

STARS IN STRIPES CLASS OUTLINE

Class Description

Make this bold quilt from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns* in red, white and blue (page 74); red and white (page 76 and page 3 of this outline); or medium blue, white and navy (page 19 or page 3 of this outline). Substitute red for blue in the 2-color quilt, adding together yardage and cutting lists to get the new red total. For the quilt on page 19, simply substitute medium blue for red in the yardage, cutting lists, and piecing diagrams.

Suited for Intermediate to Experienced Level

The cutting and the block construction are basic, but fitting the pieced strips to the plain strips will require accuracy. 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 with plain borders.

Items to Bring to Session 1 if You Have Them:

Red, White & Blue Star Quilts and fabrics from home, if desired.



Session 1: Fabrics

Demonstrate fabrics that read as solids. 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 75.

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.

Session 2: Cutting

Demonstrate cutting borders and rectangles on the lengthwise grain for added stability. Stress cutting the seamless borders and largest patches first.

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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 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. Buy the ABC Point Trimmer using the link to ordering information on the RWB Extras page at judymartin.com. Buy my older Point Trimmer from the Products page on judymartin.com.

Demonstrate trimming points on quarter-square triangles (B 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 1–2, Blocks Y–Z & Strip 1

Demonstrate piecing (page 76) and pressing (pages 12–13) stars 1–2 and blocks Y–Z. 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 Y blocks and star 2 is used in Z blocks.

Discuss joining blocks Y and Z alternately, as shown for the center strip on page 77. Pin and stitch the 2 narrowest plain strips to the right and left sides.

Discuss how stars 3 and 4 and blocks U and V are made in a similar fashion to stars 1–2, with different dimensions or color placement. Stress the difference in coloring between star 3 and star 4.

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing stars 1–2, blocks Y and Z, and the central pieced strip of the quilt.

Homework

Continue piecing stars 1–2 and blocks Y and Z and joining them to make the center strip of the quilt. If you have time, start piecing stars 3–4 and blocks W–X.

Required Items to Bring to Session 4

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

Session 4: Stars 3–4, Blocks W–X, and Strips 2 and 3

Discuss piecing and pressing stars 3–4 and blocks W–X (page 76). Stress the color differences.

Discuss joining blocks W and X alternately, as shown next to the center strip on page 77. Pin and stitch these strips to either side of the center strip, with blue sides out.

Students proceed with stars 3–4, blocks W–X, and their strips.

Homework

Students continue making blocks, joining them to make strips, and sewing the strips to the quilt center. If time allows, proceed with making blocks U and V.

Bring to Session 5

Required: *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; cut patches; completed quilt center; blocks; pieced strips; plain strips; sewing machine; pins; spare machine needles; thread snips; thread; bobbins; extension cord; seam ripper; pressing mat; and iron.

Session 5: Blocks U–V, and Outer Strips

Review making blocks U and V (page 76).

See page 77. Discuss joining 4 blue U blocks alternately with 4 red V blocks, with an N rectangle between each pair of blocks. Add an O rectangle to each end to complete the outermost strip. With a blue U next to the top O rectangle, pin and stitch the widest (3½") remaining plain strip to the left side of the pieced strip. Pin and stitch a 2½"-wide strip to

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the opposite side of the pieced strip. This completes the leftmost strip. Repeat to make the rightmost strip exactly the same.

Pin and stitch these strips to the quilt, turning the righthand strip 180 degrees. The widest plain strips should be on the outside edges of the quilt.

Discuss backing, quilting, and binding (pgs. 10–11). Students continue to assemble the quilt with help. Assess progress and set a date for a reveal party.

Homework

Students finish quilt top or quilting and binding.

Bring to Session 6

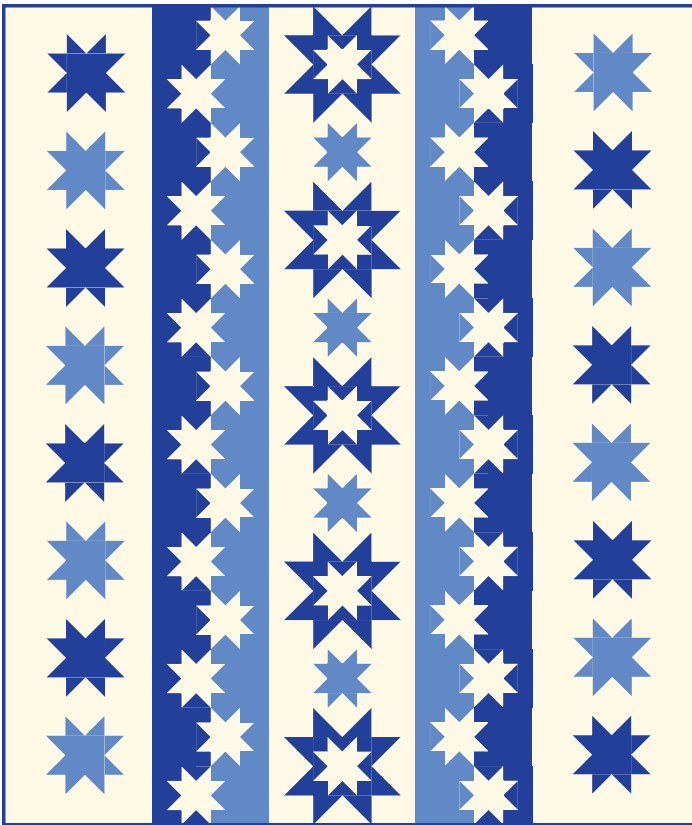
Completed quilt, quilt top, or progress made so far.

Session 6: Reveal Party

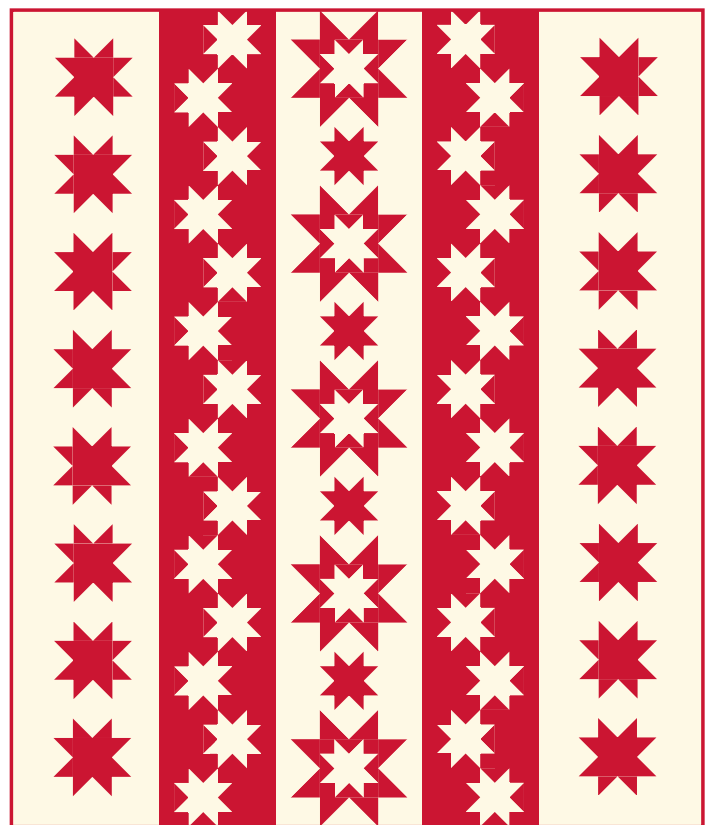
Hold a show-and-tell meetup at the shop to reveal everyone's quilt or quilt top. Use the opportunity to show off new products and make sales.

Consider photographing the quilters with their quilts for your newsletter. If you like, make cookies from *Cookies 'n' Quilts* and sell that book, too.

To spark interest in your next class, share a quilt from it and pass around a sign-up sheet.



Medium Blue, White, and Navy Version (Page 19)



Red and White Version (Page 76)