



MAY 2009 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Blazing Star Variation

Turn in at June 2009 meeting

Techniques: Scrappy use of fabric. Squares on rectangles to create flying geese and unusual patches. Simulated trapezoids created by sew-flip-and-trim squares. HINT: Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the square to be sewn, flipped, and trimmed. Then sew on the drawn line.

Block size: 6-1/2 inch unfinished

Colors: 1930s fabrics on a white or cream background (muslin is traditional but any white or cream will work). Stars are in 3 colorways and can be made from as few as 3 star fabrics and as many as 6 fabrics.

Cutting:

- **Color 1:** center square and its star points
 - One (1) 2 x 2 inch square (center square) – colorway 1
 - Eight (8) 1-1/4 inch squares (star points) – same as center fabric or another fabric in the same colorway
- **Color 2:** “extra” star points at corners of center square – colorway 2 (1 or 2 fabrics)
 - Four (4) 1-1/4 inch squares
 - Eight (8) 1-1/4 inch squares (same color 2 or another fabric in same colorway)
- **Color 3:** outer star points – colorway 3 (1 or 2 fabrics)
 - Four (4) 1-1/4 x 2 inch rectangles (for the small flying geese units)
 - Eight (8) 2 x 2 inch squares (same as rectangles, or another fabric in same colorway)
- **Background**
 - Four (4) 2 x 2 inch squares
 - Four (4) 2 x 3-1/2 inch rectangles

Piecing: - MAKE FLYING GEESE UNITS FIRST

1. Place **Color 3** 2-inch square right sides together on right side of background rectangle. Sew diagonally down middle of square from top left corner to lower right corner. Trim off excess and press toward **Color 3**
2. Place second **Color 3** 2-inch square right sides together on other side of rectangle. Sew diagonally from lower left corner to upper right corner. Trim off the excess fabric in the back, leaving a ¼-inch seam allowance and press toward **Color 3**. Make 4 identical units. These are the LARGE flying geese units.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2, using **Color 3** rectangles and color 1 1-1/4 inch squares. Make 4 identical units. These are the SMALL flying geese units.
4. To add the **Color 2** “extra” star points to the LARGE flying geese units, place one **Color 2** 1-1/4 inch square (one of the 8) right sides together in one lower corner of the large flying geese unit (look at picture). Sew diagonally, trim off the excess fabric, leaving a ¼ inch seam allowance, and press toward **Color 2**. Repeat on the other lower corner. Repeat for all four large flying geese.
5. Make the block center first. Sew a **Color 2** 1-1/4 inch square to either side of a small flying geese unit. Make 2. Press toward the squares.
6. Sew a small flying geese unit on opposite sides of the center square. Press toward the center square. Sew the rows from step 5 to the top and bottom of this center unit. This completes the “center” of the block.
7. Sew a background square on either side of a large flying geese unit. Make 2 (top and bottom rows of the block). Press toward the background squares.
8. Sew 2 large flying geese units, one each on opposite sides of the center square. Press toward the center of the block.
9. Sew the rows from step 7 to the top and bottom of the unit from step 8 and press toward the center of the block. (NOTE: If you plan to use sashing between the star blocks, press away from the center instead.)