



NOVEMBER 2008 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Friendship Star

Turn in at December meeting

Techniques: Traditional piecing. $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seams. This is also the hand-piecing challenge. If you'd like to try hand-piecing, this is a simple block to try it on.

Block size: 6-1/2 inch unfinished

Colors: Kid-friendly fabrics. That gives you lots of latitude in both colors and styles. Just make sure you have contrast between the star and the background

Cutting (for both machine and hand piecing):

- Background fabric
 - 4 squares, 2-1/2 x 2-1/2 inches
 - 2 squares, 2-7/8 x 2-7/8 inches, cut once diagonally to make total of 4 triangles
- Star fabric
 - 1 square, 2-1/2 x 2-1/2 inches
 - 2 squares, 2-7/8 x 2-7/8 inches, cut once diagonally to make total of 4 triangles

Construction:

- For machine piecing, construct block in three rows, according to picture above, then sew rows together to complete the block. Press seams to the darker fabric.
- To HAND PIECE – there are several methods, but this is easiest for a beginner
 - On the back of each piece, use a ruler to lightly draw a line $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the edge of the fabric ON ALL SIDES. These will be your sewing lines, and where the lines CROSS each other will be where you START and STOP your hand-stitching
 - Construct each row across from left to right
 - Take one background square, place a star triangle patch on it, right sides together. With a pin, line up the points where the lines on each piece cross and put a pin through these points and pin to hold in place
 - Put a quilter's knot in a piece of thread, approximately 12-15 inches long. Pass the needle through the point where you pinned, starting at the seam end where the wide end of the triangle joins the end square. By starting here, you will be able to sew continuously (up the first seam, down the diagonal seam, up the final seam) to complete each of the first and third rows
 - Take a small stitch and a small backstitch to anchor the thread
 - You will be sewing on the drawn lines, holding the pieces in place with your fingers or a pin
 - Take 4 to 6 stitches (running stitches) and then a small backstitch. Take another 4 to 6 stitches, another backstitch, and continue. When you reach the corner where your drawn lines cross, a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch IN from the edge of the fabric, stop stitching, take another backstitch. Finger press the seam you've just sewn, lay the second triangle (background fabric) right sides together on the star fabric triangle, pass your needle up through the place on the new triangle where the drawn lines cross, take 1 or 2 small backstitches, and continue as above
 - In HAND PIECING, you do NOT sew from edge of fabric to edge of fabric as you do in machine piecing. You sew from $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam point to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam point. Your seams are NOT sewn down flat, they are "loose" and can be pressed to either side or open after sewing is finished
 - When you reach the end of the row, end the thread with one or two backstitches and a final knot made by passing the needle up through the loop of the untightened thread.
 - The center row is made using the same method, except each half-square triangle unit has to be attached to the center square separately (not with one continuous thread)
 - Rows are joined by passing the needle and thread THROUGH the seams where the rows join, with a backstitch on either side of the seam.