

AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL CLASS OUTLINE

Class Description

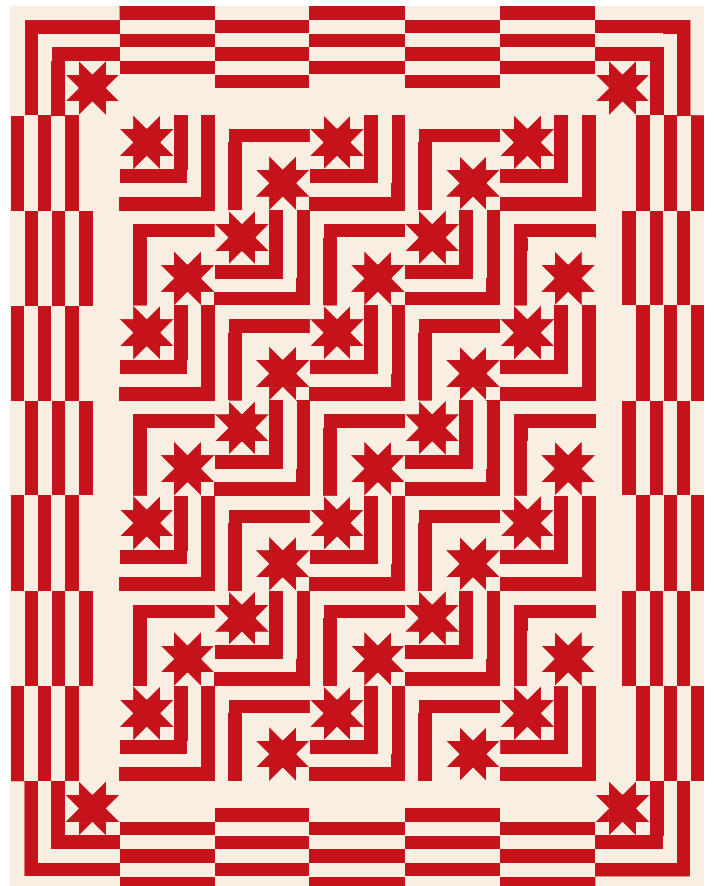
This patriotic quilt was designed by then-ten-year-old Will Bennett, on 9/11/2001. The pattern is now in a new book by his mom, Judy Martin: *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns*. Make it in red, white and blue, or make it in 2 colors, as shown on page 20 and below. For the red-and-white version, simply add together the red and blue yardage and cutting lists to get the the new white total. In the diagrams, substitute white for both blue and red, and substitute red for white.

Suited for Beginner to Intermediate Level

The quilt is made from the simplest of stars: the Evening Star (also called the Variable Star). The cutting and sewing utilize basic squares, rectangles, half-square triangles, and quarter-square triangles. The border blocks are sewn into the quilt's rows, along with the central blocks. It couldn't be easier!

Items to Bring to Session 1 if You Have Them:

Red, White & Blue Star Quilts and fabrics from home that you are considering using.



White and Red Version

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Session 1: Fabrics

Demonstrate fabrics that read as solids,
Assist students with selection of fabric and purchase of fabric, *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*, and tools.

Homework

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, and all of page 12.

Make final fabric selection and/or purchase.

Prepare fabrics. Prewash if desired and press.

Required Items to Bring to Session 2

Required: *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; rotary cutting mat; rotary ruler; rotary cutter; pressing mat; iron; and fabric as listed for your chosen colors.

Recommended: my Point Trimmer/ABC Point Trimmer/downloaded paper guide/charts for using a regular ruler for A and B trims. Downloads and instructions for all methods are at RWB Extras at judymartin.com. Order my Point Trimmer from the Products page at judymartin.com. Order the ABC Point Trimmer from the Acrylic Templates page at judymartin.com.

Session 2: Cutting

Demonstrate cutting seamless borders and rectangles on the lengthwise grain for added stability. Stress cutting the seamless borders and largest patches first.

Demonstrate rotary cutting squares, half-square triangles, quarter-square triangles, and the all-lengthwise grain option for quarter-square triangles using my S45 (page 15) or another ruler of your choice. (The Small Flying Geese Ruler #8705 at From Marti Michell is one option, though you need to subtract 1/8" from the strip width when you use her tool.)

Discuss trimming points to help align patches for sewing and to eliminate dogears from seams.

Demonstrate trimming points on half-square triangles using the A trims.

Demonstrate trimming points on quarter-square triangles using the B trims.

Show the use of the ABC Point Trimmer and/or these options: my older Point Trimmer/paper guide/charts for using a regular ruler to trim points. Guides, charts, and instructions are available for free download at RWB Extras at judymartin.com.

Demonstrate seam allowance test (page 8).
Assist students as they begin rotary cutting.

Homework

Continue rotary cutting and trimming points. Have students do the seam allowance test at home.

Required Items to Bring to Session 3

Required: *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; seam allowance test; cut patches; sewing machine; pins; spare machine needles; thread snips; thread; bobbins; extension cord; seam ripper; pressing mat; and iron.

Session 3: Piecing Stars & Blocks V–W

Demonstrate piecing (page 90) and pressing stars (page 12).

Discuss the option of chain piecing 2 units at a time if one prefers that to assembly-line work.

Demonstrate pinning and stitching rectangles to the stars in numerical order to make V and W blocks (page 90).

Point out that V's begin with 2 white rectangles and W's begin with 2 red rectangles.

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing blocks V and W with supervision.

Homework

Continue piecing stars and blocks V and W.

Required Items to Bring to Session 4

Required: *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; sewn stars and blocks; cut patches; sewing machine; pins; spare machine needles; thread snips; thread; bobbins; extension cord; seam ripper; pressing mat; and iron.

Session 4: Piecing Blocks X–Z & Quilt Assembly

Demonstrate adding a pair of red H and I rectangles to each of 4 V blocks to make 4 Z blocks (page 90).

Demonstrate X and Y border block construction (page 90). Point out that the blue J is sewn to the red end for X and to the white end for Y. These can be strip pieced if you like, but I recommend 22" lengthwise strips if you choose this method.

Discuss joining 7 blocks in each of 9 rows, as shown on page 91. The top and bottom rows are made alike,

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having 3 X blocks alternated with 2 Y blocks, with a Z at each end. The interior rows are of 2 types: 3 V's alternated with 2 W's, with an X at each end; and 3 W's alternated with 2 V's, with a Y at each end. Pay attention to the blocks' orientation. Note that each V block is oriented with its star in the upper left corner, and each W block is oriented with its star in the lower right corner. X and Y blocks have their blue strip on the inside edge. Z blocks all have their stripes on the outside corner.

Discuss pinning and stitching the rows together to complete the quilt top.

Discuss pressing the quilt top.

Discuss quilting options.

Students make blocks with supervision and begin assembling the quilt.

Assess students' progress and agree on a date for a reveal party.

Homework

Students continue making X-Z blocks and assembling the quilt. Some may progress to basting the quilt layers, quilting, and binding.

Bring to Session 5

Completed quilt, quilt top, or progress made so far.

Session 5: Reveal Party

Hold a show-and-tell meetup at the shop to reveal everyone's quilt or quilt top. Take the opportunity to showcase new fabrics or notions.

Consider taking pictures of the quilts with their makers for your shop newsletter.

If you like, make and serve cookies from *Cookies 'n' Quilts*, and sell copies of that book, too.

Optional: share a quilt or two from coming classes to spark interest. Pass around a signup sheet.