

THE RED, WHITE & BLUE CLASS OUTLINE

Class Description

Make this patriotic beauty with a shadow illusion from Judy Martin's *Red, White & Blue Star Quilts: 16 Striking Patriotic and 2-Color Patterns*. Choose from a 66" x 78" throw size or a 94" queen size. Red and blue stars and red stripes appear to float over a white background, with both stars and stripes casting shadows.

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.

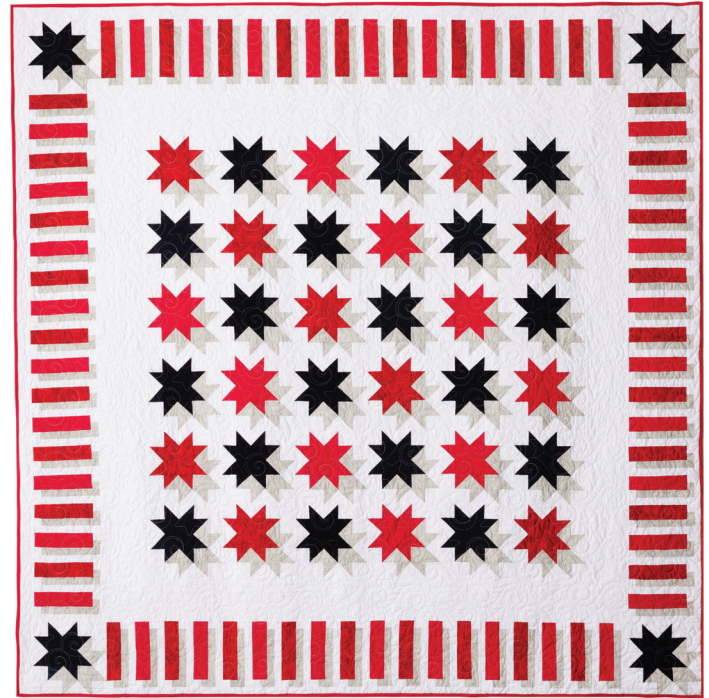
Accurate sewing will help in attaching pieced and plain borders to the quilt center.

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, with good contrast between shadows and background or stars.



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 tools.

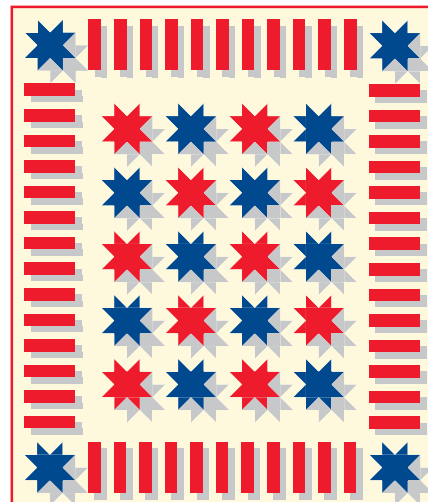
Homework

Read pages 7–9, the top 2 sections of page 10, page 12, and the top two sections of page 48.

Choose the 66" x 78" or 94" x 94" quilt size.

Make final fabric selection and/or purchase.

Prepare fabrics. Prewash if desired and press.



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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 or ABC Point Trimmer. Buy the Point Trimmer from the Products page at judymartin.com. Find ordering information for the ABC Point Trimmer 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 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.)

Demonstrate trimming points to help align patches for sewing and to eliminate dogears from seams: 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).

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 Blocks

Demonstrate piecing and pressing blocks W and X (page 48; pressing 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 W and X blocks are the same except for the color of the star.

Discuss joining W and X blocks in rows, alternating types. Make sure to keep all blocks oriented with the shadow on the bottom and right. Odd numbered rows start with a red W; even numbered rows start with a blue X.

Discuss pinning and stitching rows together for the quilt center. After joining rows for the quilt center, you will have 4 blocks left over for the border corners.

Discuss pinning and stitching the shorter plain 6½"-wide borders to the left and right of the queen quilt or the longer plain 2½"-wide borders to the left and right of the throw quilt. Reserve the remaining borders.

Assist students who had problems with the seam allowance test. Students begin sewing W and X.

Homework

Continue piecing blocks W and X and assembling the quilt center.

Required Items to Bring to Session 4

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

Session 4: Border Blocks and Borders

Demonstrate piecing border blocks Y and Z (page 48). Keep the 2 types separate. Press seams toward the right and bottom when blocks are oriented as shown on page 48. Point out the difference between Y and Z.

Discuss joining 18 Y blocks (queen) or 11 Y blocks (throw) for a top border. Keep all blocks turned the same. Repeat for a bottom border. Pin and stitch the remaining 6½"-wide (queen) or 3½"-wide (throw) borders to the bottom of the top border and the top of the bottom border, as shown on page 49. Keeping all of the shadows on the bottom and right and the plain borders on the inside, pin and stitch the top and bottom borders to the quilt.

Discuss joining 18 Z (queen) or 14 Z (throw) in a row, keeping all blocks turned the same. Add an X to each end, with all shadows on the right and bottom. This completes a side border. Repeat. Pin and stitch

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the shorter remaining border (queen) or the longer remaining border (throw) to the left side of the left border only. Pin and stitch borders to each side, keeping all shadows on the right and bottom. Pin and stitch the remaining plain border to the top of the quilt.

Discuss quilting options.

Students make Y and Z blocks with supervision. Students begin stitching borders to the quilt.

Assess students' progress and agree on a date for a reveal party for quilt tops or completed quilts.

Homework

Students continue making Y and Z blocks and assembling and attaching 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 pictures of the quilts with their makers for your shop newsletter.