

STAR BRIGHT CLASS OUTLINE

Class Description

Make this delightful quilt from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns* in medium blue, white, and navy (page 70) or red, white, and blue (page 19). For the patriotic version, simply substitute red for medium blue in the yardage, cutting lists, and diagrams. Use fat quarters or scraps, or select just three fabrics. If you use prints, they should read as solids.

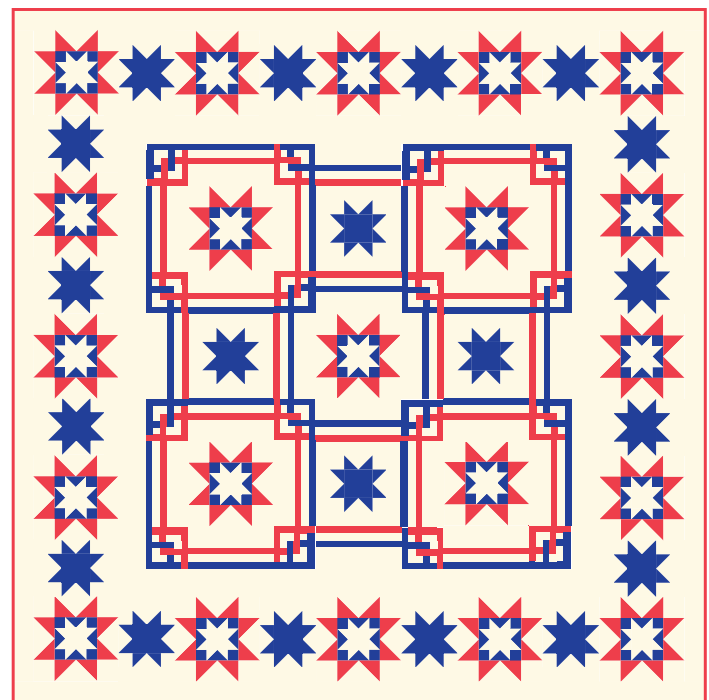
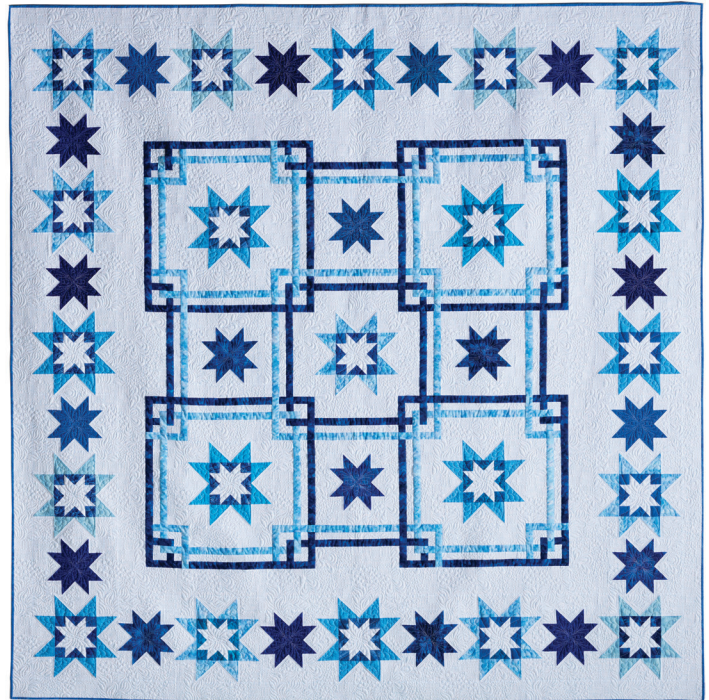
Suited for Advanced Beginner to Experienced Level

The cutting and the block construction are basic, but keeping the sashes and setting squares turned properly requires attention to detail. The quilt is made from simple Evening Star and Rising Star blocks. The cutting and sewing utilize basic squares, rectangles, half-square triangles, and quarter-square triangles.

Precise sewing will help in joining together heavily pieced borders and central blocks with plain borders.

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. 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 contrasts 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 fat quarters or yardage and purchase of fabric; thread; *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; and tools.

Homework

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, pages 12–13, and the bottom of page 71.

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 coloring.

Recommended: Point Trimmer or ABC Point Trimmer. The Point Trimmer may be purchased from the Products page at judymartin.com. Buy the ABC Point Trimmer using the link 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 optional all-lengthwise grain method 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 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 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. 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 Stars, Blocks & Sashes

Demonstrate piecing (page 72) and pressing (pages 12–13) stars, blocks, and sashes. Discuss the option of chain piecing one or 2 blocks at a time if one prefers that to assembly-line work. Point out that star 1 is used in the V blocks and star 2 is used in W and X blocks.

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing stars 1–2 and blocks and sashes U–Z.

Homework

Continue piecing stars 1–2 and blocks U–X and sashes Y and Z.

Required Items to Bring to Session 4

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

Session 4: Quilt Center

Discuss alternating sashes and blocks U–Y–U–Z–U–Y–U, turning them as shown on page 73, to make 4 sash rows. All sash rows are identical to the top one; the second and fourth sash rows are turned 180°.

Discuss alternating sashes and blocks Y–V–Y–W–Y–V–Y, turning them as shown, to make top and bottom block rows.

Discuss alternating sashes and blocks Z–W–Z–V–Z–W–Z, turning them as shown, to make the center block row.

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Discuss joining sash rows and block rows alternately.
Discuss adding 4½" x 60½" plain border strips to the right and left sides to complete the quilt center.

Homework

Students continue assembling the quilt center.

Bring to Session 5

Required: *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; completed quilt center; plain borders; pieced border blocks or progress so far; sewing machine; pins; spare machine needles; thread snips; thread; bobbins; extension cord; seam ripper; pressing mat; and iron.

Session 5: Adding Plain and Pieced Borders

Discuss making 4 pieced borders from 4 X blocks alternated with 3 V blocks as shown at the top of the diagram on page 73. Add a 4½" x 68½" plain border to 2 of these to complete top and bottom borders. Pin and stitch to the quilt center, turning them as shown.

To the remaining 2 borders, add a V block to each end. Also add a 3½" x 92½" plain border to each of these pieced borders. Pin and stitch these to the right and left sides of the quilt, turning them with plain borders on the outside.

Pin and stitch the remaining 2 plain borders to the top and bottom of the quilt center to complete the quilt top.

Stress that if your seam allowance and sewing are accurate, the borders should fit without easing. My borders are exact sizes, with seam allowances and no extra. Discuss working on an ironing board or large table, pinning borders first at midlines and ends, then at intervals of 3" or so.

Discuss backing, quilting, and binding (pgs. 10–11).

Students continue to assemble the quilt with your supervision and assistance.

Assess students' progress and set a date for a reveal party to show off tops or completed quilts.

Homework

Students finish quilt top or quilting and binding.

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 advantage of the opportunity to show new fabric lines and notions and make sales.

Consider photographing the quilters with their quilts for your newsletter. If you like, make and serve cookies from *Cookies 'n' Quilts*, and sell copies of that book, too. Optional: share a quilt from your next class to spark interest and signups.