

# SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK CLASS OUTLINE

## Class Description

Shakespeare in the Park combines graphic 2-color contrasts, simple stars, and the intriguing movement of Snail's Trails in one iconic design. The pattern is reprised in Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns* in your choice of queen or twin sizes. The quilt is also shown in white and blue and in red, white and blue on pages 21, 39, 44 and page 3 of this outline.

## Suited for Intermediate to Experienced Level

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 diagonal set and the use of 5 block types, sizes, and colorings plus numerous border units require careful attention to placement (and orientation in the case of the Snail's Trail blocks). You will need to follow the whole quilt construction diagram closely.

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

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



## Session 1: Fabrics

Assist students with selection of fabric and purchase of fabric; *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; and my new ABC Point Trimmer or my older Point Trimmer tool.

## Homework

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, pages 12–13, and the right side of page 39 or bottom of page 43.



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Choose the twin or queen size and a color plan. Make the final fabric selection and/or purchase. Prepare fabrics, prewashing if desired and pressing them.

## 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; and my Point Trimmer or ABC Point Trimmer tool. Buy my Point Trimmer from the Products page at judymartin.com. Find ordering information for the ABC Point Trimmer on the RWB Extras page at judymartin.com.

## Session 2: Cutting

Demonstrate cutting 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  $\frac{1}{8}$ " 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 half-square triangles using the C trims of the ABC Point Trimmer. Mention option: my older Point Trimmer. Instructions for using both point trimmers are available for free download at RWB Extras at judymartin.com.

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

Demonstrate seam allowance test (page 8).

Students begin rotary cutting.

Assist students with 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

Demonstrate piecing and pressing Evening Star and Rising Star blocks (pages 12–13 and 40 or 43).

Demonstrate piecing and pressing Z blocks away from the center (page 40 or 44). Stress following the block diagram carefully in order to place the colors correctly. Discuss pinning both ends of each seam to avoid stretching bias edges.

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

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

## Homework

Continue piecing stars and blocks in the quantities listed on page 40 or 43–44.

## 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: Border Units

Demonstrate piecing units for the built-in borders (page 40 or 44). Press seams away from the stars.

Discuss making each unit in 2 parts and joining them with a diagonal seam.

Students make border units with supervision.

## Homework

Continue piecing border units.

## Required Items to Bring to Session 5

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

## Session 5: Quilt Assembly

Discuss quilt assembly in diagonal rows (page 41 or 45). You can demonstrate with a student's blocks and

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units. Stress the fact that you must be careful how you turn the Z blocks. Within a diagonal row, each Z is turned the same way; Z's in Y rows are turned differently from Z's in X rows.

Discuss joining blocks and units to make each row, as shown in the whole quilt diagram (page 41 or 45).

Discuss taking a photograph after laying out rows. A photo will clearly point out any mistakes and allow you to correct them before stitching.

Assist students as they make and assemble rows.

Assess progress and set a date for a reveal party.

## Homework

Students continue assembling the quilt at home. Refer students to pages 10–11 for guidance on

backing and binding the quilt. Baste the layers, quilt as desired, and bind to finish.

## Bring to Session 6

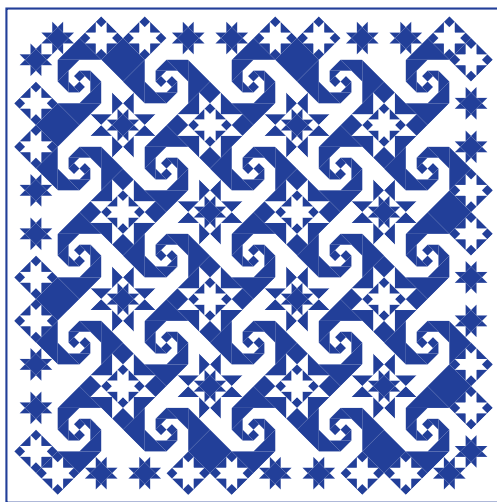
Completed quilt, quilt top, or progress made so far.

## Session 6: Reveal Party

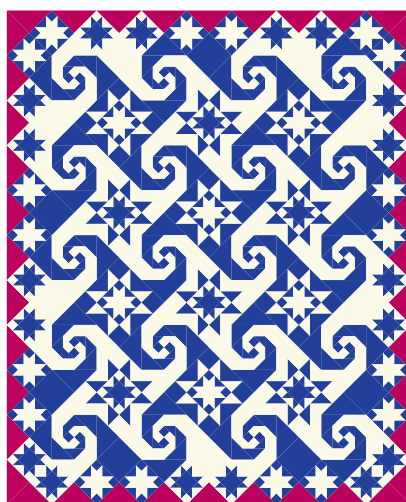
Hold a show-and-tell meetup at the shop to reveal everyone's quilt or quilt top. Use the opportunity to showcase new products in the shop and sell fabric and other products.

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

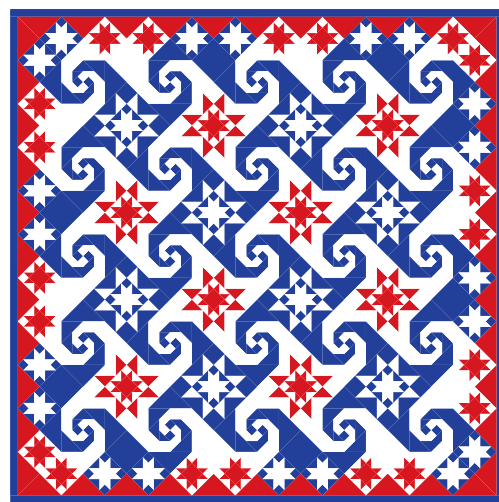
If you like, make and serve cookies from *Cookies 'n' Quilts*, and sell copies of that book, too.



White and Blue Version  
Page 39



Red, White and Blue Version  
Page 44



Red, White and Blue Version  
Page 21

*A pattern sheet of changes to the yardage and diagrams for this version is available at RWB Extras at judymartin.com*