

# MILITARY BAND CLASS OUTLINE

## Class Description

Make this bold quilt with a circular illusion from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns*. The quilt is shown in red, white and blue (page 92) or red and white (page 21).

Students making the red-and-white version should download the free Military Band RW pattern from RWB Extras at judymartin.com. They will still need the book.

## Suited for Intermediate to Experienced Level

The cutting and sewing is simple enough for an advanced beginner. The quilt is made from the simplest of stars: the Evening Star (also called the Variable Star) and the Rising Star. The cutting and sewing utilize basic squares, rectangles, half-square triangles, and quarter-square triangles.

The difficulty comes from the need to keep track of many stars, blocks, and units. The quilt requires concentration to follow the quilt construction diagrams.

## Items to Bring to Session 1 if You Have Them:

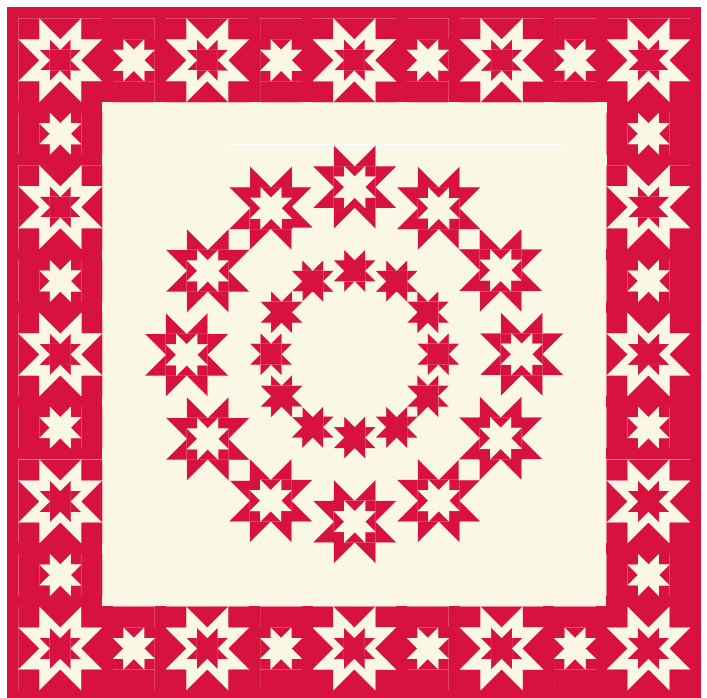
*Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; fabrics from home; and phone/camera/reducing glass/Ruby Beholder.



## Session 1: Fabrics

Demonstrate fabrics that read as solids and appropriate contrasts between red and blue. It is helpful to choose darker navy prints and lighter red prints.

Whether the student shops for fabric in class or brings it from home, suggest taking a black-and-white photo of the array of fabrics to judge suitability of values next to each other. Alternatively, a door peephole, reducing glass, or Ruby Beholder can help in judging suitable contrasts.



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Assist students with selection of fabric and purchase of fabric, *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*, and my ABC Point Trimmer if they do not have my older Point Trimmer. I have free downloads for point trimming at Red, White and Blue Extras at judymartin.com, but they are fussier than the tools.

## Homework

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, pages 12–13, and the bottom of page 93.

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; fabric as listed for your chosen quilt size and color; my Point Trimmer/ABC Point Trimmer/downloaded files for trimming points (A and B trims) with a regular ruler or paper guide. Buy my Point Trimmer from the Products page at judymartin.com. Buy the ABC Point Trimmer from the Acrylic Templates page at judymartin.com. Download all guides and instructions for point trimming from the RWB Extras page at judymartin.com.

## Session 2: Cutting

Demonstrate cutting seamless borders and rectangles on the lengthwise grain for added stability. Stress cutting the 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 tool 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 optional point trimming to eliminate dog-ears from seams.

Demonstrate trimming points of half-square triangles using the A trims of the ABC Point Trimmer. Mention options: 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 trimming points of quarter-square triangles (B trims).

Demonstrate the 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 1–4, Units 1–4, Unit 7

Demonstrate piecing and pressing stars 1–4 (pages 12 and 94).

Demonstrate piecing units 1–4 (page 94).

Demonstrate piecing unit 7 (page 94).

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing stars 1–4 and units 1–4 and 7.

## Homework

Continue piecing stars 1–4, units 1–4 and unit 7.

## Required Items to Bring to Session 4

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

## Session 4: Blocks X–Z and Units 5–6

Discuss piecing and pressing blocks X–Z and units 5–6 (pages 12–13 and 94).

Discuss assembling the quilt center (page 95). This echoes the piecing of unit 7.

Discuss adding white borders 1 and 2 to the sides.

## Homework

Students continue piecing blocks X–Z and units 5–6, and adding borders 1–2.

## Required Items to Bring to Session 5

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

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## **Session 5: Piecing and Attaching the Borders**

Discuss making the top pieced border by joining 4 Y blocks alternately with 3 Z's and adding plain border #3. Repeat for the bottom border. Pin and stitch these to the quilt, with the plain borders on the inside.

Discuss making the left pieced border by joining 5 Z blocks alternately with 4 Y's and adding plain blue border #5. Repeat for the right border. Pin and stitch these to the quilt, with the plain blue borders on the outside edge of the quilt.

Discuss pinning and stitching the plain blue borders #7-8 to the top and bottom to complete the quilt top.

Discuss quilting options.

Students make blocks X-Z and units 5-6. They proceed with piecing the quilt center and borders and assembling the quilt with supervision.

Assess students' progress and agree on a date for a reveal party for quilt tops or completed quilts.

## **Homework**

Students continue making borders. They then pin and stitch them to the quilt center (page 95).

## **Bring to Session 6**

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

## **Session 6: 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 with their makers for your newsletter.

If you like, share a quilt or two from coming classes in order to spark interest and signups.