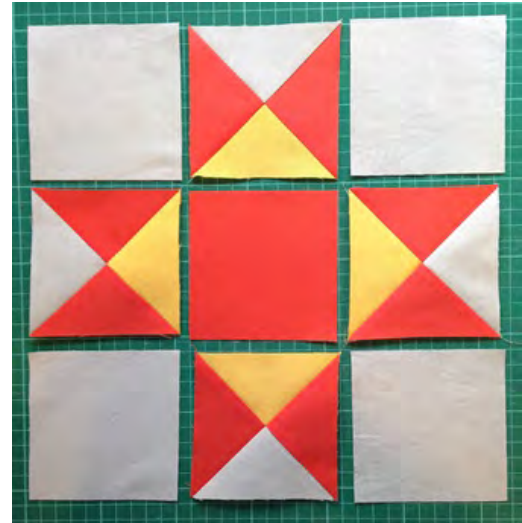


Lay out each block as shown.



Start by piecing the points of the star into pairs.

Join in pairs as shown, and press well with seams facing in opposite directions.



Then join the sets of pairs together to complete each of the star point units.

Press well.

Now it's just a simple 9-patch block.



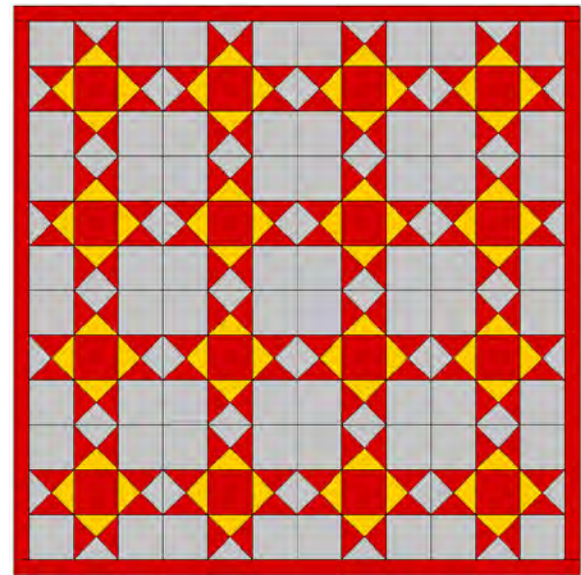
Finally sew the rows together and press well.

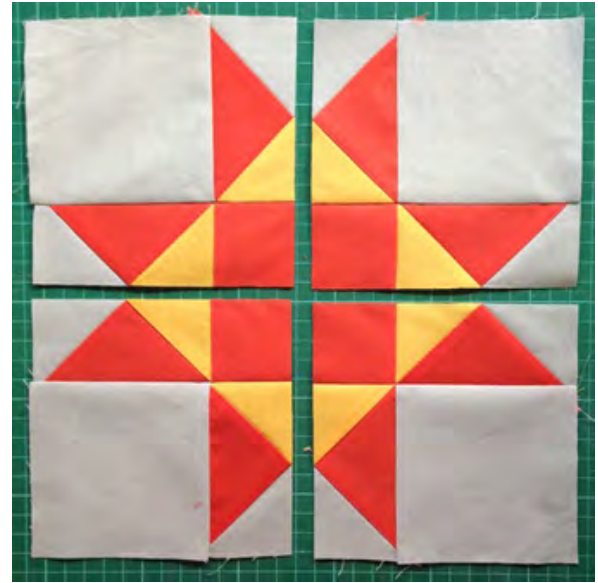
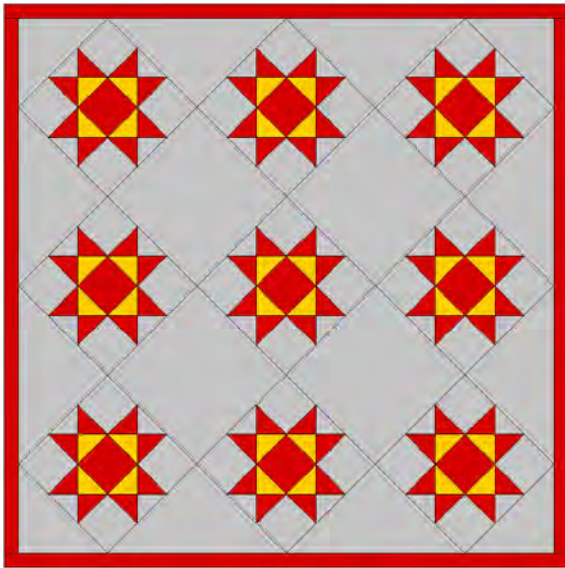
Make four (4) of these Ohio Star blocks.

Repeated, this block shows more diamonds than stars, or separate out for clearly defined star blocks.



Piece the units into rows and press seams in different directions, alternating between the rows.





#### 4-Patch:

And now let's play! This block can also be cut into a 4-patch block, the units rotated, and re-pieced, for a completely different block.

We're going to try a couple of different variations on this theme, this month.

Cut one of your Ohio Star blocks into 4, as shown.

As your finished block should measure 10½ inches square, you should be able to cut in half vertically once at 5¼ inches, and do the same horizontally.

**However** – if your block is slightly out, don't worry – make the cuts so they run straight

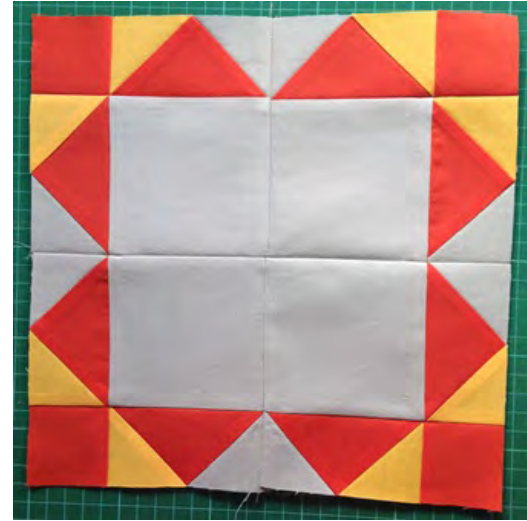
through the centre square and through the points of the centre diamond as shown.



Rotate each quarter 180 degrees, so the star points face inwards, as pictured.



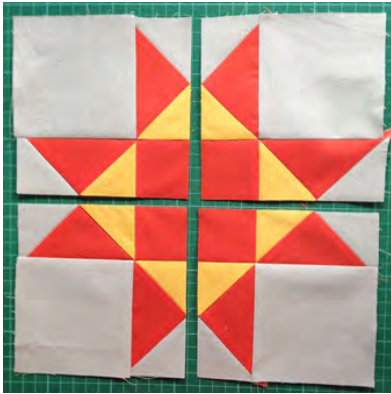
Join the units into pairs and press seams so they face in opposite directions.



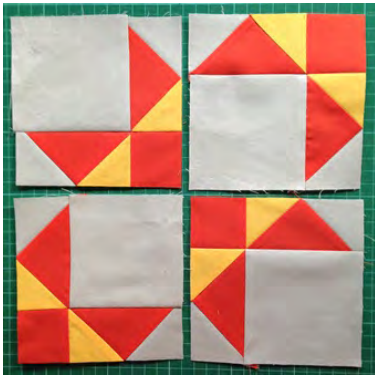
Join the pairs together to re-complete your block.

Also – as you have cut and re-pieced your 10½ inch block, the finished block will now be about a ½ inch smaller all round.

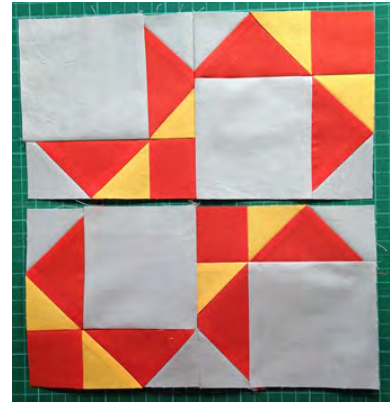
This is fine, and we will take it into account when we put the quilt together.



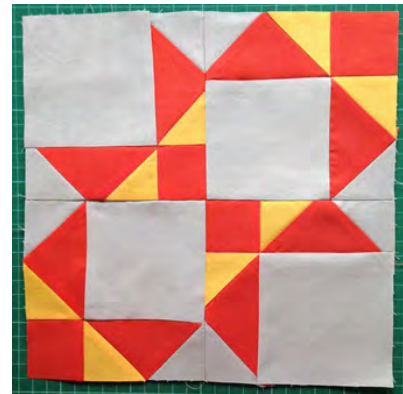
And now we make a second 4-patch variation!  
As before, cut one Ohio Star block into quarters.



This time, rotate the top right and bottom left quarters as shown.



Piece into pairs and press seams in opposite directions.

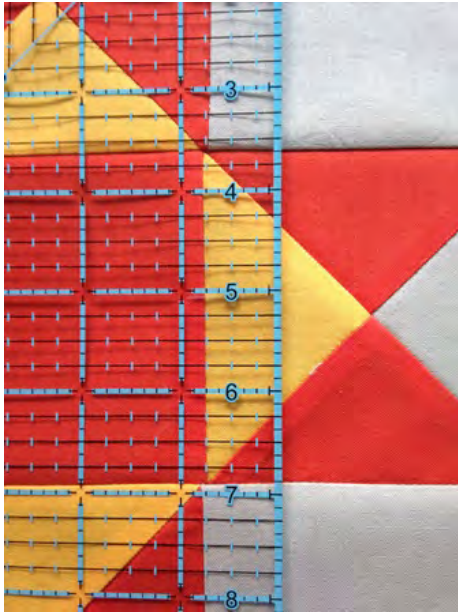


Join the pairs to reassemble this block into your second 4-patch variation.



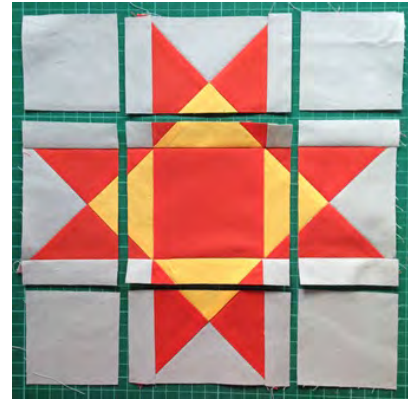
## 9-patch:

And don't stop there! Now let's try a 9-patch as well!!



This is not an even 9-patch.

Measure out  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from each side of your centre square and cut the block twice horizontally, and twice vertically, to make it an uneven 9-patch.



For this block, the only units that are moved are the middle side and top and bottom pieces.

Rotate the pieces 180 degrees as pictured.



Carefully piece the units together into rows, taking care to match where the other seam lines meet.

Press so the seams alternate directions between the rows.



Finally join the rows together to reveal your new re-pieced 9-patch Ohio Star Block.

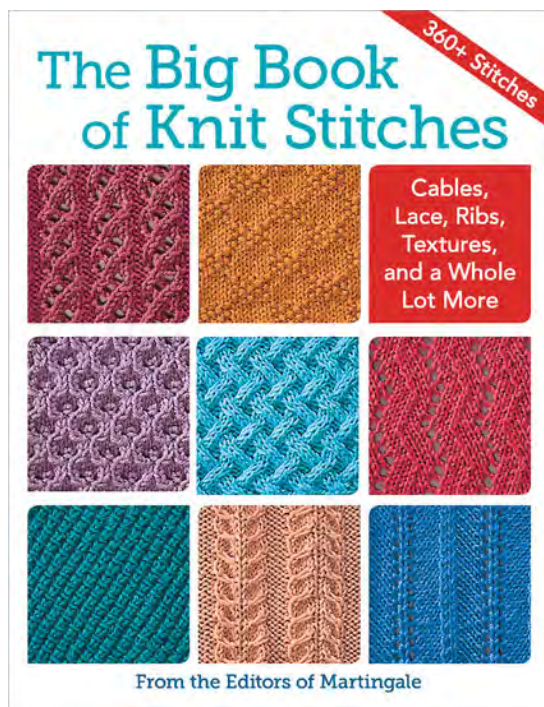
As before, this finished block will be smaller than your original block (approx. an inch), but we will take care of that when we assemble the quilt top at the end of this project.

Keep an eye out for our new block next month.



## Book Review

By Annette Mira-Bateman from [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)



**"The Big Book of Knit Stitches" from the Editors of Martingale**

Most quilters have fun with other crafts as well and we're nearly all fond of knitting. Sometimes a whole generation will miss out on learning this wonderful hobby - grandmothers have the time to teach their grandchildren, but Mum didn't learn.

We can all learn something new from this terrific book. "360+ stitches" it says - "Cables, Lace, Ribs, Textures" - and Brent Kane's photography shows all the knitted samples very clearly. "Bobbles, Knots, Crosses, Twists" - what an array!

The book contains no patterns for garments; just 366 stitch combinations for you to enhance your patterns with. If you have sweater or hat patterns knitted in plain or stocking stitch, then you can change the whole look by selecting a stitch repeat from this book instead.

Needle sizes are not mentioned either. It's up to you to try out a swatch of the chosen pattern, experiment with needle gauge until you like the look, then knit away. Each design tells you the stitch repeat. e.g. "multiple 10 + 1", so you can fit it easily to your garment pattern.

The explanations are quite clear - the only problem is which stitch to choose!

"The Big Book of Knit Stitches" is published by Martingale and is available through your local craft book shop or online from:

[www.ShopMartingale.com](http://www.ShopMartingale.com) (Photos courtesy of Brent Kane, Martingale)







## Recipe Corner – Lemon & Blueberry Swirl Cake



### Ingredients

175g / 6oz butter, softened  
175g / 6oz caster (fine white) sugar  
3 Eggs  
1 1/3 cups (200g) self-raising flour  
25g / 3/4oz almond meal

1 lemon, rind finely grated

1/3 cup (110g) Blueberry Conserve

Caster sugar, extra, to sprinkle

### Method

#### Step 1 –

Preheat oven to 180C/356F. Grease and line a 10cm x 22cm / 4 x 9in (base measurement) loaf pan with baking paper.

#### Step 2 –

Use an electric mixer to beat the butter, sugar, eggs, flour, almond meal and lemon rind in a large bowl until smooth and well combined.

Step 3 –

Spoon half the mixture into the prepared pan.  
Place Blueberry Conserve in a sealable plastic bag  
and cut off 1 corner.

Pipe half the conserve over the cake mixture and  
use a skewer to marble. Repeat with remaining  
mixture and conserve. Smooth the surface.

Step 4 –

Bake for 40-50 mins or until a skewer inserted in  
the centre comes out clean. Sprinkle with extra  
sugar.

Set aside in the pan for 5 mins to cool. Turn onto  
a wire rack to cool completely.

**Learn HOW to Free Motion QUILT  
ALL OF these Designs at:**



**[www.FreeMotionProject.com](http://www.FreeMotionProject.com)**





## Reader “Show and Tell”

This month we continue our regular segment of “Show and Tell” quilts made by our Online Quilt Magazine Readers.

We will include them as long as you can send them to us, and that way we can all share in the wealth of creativity and inspiration abundant within our quilting community.

**\*\* Remember to keep sending in photos of your latest quilt projects to share. Please send to: [jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com](mailto:jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com) .**



*“... a round child’s quilt or play mat, with their name in the middle. The Prairie points represent shark’s teeth on the boy’s quilt.”*

*- Deanna C., USA*



*"This is a hand appliqué and hand quilted quilt which I will be donating to our local Legion to raise money for the Poppy fund. With this being 100 years since the First World War and the Vimy Ridge in 2017, I felt a quilt was needed to remind us of the freedom we have today. Pattern is by Diana Best, pieced together by our small quilting group of 8.*

*- Maxine P. Canada.*



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*"...and again new quilts ! The first one is the rest of the KM quilt of last month. The second is a modern edition (first) to try something new !"*

*- Jacqueline B., Belgium*



We love sharing the quilts you've made, and the hints and tips you have. If you have any, please send them to [jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com](mailto:jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com), as we'd love to include yours!





*duty! I loved this fabric the instant I saw it and knew I had to use it in a quilt! This is the result."*

*- Mary Jo A., USA*



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*"This quilt was made from a fabric called "Playground," designed by Amy Sinibaldi for Art Gallery Fabrics. I fussy cut the blocks and the cornerstones. (Sashings, border, and cornerstones are batiks.) Each block has a scene of children playing. I am a retired elementary school teacher who spent a lot of time over the years on recess*



*"I have just finished this quilt for my Mother in Law, for Mother's Day.... It is called "Ripples in Time" the embroidered dates are specific to her life line. The coloured circles are clocks with random times on.*

*I used Inktense pencils to do the clock hands. This is my second project where I have used Inktense pencils. Maybe you could do an article on them. I hope she loves it when she eventually receives it, hopefully soon!."*

*- Dawn M., Birmingham UK.*



*"The final quilt (for our Global Friendship Block Swap). I did "quilt as you go" for the first time and will definitely use it again. I also stitched in the ditch round all designs. I am very pleased how all the odd blocks have gone together."*

*- Joyce A., Australia*



*“This is the small quilt that I put together with the blocks that I received (from the Global Friendship Block Swap). The centre embroidered block is one that I had made some time ago. I sent a photo of it to the members of my group and they were kind enough to choose coordinating fabrics for the blocks that they made for me. I machine embroidered the names and countries of those who made each block on the back of the quilt.”*

- Valerie D., Australia



“I finally finished the friendship quilt from this group. I made it reversible with the new group from this year. “

- Kathy L., USA





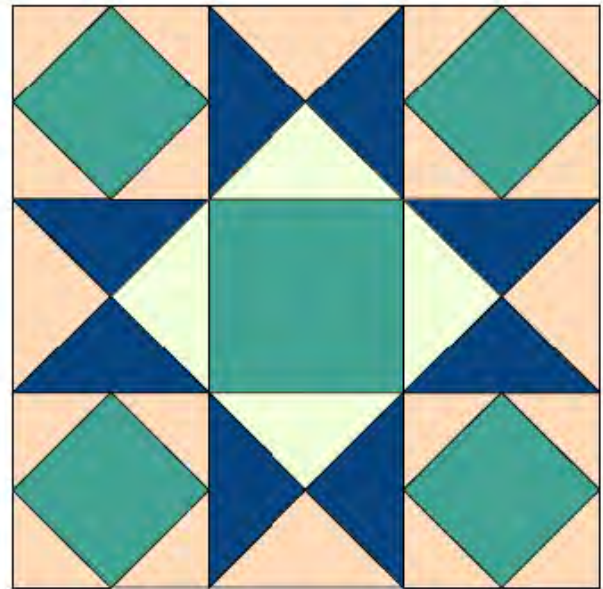
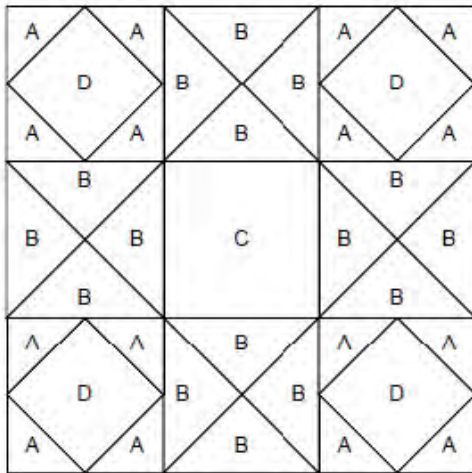
## Block of the Month

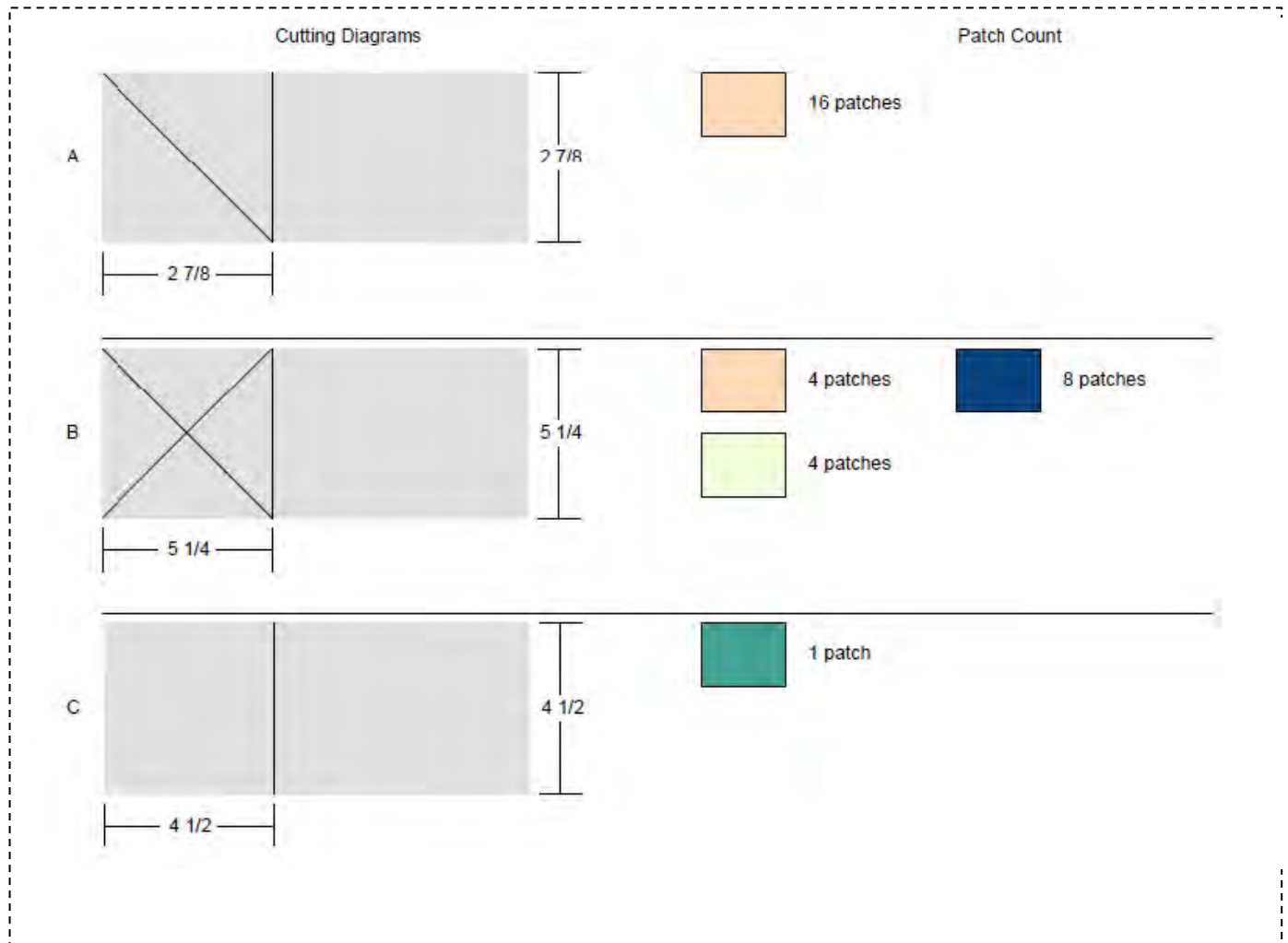
This month's block is another lovely pieced star block. Take care with your seam allowances and it will come together beautifully.

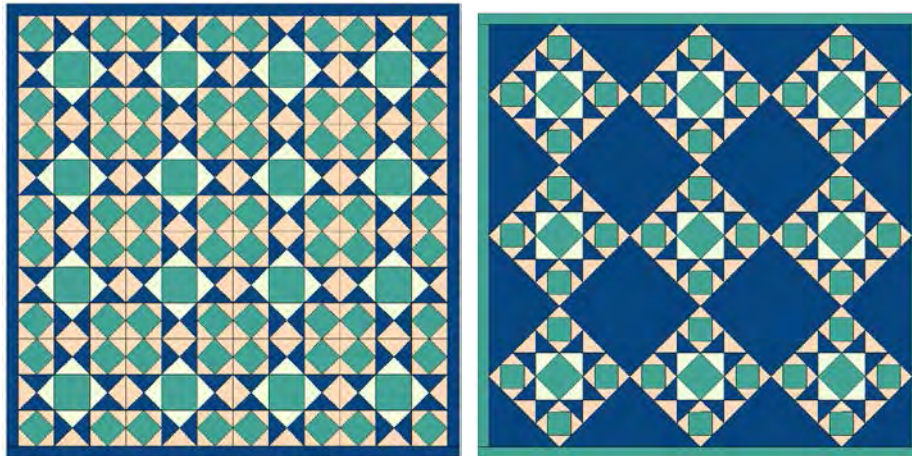
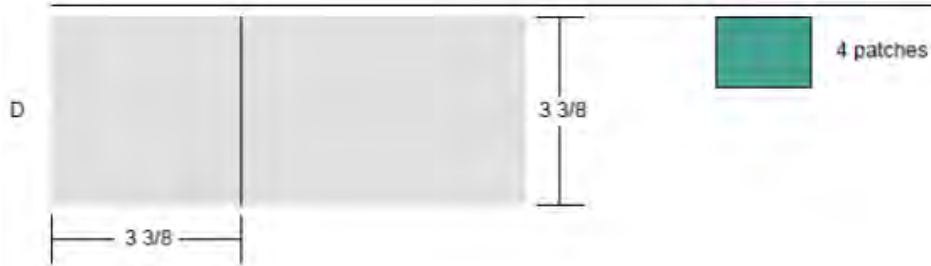
To make this 12 inch block as shown, you will need 4 different fabrics, and once you have rotary cut the pieces according to the Cutting Diagram, you can piece them together as shown.

### Ornate Star

Key Block (1/5 actual size)







A straight forward layout shows interesting secondary patterns, or try a simple spaced apart layout for more emphasis on this single block.

For more great quilts and blocks, visit [www.QuiltBlockOfTheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockOfTheMonthClub.com)



## Today's Tips:

Reader Mary R., from Nova Scotia in Canada sent in a great tip this month:

*"In one of my groups the other day someone was asking what a thick clear plastic item was that came in a box of sewing items from a yard sale. It was for putting zippers in pants - but in looking at it I realized it would be a wonderful shape to use for machine quilting. Some of these new templates are very pricey. Just a thought for you."*

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### **I found a couple of time-saving tips:**

\* Batch your sewing and pressing steps. Example: chain-sew all of the half-square triangles together without cutting them apart. Move the entire string to the ironing board and press assembly-line style.

\* Embrace precuts and die-cuts. Precuts like jelly rolls and charm packs give you more time for

designing, stitching, and quilting. And die-cuts not only help you design but make applique and custom piecing a breeze.(I'm actually wishing I had a couple more 10 inch layer cakes right now for a quick quilt idea...)

### **A couple of tips on Jelly Rolls:**

\* Use a lint roller on each cut side of the jelly roll before unrolling to eliminate as much loose lint as possible. There is a LOT of lint due to the pinking of the strips.

\* When you unroll the fabric check the width of the strip from pinked edge to pinked edge to determine where your ¼" seam will hit. Most of the time you will be measuring a ¼" in from the top of the pinked points.

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# YES, We Want to Hear From You!

As our Online Magazine continues to grow each month, we need your feedback in order for us to continue to improve our publication for you.

- We want to know how you liked it.
- We want to know the topics you're interested in.
- We want to know if you have any suggestions, Hints or Tips of your own that you'd like included, or if you know anyone we should include a story on!

Please send me an email with your Testimonial, Tip, Suggestion, “Show and Tell” Quilt or Enhancement – I'd love to hear from you!

Send all emails to:

[jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com](mailto:jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com)

## **"Quilt-y" Quotes...**

\*Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes!

\*Buttons and patches and the cold wind blowing...the days pass quickly when I am sewing!

\*Caution: Enter this Sewing Room at your own Risk

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