

Block of The Month 2022: Block #5

Our block this month is another version of an improv spinning star block. This is a sixteen-patch block, with four 6.5" sub-blocks.

To get started, here are the fabrics you need: your focus fabric, one to three coordinating fabrics based on the colors in the focus fabric, and a white fabric. Pick ones that contrast with each other. Remember, all our blocks end up 12.5" X 12.5" (a 12" finished block.)

Also, the Guild's website and Facebook page should have a post directing you to the YouTube instructions for this block.

Cut list -- For one block

Fabric 1 white (background): Sixteen $3\frac{5}{8}$ " squares

Fabrics 2, 3 & 4 (star points): Total of ten rectangles.

Approximate size 1.75" X 3.5" each - make sure to include the focus fabric as one of these rectangles. To keep the point narrow, don't use a piece wider than 2".

Assembling the block: Use a quarter inch seam

- To make the star points: Place fabrics 2, 3 & 4 right side up on cutting mat. Have all the pieces oriented the same. Make one diagonal cut from the bottom to the top (either with a ruler or free cut it) and make sure you make the cut the same on all pieces. To get the look in our sample, I cut from the bottom right to the top left. If you do the opposite, the star will spin the opposite direction.
- Decide the color placement of your points, see photo 2, all squares will have at least one star point, the four center squares, have two. Since each point is unique you will mark the placement of each triangle and then sew it on. Refer to photo 3 and place a triangle piece on the corner of a background square, at this point have both pieces right side up and place the triangle on the corner (if you cut opposite, yours will look reversed.) Move the triangle so it extends beyond the edge of the background $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the outer two sides. Place a ruler so it butts up to the triangle and move the triangle piece away. Trim off this corner as in photo 4. Now flip the triangle over onto the square so right sides are facing together. Align the hypotenuse of the triangle to the edge and the top point stick up $\frac{1}{4}$ " as shown in photo 5. Sew triangle to background square with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Make sure you sew off the end right between where the background meets the triangle (see arrow in photo 5.) Repeat with all triangles, placing them as you decided earlier.
- Press the triangle points out. Now trim off any extra fabric by putting a ruler in the corner points just sewn on. As you can see in photo 6, I am using a 4" wide ruler and the block is slightly oversized. Don't worry about that now, just make sure the units are at least 3.5" square and trim off the uneven parts of the corners. You should have sixteen units with triangles on one corner or two opposite corners at this point.
- Now place pieces into four sets of four with the center making one more star. Sew together in groups of four to make a star in each. Press in opposite directions so rows nest. Now check the size of these units. They should be at least 6.5" square. Now arrange these units as shown in photo 1. Trim only the inner edges as needed to preserve star points while removing uneven edges.
- Sew together each group of four to make the four outer stars. When sewing the edges, sew from the center of each star out to the points. Next sew these together to make the center star. Press.
- Now to square it up. Use your $12\frac{1}{2}$ " X $12\frac{1}{2}$ " square up ruler, place it over the block. Make sure there is fabric under all parts of the ruler and trim to $12\frac{1}{2}$ " X $12\frac{1}{2}$ ".



Photo 2

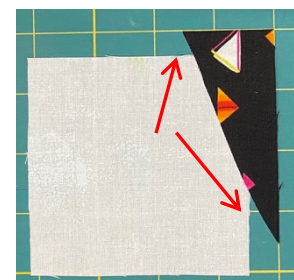


Photo 3



Photo 4

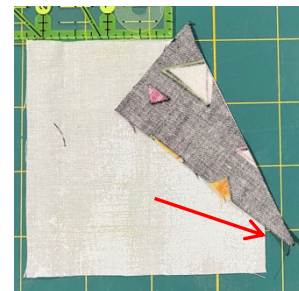


Photo 5

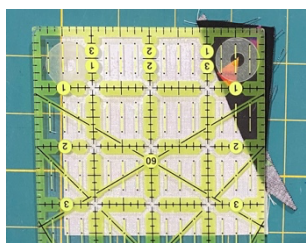


Photo 6



[Link to YouTube video](#)

We hope you enjoy this block!

Adriane Ridder & Shelly McNeely

Block of the Month Coordinators