

MODERN ART QUILTERS

Block of the Month



Month 8: SAWTOOTH STAR



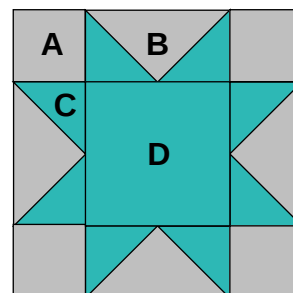
Although both our versions of this block are based on the Star-in-a-Star layout, by changing the colour placement they look very different. There are lots of ways to break down the 16-inch giant blocks and we have given you instructions for 2-, 4- 8- and 16-inch stars. As you can see there is no reason why you can't incorporate other blocks into these stars. Make the stars as bold or as subtle as you like.

Please read through all the instructions before starting. Seams should be made by placing fabrics Right Sides Together (RST) and stitching $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge. **Press all fabrics before cutting.**

HH made her version of this block (black and yellow) using a series of half-square triangles for the largest star so she could use a different fabric for each star point. See our tutorial on FOOLPROOF HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLES at <https://www.modernartquilters.co.uk/patterns/sewalong.html> and follow the instructions for the ones to finish to 4 x 4 inches and make four pairs. Arrange these, with unpieced squares, to form the star.

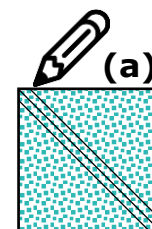
I make the points on my stars by starting with four FLYING GEESE blocks. I use a no-waste method of making multiple Flying Geese blocks, but because I value accuracy, I have added a no-fail element to them too so they are made fractionally oversize and trimmed. Trimming for accuracy is an acceptable level of waste in my book. Below are the cutting instructions for three different sized stars, with instructions on the following pages. I have also provided an FPP template for the smallest star which finishes to 2 inches square – you might be able to make this by traditional piecing, but I fear that way madness lies!

Finished Size (trimmed size)	Background Fabric		Star Fabric	
	A Corner Squares	B Geese	C Star Points	D Centre Square*
4 x 4 inches (4½ x 4½ in.)	1½ x 1½ in. CUT four	3½ x 3½ in. CUT one	2¼ x 2¼ in. CUT four	2½ x 2½ in. CUT one
8 x 8 inches (8½ x 8½ in.)	2½ x 2½ in. CUT four	5½ x 5½ in. CUT one	3¼ x 3¼ in. CUT four	4½ x 4½ in. CUT one
16 x 16 inches (16½ x 16½ in.)	4½ x 4½ in. CUT four	9½ x 9½ in. CUT one	5¼ x 5¼ in. CUT four	8½ x 8½ in. CUT one



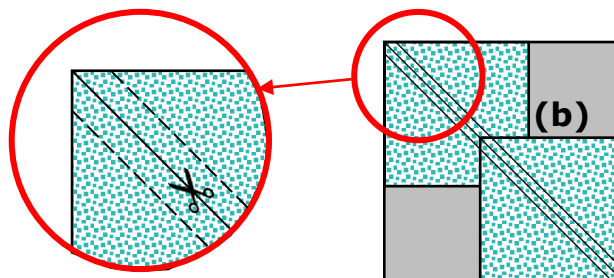
* In the Star in a Star layout, the centre square is formed by the star block from the next smallest size starting in the very centre with the tiny 2-inch FPP version.

This method makes four Flying Geese units using one large and four small squares shown on the cutting list as pieces **B** (background fabric) and **C** (star fabric)



1. On the back of each of the four small squares draw a line diagonally from corner to corner. Then draw a line either side of this original line $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away **(a)**

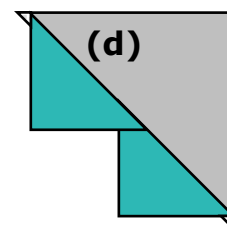
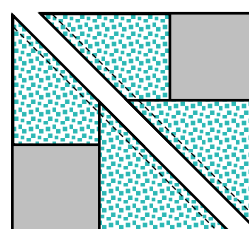
2. Place the big square face up and line up a small square face down in one corner with the line pointing towards the middle. Place a second small square on top lined up in the opposite corner. The two small squares will overlap **(b)**



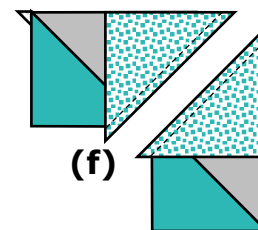
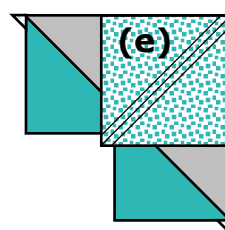
3. Pin both small squares in place and stitch along the two outer lines, from edge to edge.

4. Cut along the middle line **(c)**. Press the seam on each half towards the smaller triangles **(d)**

(c)

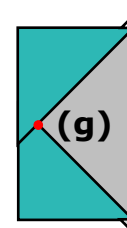


5. Position one of the small squares Right Sides Together (RST) with the marked lines pointing to the corner, as shown, and pin in place **(e)**



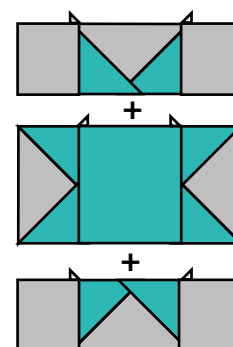
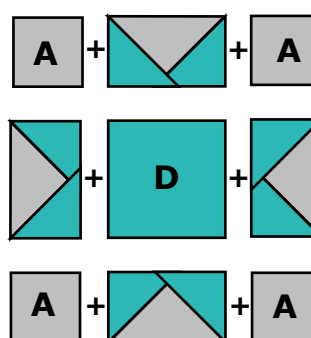
6. Stitch on the two outer lines as before, and cut on the middle line **(f)**

7. Press the seam on each block towards the smaller triangle



8. Trim these blocks to $2 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches making sure that the point marked $\bullet$ is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the trimmed edge **(g)**

9. Arrange the Flying Geese and unpieced sections **A** & **D**, from the original cutting list, and sew them together. Start with the rows, pressing the seams towards the unpieced sections each time and then sew the rows together. Press the long seams towards the middle.

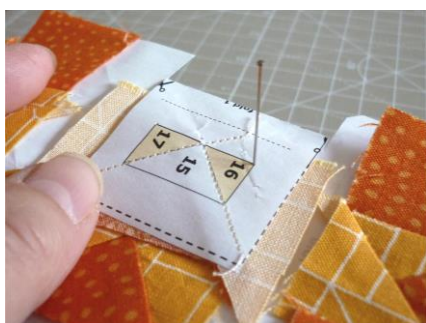


The smallest star in the centre of my version of this block (red and orange) finishes to 2 x 2 inches.

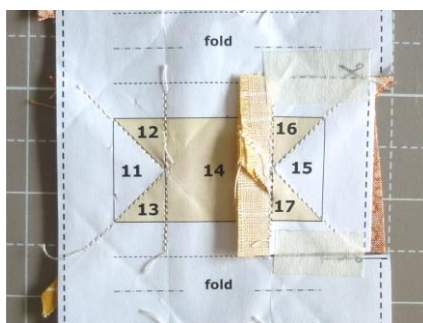
I have provided you with two copies of the template for this miniature star – don't be surprised if you need to practice. I have found that the smaller the blocks the higher the potential for a duff block. But, hey, they're tiny, you haven't exactly wasted much fabric. A piece of advice I would give: don't unpick. The seams are short, paper tears all too easily and you can quickly get frustrated. If you make a mistake, put the block in the bin and start with a fresh paper pattern.

Use cheap photocopier paper (it is easier to see through and easier to tear away at the end of the project). I have provided a test square so you can check the templates have come out the correct size before you start sewing. If your templates are coming out too small, check your printer properties are set to print at 100%, or Actual Size, or Scaling – None. Definitely avoid anything that says Fit to Page.

Print off the templates on the following page and follow the basic instructions for Foundation Paper Piecing (FPP) provided in Month 7 STARGAZY: <https://www.modernartquilters.co.uk/patterns/bom/bom7stargazy.pdf> Read the extra tips below before starting.



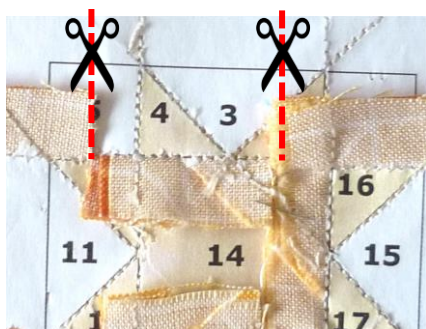
Complete the FPP so the four parts are made up on one piece of paper (step 19 on STARGAZY). Cut on the dotted lines shown so you can make **fold 1**. Test the accuracy of the fold with a pin. Stitch from edge to edge on the paper



Press **fold 1** towards the centre of the star and use a narrow piece of masking tape to rejoin the paper where it was cut. Take care to line up the cut edges of the paper and not to overlap them



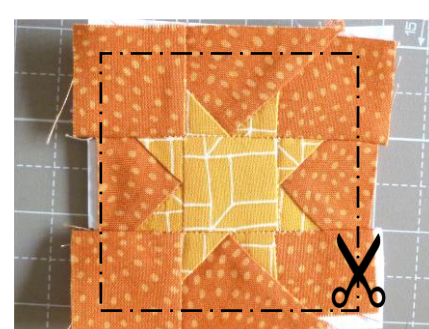
Make **fold 2** and **fold 3** in turn, checking the accuracy of the fold with a pin each time, before sewing



Snip through the seams to allow the second seam to lay flat neatly. Be careful not to cut the stitching



Repeat with the third seam and press the finished block



Trim the finished block to 2½ x 2½ inches. Trim from the fabric side to ensure the star is centred.

**TEST
SQUARE:**
When copying
or printing,
check this is
1 inch square

