

# STARS OVER THE STATES CLASS OUTLINE

## Class Description

Make an heirloom-quality queen/king quilt from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns*, or make the 45" wall size in ¼ the time. The quilt is shown in 5 colorways on pages 20 and 34 of the book and page 3 of this outline. The wall version's yardage, star, block and unit requirements, and patch quantities are presented on a separate sheet available for free download at RWB Extras at judymartin.com.

## Suited for Intermediate to Advanced Level

The pattern's cutting and sewing involve the most basic of shapes forming simple Evening Stars. The circular arrangement and pieced borders require stars in 3 colorings as well as 6 block and unit types to keep track of. The student will need to follow block diagrams and quilt assembly diagrams closely. The 95" quilt requires 140 stars, which will involve considerable time and effort to make. The wall version has only 36 stars, so it goes together much more quickly.

Accurate sewing will help in joining together the heavily pieced borders and quilt center with the plain borders.



95" x 95" Queen/King Size

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

## Session 1: Fabrics

Demonstrate fabrics that read as solids,  
Assist students with selection of fabric and purchase of fabric; *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; and tools.

## Homework

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, page 12, and the right side of page 35.

Choose the 45" or 95" quilt size.

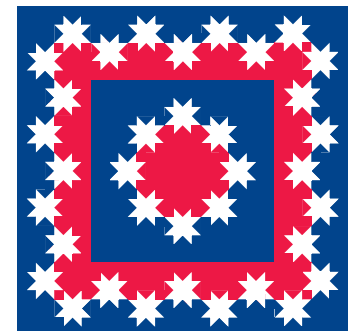
Make final fabric selection and/or purchase.

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.



45" x 45" Wall Size

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## 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 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 on 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. Guides, charts, and instructions are available for free download at RWB Extras at judymartin.com. Also find ordering information for the ABC Point Trimmers at the RWB Extras page 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, Units & Blocks

Demonstrate piecing (page 35) and pressing stars 1–3 (page 12). Discuss the option of chain piecing two units at a time if one prefers that to assembly-line work.

Point out the color differences of the 3 star types.

Discuss adding rectangles to stars to make units 1 and 2 for use in block W (page 36).

Discuss making block W (page 36) and adding sashing (queen size only, page 37).

Assist students who had problems with the seam

allowance test. Students begin sewing stars 1–3, units 1–2, and W blocks.

## Homework

Continue piecing W blocks and assembling the quilt center (queen size only).

## 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.

## Session 4: Borders

Demonstrate piecing blocks X, Y and Z for the pieced borders (page 36). Press away from the stars.

Discuss pinning and stitching the plain and pieced borders to the quilt center and borders. For the queen quilt, you start by sewing red plain borders to top and bottom pieced borders; sew these to the quilt. Sew an X to each end of a side red border and stitch this to a side pieced border; add to side of quilt. Repeat for the remaining side.

For the wall quilt, discuss adding 3" x 20½" blue borders to the right and left sides of the W block at the center of the quilt. Next, make 4 pieced borders, each having 3 X blocks alternated with 2 Y blocks. To 2 of these, sew a 3" x 25½" blue border; stitch these to the top and bottom of the quilt, with plain borders on the inside edge. Add a Z block to each end of the 2 remaining pieced borders, turning the blocks as shown. Add these to the right and left sides to complete the wall quilt top.

Discuss pressing the quilt top.

Discuss quilting options.

Students make X, Y and Z blocks with supervision. Assess the students' progress and agree on a date for a reveal party.

## Homework

Students continue making the borders and attaching the borders at home.

## Bring to Session 5

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

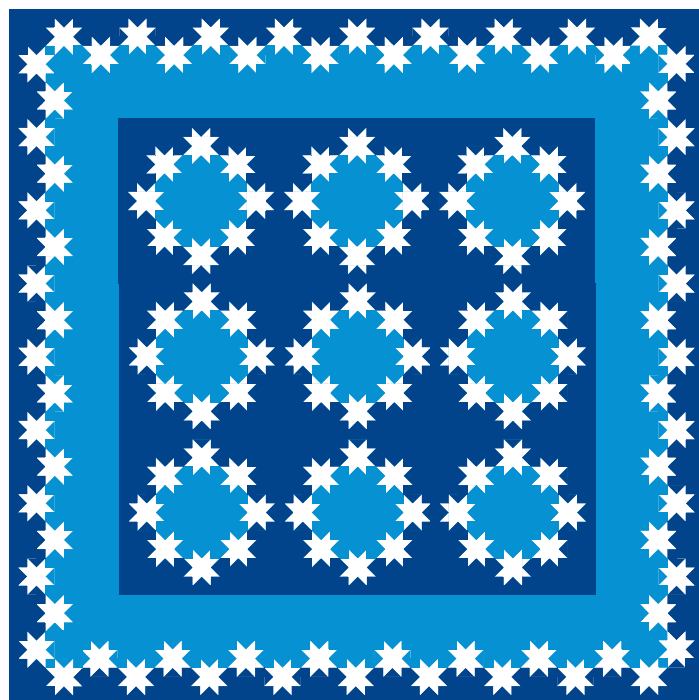
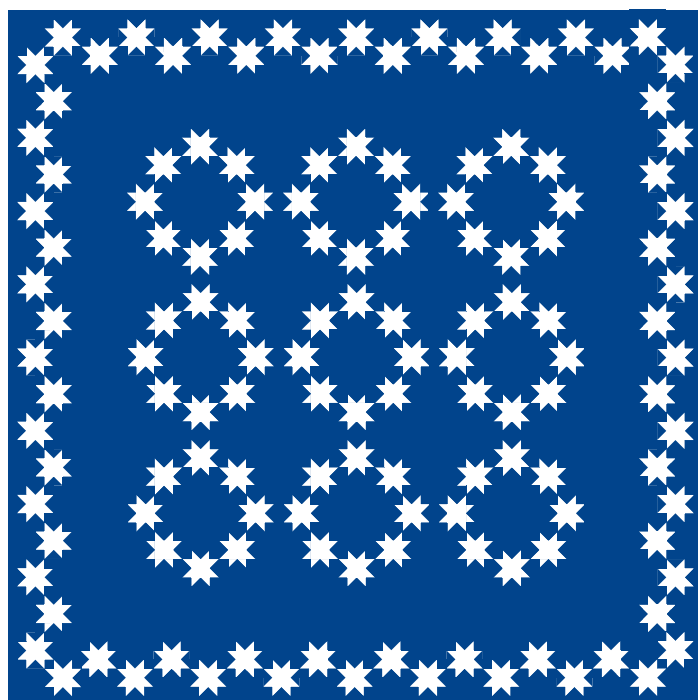
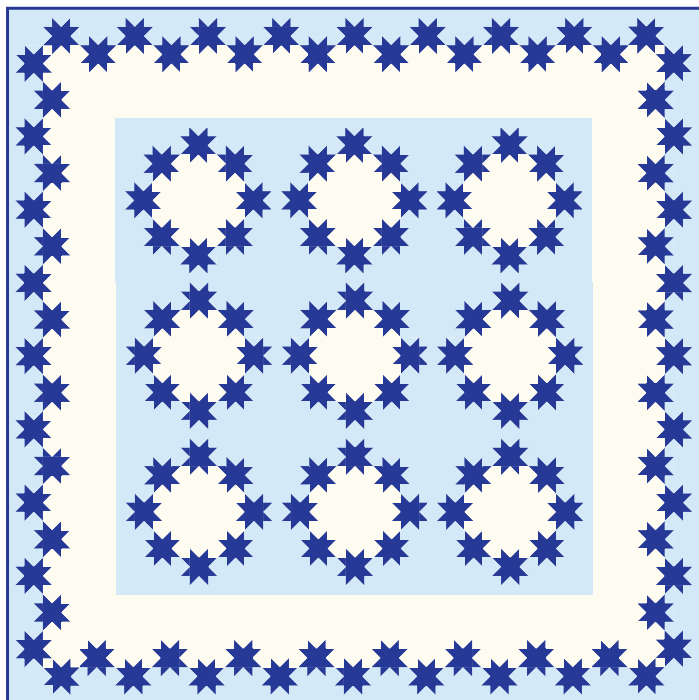
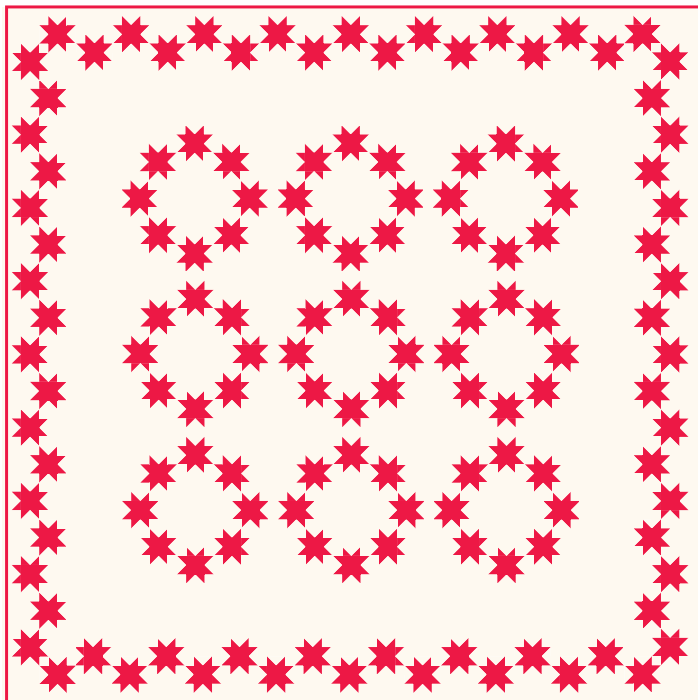
## Session 5: Reveal Party

Hold a show-and-tell meetup at the shop to reveal

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everyone's quilt or quilt top. 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. Optional: share a quilt or two from coming classes to spark interest and signups.



**Color Variations from *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*.**

See page 20 of the book, where the color substitutions are spelled out in detail.

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*Encourage students to send photos of their quilts to [judymartin.com](http://judymartin.com) for inclusion on the Viewer Photos pages.*