

# SPARKLER CLASS OUTLINE

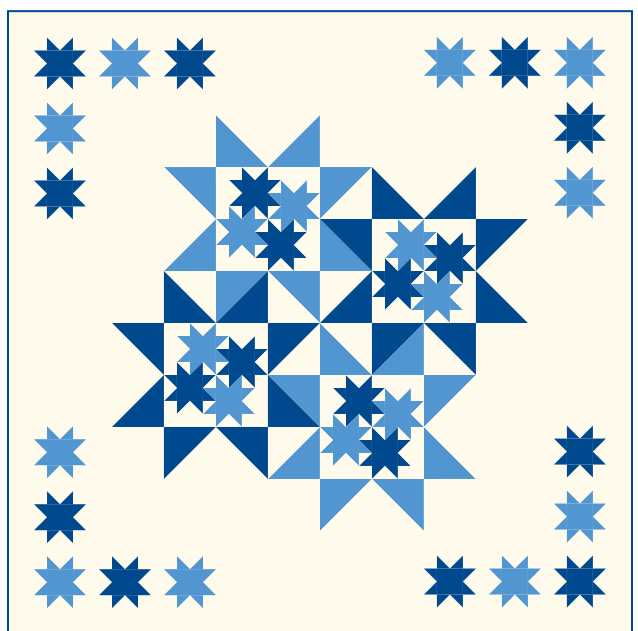
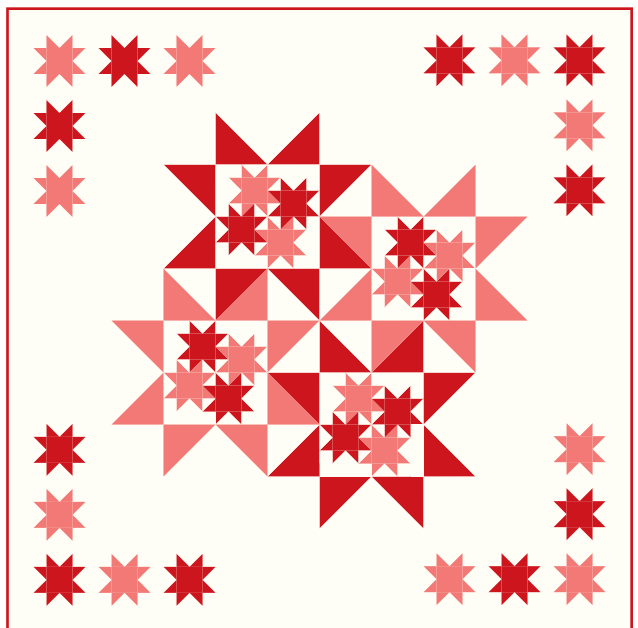
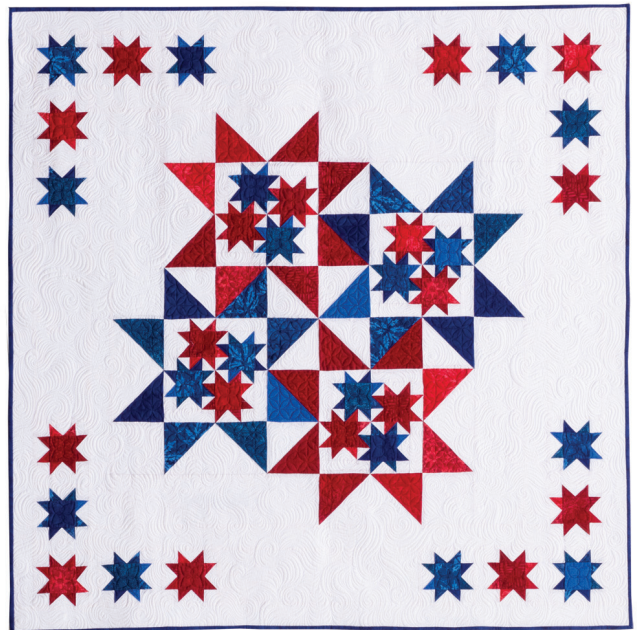
## Class Description

Make this appealing, asymmetrical quilt from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns* in your choice of 48" wall size or 96" queen size. The quilt is shown in 3 colorways that all use the same yardage amounts and cutting lists: 1) red, white and blue, page 22; 2) red, white and pink, page 19; or 3) blue, white and navy, page 25. All are shown at right. Simply substitute pink for blue to make the second quilt and substitute medium blue for red to make the third quilt

## Suited for Advanced Beginner to Experienced Level

The pattern is designed to be simple enough for an advanced beginner and engaging enough for 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 offset arrangement of the stars requires attention to detail and an ability to follow diagrams.



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## **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 plus 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.

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

### **Homework**

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, page 12, and the bottom of page 23.

Choose the 48" or 96" quilt size.

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 size and color.

Recommended: Point Trimmer.

### **Session 2: Cutting**

Demonstrate cutting borders and rectangles on the lengthwise grain for added stability. Stress cutting 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 specialty 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 trimming the points of half-square triangles using the A trims of the ABC Point Trimmer. Mention other point trimming options: my older Point

Trimmer/paper guides/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*; 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 Units & Blocks**

Demonstrate piecing (page 24) and pressing unit 1 (adapted from page 12). Discuss the option of chain piecing 2 units at a time if one prefers that to assembly-line work. Point out that units 1 and 2 have parts of 2 stars, but no stars are complete until unit 1 is sewn to unit 2.

Discuss the fact that unit 2 is exactly like unit 1, but it is colored and turned differently.

Discuss joining unit 1 and unit 2, being careful to turn them as shown, to make a half block. Repeat, and join halves to complete block W.

Point out that units 3 and 4 are just bigger versions of units 1 and 2, with block W substituted for the A square. Block X is just a bigger block W.

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing units 1–4 and blocks W and X.

### **Homework**

Continue piecing units 1–4 and blocks W and X.

### **Required Items to Bring to Session 4**

Required: *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; sewn units and 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: Borders**

Demonstrate piecing Evening Star Y and Z blocks for the borders (pages 12 and 25). Show pressing direction (page 12).

Discuss making borders from Y and Z blocks and H and I rectangles (page 25 or 26, depending on your quilt size).

Discuss pinning and stitching the plain and pieced borders to the quilt center.

Discuss pressing the quilt top.

Discuss quilting options.

Students make Y and Z blocks with supervision. Assess students' progress and agree on a date for a reveal party for quilt tops or completed quilts.

## **Homework**

Students continue assembling the quilt and borders.

## **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 and sell new fabrics and 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.