



DECEMBER 2008 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Lemoyne Star Variation

Turn in at January 2009 meeting

Techniques: Paper-piecing or traditional piecing. Dealing with the dreaded diamond. Cutting diamonds from strips with 45 degree line on ruler

Block size: 6-1/2 inch unfinished

Colors: Holiday fabrics for the star. For background, white or white-on-white alternating with gold or silver or white with gold and/or silver. If you don't have gold or silver, substitute pale yellow or pale gray. The idea is to create the "radiating" light effect coming from four of the star points

Cutting:

For Traditional Piecing:

- Background fabric 1: 2 squares 2-5/8 x 2-5/8 inches, cut diagonally, for a total of 4 large triangles
- Background fabric 2: 2 squares 2-1/8 x 2-1/8 inches, cut diagonally, for a total of 4 small triangles
- Star fabric 1 and 2: Cut 1 strip 1-3/4 inches wide from each fabric (fat quarter works fine). Now here's the easy way to cut accurate diamonds.
 - Align the 45 degree line on your ruler with the bottom of the fabric strip and cut diagonally across the strip close to the end.
 - Turn your ruler so you can align the 45 degree line across the bottom AND you can measure and align the hash marks across the ruler along the cut 45-degree edge of the fabric 1-3/4 inches from the diagonally cut edge of the fabric. Cut across to make a diamond. Each diamond should measure 1-3/4 across and 2-1/2 inches along ALL edges
 - Cut four diamonds from each of the two Star fabrics
 - CONSTRUCTION – press all seams OPEN and trim dog-ears as you go
 - Sew the **long edge** of a small triangle to one edge of a Star 1 diamond (see pattern on back as guide).
 - Sew the **short edge** of a large triangle to the adjacent edge of the same Star 1 diamond
 - Make 4 of the Star 1 units
 - Sew a small triangle to one edge of a Star 2 diamond in the same manner. Make sure you sew it to the opposite side of the diamond from the Star 1 diamond. Sew large triangle on the adjacent side
 - Make 4 of the Star 2 units
 - Join a Star 1 unit to a Star Unit patch to make one quarter of the block. Make 4 quarters, then join 2 units to make half the block, then join the two halves to finish the block

For Paper-piecing:

- Cut all pieces the same size as for traditional piecing or slightly larger.
- Make the block in eight sections, same as above, but using the paper-piecing method. If you are not familiar with paper-piecing, paper-piecing instructions are on the back of this page
- PICK UP YOUR PAPER-PIECING PATTERN at the BOM table in December or download from the GSQ website. **When printing, set PAGE-SCALING to NONE or your block will be the wrong size**
 - Separate the paper-piecing templates into two piles, depending on which side the small and large triangles are located. One stack should have the small triangle on the left of the diamond; the other should have the small triangle on the right of the diamond. One pile will be used for Star fabric 1 and its background, the other for Star fabric 2 and its background
 - Both triangles for Star fabric 1 units are from one background fabric
 - Both triangles for Star fabric 2 units are from the second background fabric

Construction – PAPER-PIECING – Lemoyne Star

How to Paper-piece:

1. **Use a shorter-than usual machine stitch** (such as 1.5 or 2.0) to make it easier to remove the paper when block is done without tearing out your stitches.
2. In paper piecing, you sew on the printed side of the pattern, where you can see the machine needle going through the lines. Your fabric is **underneath** the paper as you sew. Only the first piece of fabric for unit 1 on each patch (the diamond) will be right side up as you are looking at the blank, unprinted side of the pattern. The two triangles will be wrong-side up (right-sides together with the diamond pinned in place), until the seam is sewn and the newly added piece is flipped open and pressed flat.
3. Cut a piece of fabric large enough to cover patch number “A1” on the printed pattern. Hold up to a light to make sure your piece of fabric covers patch A1 plus at least ¼-inch seam allowance in all directions. Place the fabric on unprinted side of the pattern, right side up. Turn over the paper and pin the fabric in place (on the printed side) or tack down with a dot of fabric glue.
4. On the printed side of the pattern, fold the pattern up on the sewing line between patch A1 and patch A2. With scissors or rotary cutter, trim the fabric to approximately ¼ inch along the folded seam. Fold the pattern open again.
5. Cut a piece of fabric large enough to cover patch A2 on the pattern, including a least ¼ inch seam extra around all sides. (Hold up to light to check.) Align patch A2 fabric *right sides together* with the trimmed edge of patch A1 fabric. Pin in place or hold firmly with your fingers. Check to make sure fabric covers ALL of patch A2 including any seam allowances. If not, adjust until all of patch A2 and seam allowances will be covered.
6. Carefully turn paper over and pin paper and fabric. Sew on the seam line between patches A1 and A2. Sew only from solid line to solid line; do not sew out to the outer seam allowance line (the thin line around the outside of the block). Turn pattern over to printed side. Fold pattern back on seam you just sewed. Trim the exposed fabrics to approximately ¼ inch seam. On right side of fabric, fold open the patch A2 fabric you just sewed, and press (either iron or finger press). Many paper-piecers prefer to finger-press.
7. Repeat for patch A3. Turn over the patch to the paper side and **trim on the OUTER THIN LINE**
8. Repeat for units B through H
9. Join unit A to unit B and sew a quarter inch seam. Join C to D, E to F, and G to H
10. Sew the completed A/B unit to the completed C/D unit to make one half of the block. Repeat to make the second row from the E/F and G/H units
11. Remove the paper pattern. A pair of tweezers helps. Start at the outside edge and lift and tear the paper away from a corner seam. Repeat for all four corners. Move inward to the next piece. The edge abutting the corner you tore away should lift easily. Tear out the paper. Repeat until all paper is removed.

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