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december: CHRISTMAS STAR

What better a way to celebrate the holiday season but with a gorgeous star-block? A lot of cutting, but it's worth it for this beauty. Have fun with it – I can't wait to see what you do with your blocks!

Assume exact $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Yields one beautiful 12.5" block.

Cutting – Block Option #1:

Background ("W"):

(4) 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

(16) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (for half-square triangles)

Color 1 (lime):

(4) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (for half-square triangles, INNER)

Color 2 (grey):

(16) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (for half square triangles, MIDDLE)

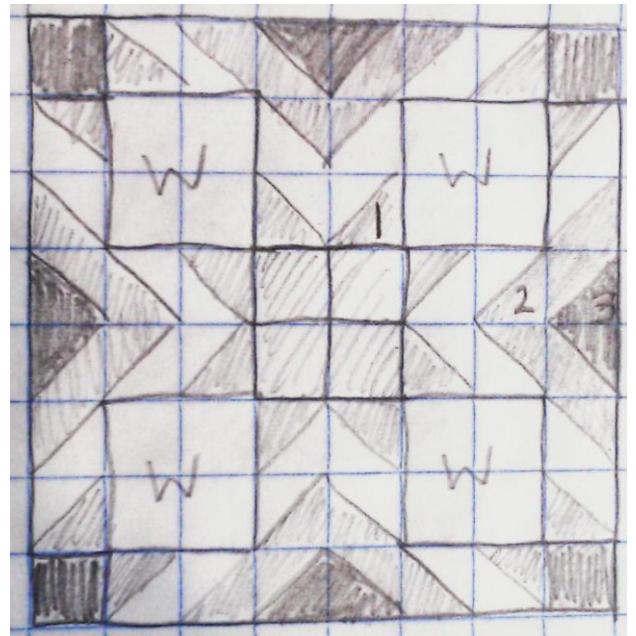
Color 3 (ikat diamond):

(4) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (for half-square triangles, OUTER)

(4) 2" squares (for corners)

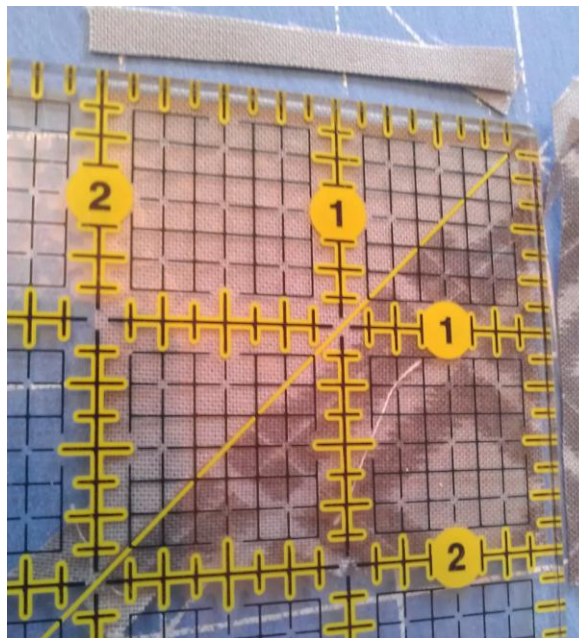
Center Square (grey leaf print):

(1) 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square



Instructions:

1. Create your half square triangles:
 - a. **Color #1 + Background:** draw a diagonal line across each of the background-colored 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares. Stack one background square on a Color #1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square, matching corners. Pin. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam along each side of your drawn line. Trim your sewn squares along the drawn line. Press your half-square triangle units open. *Trim your HSTs to a perfect 2" square, using the 45 angle on your ruler, aligned with the center seam, to trim your HST perfectly* (see diagram below). Repeat for all 4 Color #1 squares, creating 8 HSTs.



- b. **Color #2 + Background:** using the above technique in a., create 24 half-square triangles of (background + Color #2) 2 ½" squares.
- c. **Color #2 + Color #3:** Repeat the above process, stacking a Color #2 on a Color #3, creating 8 color #2/#3 half-square triangles.

PIECE TALLY:

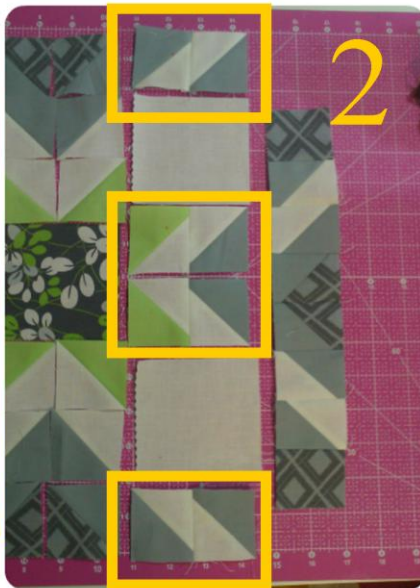
- (4) 2" corner squares
- (8) 2" HSTs (color 1 + b/g – LIME)
- (8) 2" HSTs (color 2 + color 3)
- (24) 2" HSTs (color 2 + b/g)
- (1) 3 ½" center square
- (4) 3 ½" background squares



2. Lay out your segments according to the picture below.



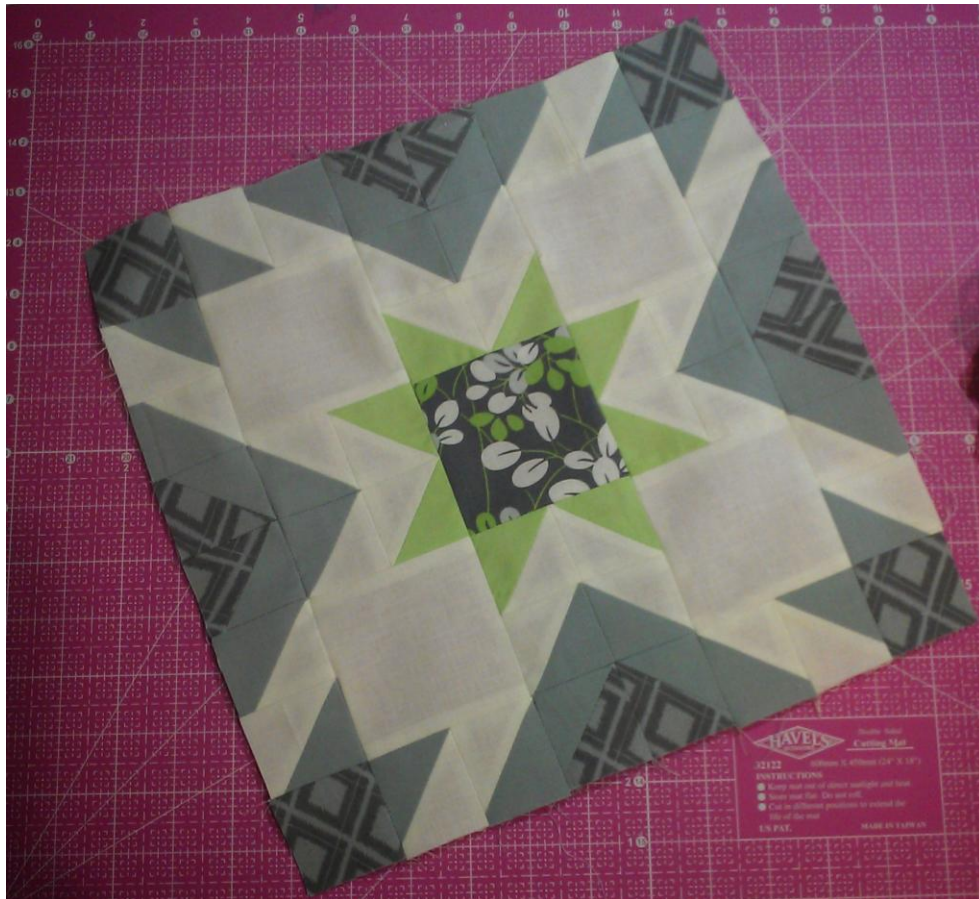
3. Sew your segments together, as indicated by the collage below. Press seams open as you go.
- sew the outside row together, pressing seams open (#1, diagram below).
 - working from the outside in, next sew together the HST pairs as indicated in #2, diagram below. Press seams open.
 - sew together your HST pairs and 3 1/2" background squares in a row (#3, diagram below), aligning center seams on HSTs. Press seams open.



- d. Repeat a-c for the opposite side of the block.
4. Sew your center segment together.
 - a. First, sew your HSTs into horizontal pairs, as indicated in the picture to the right. Press seams open.
 - b. Then, matching center seams, sew your HST pairs and center squares together, creating a finished row segment.



5. Sew your finished row segments together to complete your block.



Here's my second, alternate block. This second block is pieced the exact same as the one above, but with a scrappy, ombre, strip pieced center.

Cutting – Block Option #2:

As above –

Color 1 = Pink

Color 2 = Aqua

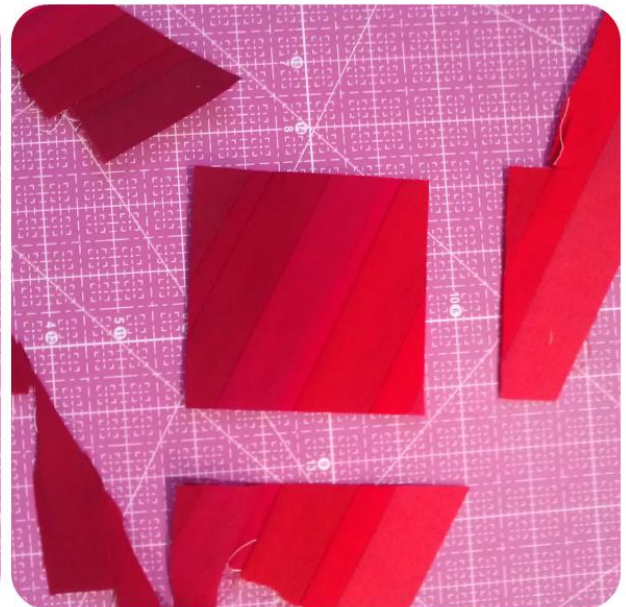
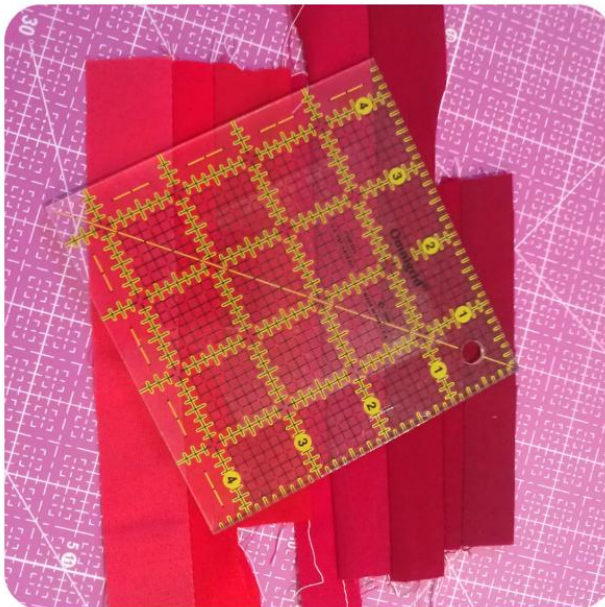
Color 3 = Emerald

Center Square:

(1) 3 ½" square, cut from a strip-pieced set of red strips.

Instructions:

1. I strip pieced the inside square, on a diagonal, with varying thicknesses of strips (¼" – 1 ½"). I then cut the center 3 ½" square from the strip pieced 'blob'.



2. Following the directions for block option 1 above, create your HST units, lay your block out and sew according to the order set out in option 1.

Voila! Second block option!



I hope you've been having fun with the block of the month!

Thank you so much for quilting along with me this year. The block-setting instructions will be posted in the weeks to come, and I'll make sure to send out the link via email when it goes live.

Don't forget to upload pictures of your block(s) to the [Sew at Home Mummy: Classic meets Modern QAL group](#), and then link-up your photo to the blog post at [Sew at Home Mummy](#)!