

AMERICAN HERO CLASS OUTLINE

Class Description

Make this bold, asymmetrical quilt from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns* in your choice of red, white and blue (page 31) or blue, white, and navy (page 19). The quilt is especially quick to make with its small size and large background and border space.

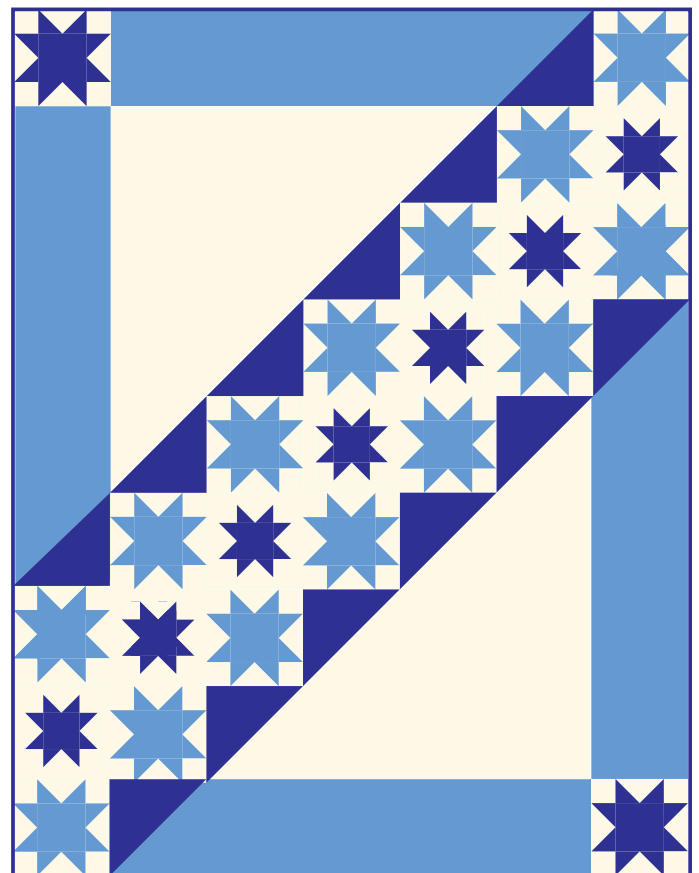
Suited for Advanced Beginner to Experienced Level

The pattern is designed to be simple enough for an advanced beginner and unique enough to interest an experienced quilter. 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.

Accurate sewing will help in joining together heavily pieced parts and large background patches. The smaller stars are framed with background-colored strips, simplifying the joints between blocks.

Items to Bring to Session 1 if You Have Them:

Red, White & Blue Star Quilts and fabrics from your stash, if desired.



Blue, White & Navy Version



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Session 1: Fabrics

Demonstrate fabrics that read as solids.

Assist students with selection of 3-color scheme and purchase of fabric; *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; and tools.

Homework

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, page 12 and the right half of page 32.

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; a long, wide rotary ruler; a large square rotary ruler; rotary cutter; pressing mat; iron; pencil; and fabric as listed for the quilt.

Recommended: Point Trimmer or ABC Point Trimmer. Buy Point Trimmers from the Products page on judymartin.com. Find ordering information for the ABC Point Trimmers at the RWB Extras page at judymartin.com.

Session 2: Cutting

Demonstrate cutting border L's and Lr's on the lengthwise grain for stability. Cut one end off the L/Lr rectangles as shown on page 32. Stack 1 rectangle face up with another face down to cut 1 L and 1 Lr at the same time. Stress cutting K and L/Lr patches first and cutting smaller patches from the leftovers.

Demonstrate placing multiple large rulers next to each other to rotary cut a $32\frac{7}{8}$ " square for 2 K triangles. Point out that you need to add together ruler widths, so take note of rulers having widths in half inches. Show how to pencil a line to cut the square in half by aligning the 45-degree angle with the bottom left corner of the square and marking along the length of the ruler. Repeat at the opposite corner. Lay a long ruler between lines and draw along the ruler to connect them. Lay a ruler along the line, rotary cut for the length of the ruler, then slide it over to continue cutting along the square's entire diagonal line.

Have students team up to share rulers as you assist them in cutting K's.

Demonstrate rotary cutting squares, rectangles, half-square triangles, quarter-square triangles, and the all-lengthwise grain option for quarter-square triangles

using 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 $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the strip width when you use her tool.)

Demonstrate trimming points to help align patches for sewing and to eliminate dogears from seams. For half-square triangles use the A trims of the ABC Point Trimmer. Mention options: older Point Trimmer/paper guide/charts for using a regular ruler to trim points. All guides, charts, and instructions are available for free download at RWB Extras at judymartin.com.

Demonstrate trimming points on quarter-square triangles (B trims).

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*; completed 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 the Stars & Blocks

Demonstrate piecing (page 33) and pressing (page 12) star 1's and blocks X, Y and Z. Point out that the rectangles of block Y should be pressed away from the block center. Discuss the option of chain piecing 2 units at a time if one prefers that to assembly-line work.

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing star 1's and blocks X, Y, and Z.

Homework

Continue piecing star 1's and blocks X, Y, and Z.

Required Items to Bring to Session 4

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

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Session 4: Quilt Assembly and Borders

Referring to page 33, discuss attaching an M to the angled end of each L and Lr, pressing toward the blue M triangle.

Discuss making seven 3-block X-Y-X columns, adding an M at both ends of 3 of them, and at one end of 2 of them. Press seams toward blue M triangles and blue Y blocks.

Discuss joining 5 of the block columns and adding two K triangles to complete a rectangle. Discuss adding Lr-M borders to the top and bottom and Z-L-M-X-Y-X borders to the sides to complete the top.

Discuss pressing the quilt top.

Discuss quilting options.

Students work on quilt assembly with supervision. Assess progress and set a date for a reveal party.

Homework

Students continue assembling the quilt and borders. They proceed to basting 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.

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

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

Another option is to share a quilt or two from coming classes to spark interest and signups.