

# STARS 'N' STRIPES FOREVER CLASS OUTLINE

## Class Description

This handsome quilt from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns* is sized for a Quilt of Valor®, a generous throw, or a twin bed. The quilt is shown in red, white and blue (page 62) or blue and white (page 21).

Students making the blue and white version should download the free blue and white Stars 'n' Stripes pattern adjustments from the RWB Extras page at [judymartin.com](http://judymartin.com). They will still need the book.

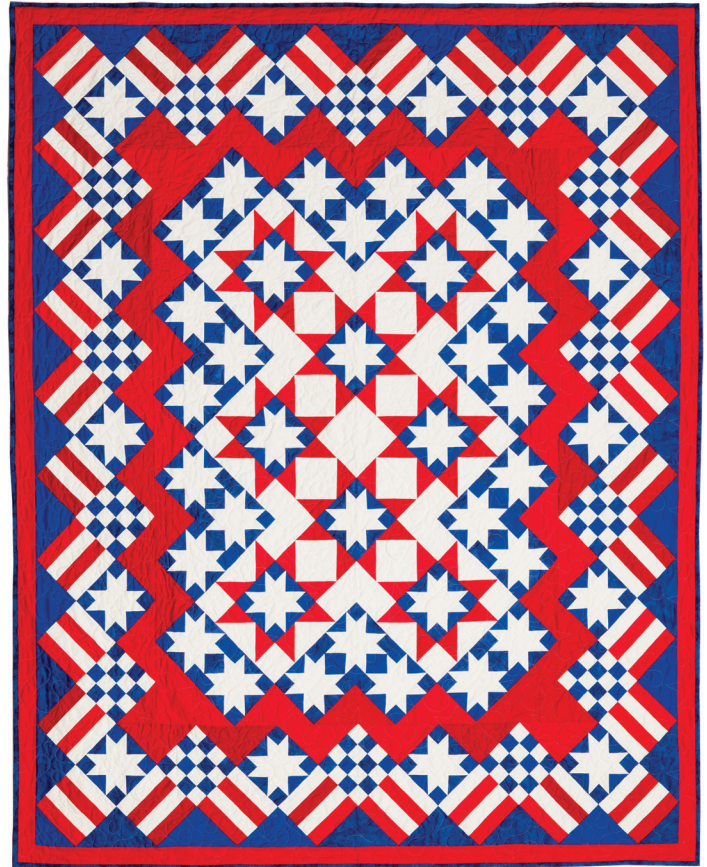
## Suited for Intermediate to Experienced Level

The cutting and sewing are simple enough for an advanced beginner. 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 difficulty comes from the need to keep track of many blocks and units. The quilt requires concentration to follow the quilt construction diagram.

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

*Red, White & Blue Star Quilts* & fabrics from home.



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## Session 1: Fabrics

Discuss fabrics that read as solids. Show examples of 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 fabric; *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; and my ABC Point Trimmer or my older Point Trimmer. To buy the Point Trimmer, go to the Products page at judymartin.com. To find ordering information for the ABC Point Trimmer, use the link on the RWB Extras page at judymartin.com

## Homework

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, pages 12–13, and the bottom of page 63.

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; fabric as listed for your chosen quilt size and color; my Point Trimmer or ABC 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.

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 tool 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.)

Demonstrate C trims using my ABC Point Trimmer or my older Point Trimmer. I strongly recommend C trims for H, I, and J triangles. If you have my tool, you can use the C trim for all triangles.

Discuss trimming points to eliminate dogears from seam allowances. Demonstrate trimming points of

half-square triangles using the A trims of the ABC Point Trimmer and/or my older Point Trimmer.

Demonstrate trimming points on quarter-square triangles using the B trims of my tools.

Demonstrate the 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 Blocks

Demonstrate piecing and pressing blocks W and X (pages 12–13 and 64).

Demonstrate piecing and pressing blocks Y and Z (page 64).

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing blocks W–Z.

## Homework

Continue piecing blocks W, X, Y, and Z.

## Required Items to Bring to Session 4

Required: *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts*; sewn 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 & Quilt Assembly

Discuss piecing units 1–10 for the borders (page 64). Pressing direction is described in *italic* on page 64.

Discuss assembling the quilt center in diagonal rows of X blocks and units 1–4 (page 65).

Discuss making right and left borders from units 6–9 joined in diagonal rows. Pin and stitch these to the quilt center.

Discuss making top and bottom borders from units 5, 7 and 8, as shown. The units are joined in diagonal rows. Pin and stitch these to the quilt.

Discuss adding a unit 10 to each corner. Follow this with plain side borders, then top and bottom borders.

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Discuss quilting options.

Students make border units and assemble the quilt 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 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 everyone's quilt or quilt top. Take advantage of the opportunity to showcase new fabric lines and notions and make sales.

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

Bake cookies from my *Cookies 'n' Quilts* book and sell copies of that book, as well.

If you like, share a quilt or two from coming classes in order to spark interest. Be sure to pass around a signup sheet.