

April 2025-BOM

Lone Star Variation



April 2025 Block of the Month--Center block of quilt--Lone Star Variation

The Lone Star Quilt Block is one of the "classics." There are many ways to do this block and many variations incorporating more fabrics and getting bigger and bigger. We will make one that is 12.5" square and hopefully will not turn too many of you completely off.

One key suggestion is to try this first with fabric that you have left over from something else, or that you hate, because it requires relatively small strips that are 1 1/4" x 22" (or so) and only 5 colors and works up fast. Then you can troubleshoot the issues with alignment and practice on something that is not going to be the center of the quilt you will bring to the "reveal."

So...Pick 5 fabrics of your chosen palette for this quilt and one background fabric.

1. Cut 1 1/4" x 22" strips of the fabrics as follows:

A=1 strip

B=2 strips

C=3 strips--Think carefully, there will be a lot of this color in the star

D=2 strips

E=1 strip

AND Cut two 5 1/2" squares (to be cut into 4 triangles each) and four 4 1/2" squares (Corners)

Strips lined up



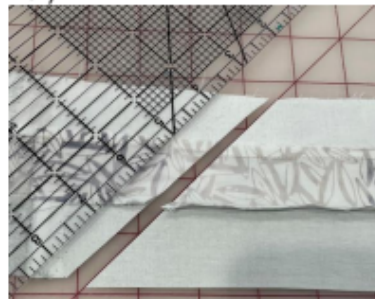
2. Group strips: ABC, BCD, CDE, DEF and sew together lengthwise using a careful 1/4" seam.

3. Cut each strip into eight 1 1/4" wide diamonds by lining the strip up along a horizontal line on the cutting mat and using a 45° line on your ruler.

Center strip should be exactly 3/4" wide



Two methods of cutting: Sequentially along the strip, or overlap the strips and cut which may save some fabric or time (or not)



4. Join ABC to BCD by overlapping the second piece about 1/4" at the bottom. Inserting a pin into the seam line will help show where the diamonds will overlap.



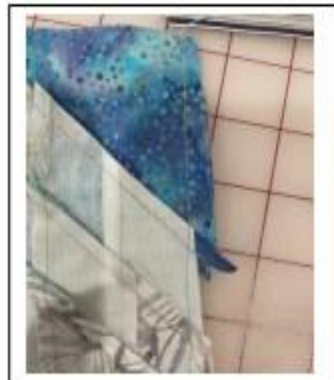
If you hold the center strip (A) in your right hand, you will place the second strip (BCD) on top of A overlapping by about 1/4 inch. Then you will add CDE overlapping 1/4 inch the top of B.

5. Now you need to carefully press and I would suggest starching the diamonds you have made. Be careful not to stretch the bias. Check that the small angles at the top and bottom of the diamond are true to 45° and that the Row 2 diamonds are 3/4". The outer diamonds should be 1". As you can see from my picture, they are already wonky. Carefully trim if necessary.

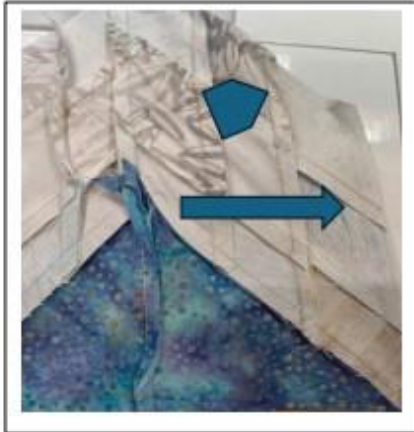
6. Cut the 5 1/2" background squares into 4 triangles going from corner to corner.

7. Attach the hypotenuse (longest side) one triangle to each of the diamonds--after you have decided on placement as you will need triangles on the inside edges of each pair.

8. Sew the pieces together in pairs, open them up and press. This will not be a "Y" seam (yet). Don't worry if you don't have perfect alignment of the diamonds. It will still look pretty.



9. If you look at the third panel above, both the right and left sides of the piece will be in the corner. Now is the time for a "Y" seam, but I tried to make it easier. Place the 4 1/2" corner square on the right-hand side of each of the four diamond pairs you have made. Sew only to where the side meets the background piece.



10. Press the piece apart and it will look like a wedge with a square attached (sorry, no photo). Line this up with the next pair of diamonds at the center point and match the seams and where the corners of the two diamonds meet. This is where you will "bend the seam" to get the corner piece in correctly.



11. Repeat with the other pieces and you will complete the star. Trim to desired size of 12 1/2". Use heavy starch to get it flat if necessary.

