

O BEAUTIFUL! CLASS OUTLINE

Class Description

Make this stunning quilt from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns* in your choice of color scheme: red and white (page 81) or red, white and blue (page 85).

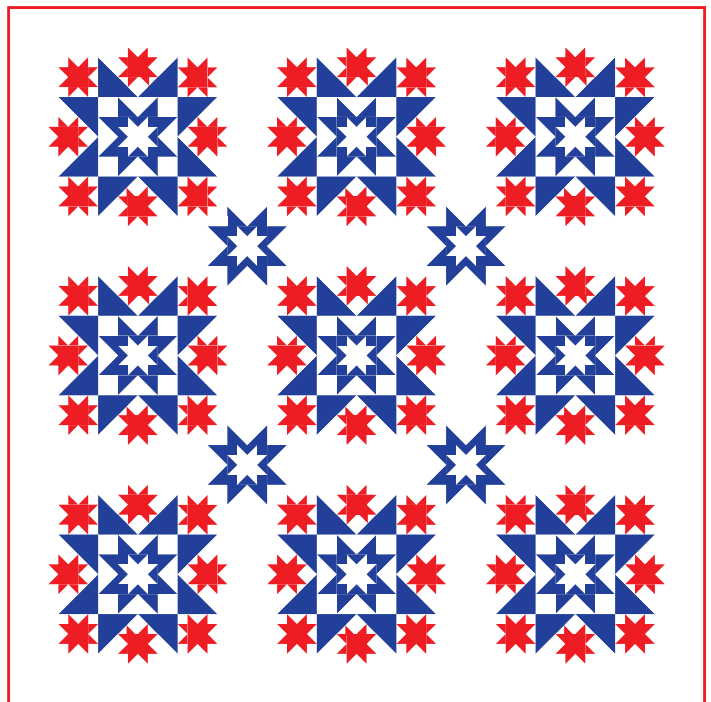
Suited for Intermediate to Experienced Level

Nine 27" blocks, each intricately pieced of 11 stars, are set with wide sashes colored to match the block background. Rising Stars punctuate the junctions of the sashing. The strong contrasts add to the drama.

Accurate sewing will help in fitting together the many parts of the blocks. Careful work will result in an heirloom-quality quilt.

The block is made from a simple Rising Star within a large star. This is surrounded with small Evening Stars. The cutting and sewing utilize basic squares, rectangles, half-square triangles, and quarter-square triangles.

The pattern also includes prisms and half prisms for the sashing and half trapezoids in the blocks' backgrounds. These can be rotary cut with 2 acrylic templates specific to this pattern, with my ShapeMaker 45 (S45) tool, or with free downloadable paper guides taped to a ruler.



Items to Bring to Session 1 if You Have Them:
Red, White & Blue Star Quilts & fabrics from home.

Session 1: Fabrics

Demonstrate fabrics that read as solid. Assist students with selection of fabric and purchase of fabric; *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; and optional ABC Point Trimmer and L-M and H-Hr acrylic templates.

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Homework

Choose your method for point trimming and prism cutting, as delineated on the RWB Extras page at judymartin.com. Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, pages 12–13, page 15 (if you plan to use my ShapeMaker 45 tool), the bottom of page 82 or page 85, and the instructions for your chosen point trimming and prism cutting method from the links on the RWB Extras page.

Choose the 2-color or patriotic color scheme.
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 quilt coloring.

Also required: my Point Trimmer/ABC Point Trimmer/free downloaded point trimming guides and instructions; acrylic O Beautiful! L-M and H-Hr templates/my ShapeMaker 45 tool (out of print)/free downloaded paper guide and instructions. All free downloads, including instructions for using my Point Trimmer and ABC Point Trimmer, are at RWB Extras at judymartin.com. Buy my Point Trimmer from the Products page on judymartin.com. Buy the 2 rotary cutting templates and my ABC Point Trimmer from the Acrylic Templates page at judymartin.com. Instructions for using my S45 to cut L, M, H, and Hr patches are on page 15 of the book.

Session 2: Cutting

Stress cutting borders and large patches first. Discuss cutting borders and rectangles on the lengthwise grain for stability. Demonstrate rotary cutting squares, half-square triangles, quarter-square triangles, and the all-lengthwise grain option for quarter-square triangles using my S45 tool (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 $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the strip width with this tool.)

Demonstrate rotary cutting the L prisms and M half prisms and the H and Hr half trapezoids using the O Beautiful! acrylic templates. Optional: demonstrate using my old S45 tool (page 15) or using paper guides

for L, M, H, and Hr downloaded at RWB Extras at judymartin.com.

Trimming points helps you align patches for sewing and eliminate dogears from seams. I strongly recommend that students use the C trim for all triangles and H/Hr patches in O Beautiful! They can use the tip of the acrylic H template/my ABC Point Trimmer/my older Point Trimmer for this. Demonstrate trimming points using the C trim on my H acrylic template. Alternatively, demonstrate the C trim on my Point Trimmer/my ABC Point Trimmer. Mention that students may opt to make A, B, or C trims using a paper guide taped to a ruler or make A or B trims using a regular ruler. If they don't have one of my tools, the C trims can be fiddly, depending on what ruler they tape the guide to. In the book I list a mix of A, B, and C trims instead of all C trims for the triangles and trapezoids, so only a few are fiddly. They'll find it simpler to have the right tool and cut all points with C trims. Guides and instructions for A, B, and C point trims are on the RWB Extras page at judymartin.com.

Demonstrate the seam allowance test (page 8).

Assist students as they begin cutting, especially rotary cutting the L, M, H, and Hr patches and trimming the points with the C trim.

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, 2, and 3

Demonstrate piecing and pressing stars 1–3 (pages 12–13 and 83 or 86). Discuss the option of chain piecing two units at a time if one prefers that to assembly-line work. Point out that students will have 36 red A squares and 288 red B triangles left over after making star 2's. These will be needed for the X blocks

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing stars 1–3.

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Homework

Continue piecing stars 1–3.

Required Items to Bring to Session 4

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

Session 4: Piecing Block X

Demonstrate piecing the partial star units that go at the center of each side of the X block (page 83 or 86). Demonstrate adding 2 K triangles to each of these.

Discuss assembling the X block in 3 rows, using stars 2 and 3 and partial star/K units. Discuss making B-C-B units and sewing them between I and J pairs. Discuss pinning and stitching these to the block to complete the X block.

Homework

Continue piecing X blocks.

Required Items to Bring to Session 5

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 5: Piecing Sashes & Assembling the Quilt

Demonstrate piecing Y and Z sashes (page 83/86).

See page 84/87. Discuss making the top block row from 3 X blocks alternated with 2 Z sashes. Be sure to turn the Z's as shown. Repeat to make the bottom row in the same fashion. (It will be turned 180 degrees.)

Discuss making the center block row from 3 X blocks alternated with 2 Y sashes.

Discuss making a sash row from Z, star 1, Y, star 1, Z as shown on page 84/87. Repeat to make a second sash row exactly the same.

Pin and stitch the block rows alternately with the sash rows, turning them as shown in the quilt diagram. Add plain borders in numerical order.

Assess students' progress and set a date for a show-and-tell session.

Homework

Students continue making sashes, assembling the quilt, and adding borders at home.

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. Take the opportunity to share what is new in the shop and make sales.

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

Show a quilt or two from upcoming classes to spark interest. Be sure to pass around a signup sheet.