

Block of The Month 2022: Block #12

Our block this month is another version of an improv spinning star block that we are calling a spikey star.

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 video instructions for this block.

Cut list -- For one block

Fabric 1 white (background): Four 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " squares (cut each on one diagonal)

Fabric 2 focus fabric: Two 3" squares (cut each on one diagonal)

Fabric for star points (2-4 coordinating fabrics): The four pieces of fabric needed for the points can each be a different color. This example uses three colors.

Point 1: Two 2" X 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles

Point 2: Two 2" X 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles

Sub-cutting fabrics: (photo 4 shows all the sub-cut fabrics)

Fabrics 1 & 2: Cut each piece on one diagonal so you end up with eight white triangles and four focus fabric triangles.

Fabric for point 1 pieces (one or two coordinating fabrics): Place both 2" X 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles (they can be stacked) in front of you right sides up, with the long edge vertical. Use a ruler with angle markings to cut an angle in the top left and bottom right corner. To do this place the 60° angle line along the right edge of the fabric (see photo 3). Have the angled edge intersect at the top right corner and cut off this triangle in the top left corner. Do this same cut in the bottom right corner – you can do this by turning the fabric around. After you have the angles cut, cut the strip diagonally from the bottom left to the top right. Photo 3a shows the cuts. Keep track of the which side of these new pieces is the cut diagonal edge.

Fabric for point 2 pieces (one or two coordinating fabrics): Place both 2" X 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles (they can be stacked) in front of you right sides up, with the long edge vertical – cut diagonally from the bottom right to the top left (blue fabric in photo 2.)

Assembling the block: Use a quarter inch seam

- First we are going to sew the four "point one" pieces. With one of the point one pieces and one of the white background triangles, place background piece right sides up in front of you and place the point one piece – right sides up, on top of the background piece with the cut edge matching up to a corner including the hypotenuse. If you orient it correctly, it should match this corner. If it doesn't match, make sure the cut edge is along the hypotenuse, right side up, and then try the other corner of the background triangle. When you have them lined up, keep them together and flip the two pieces over so wrong side is up. Move the point 1 piece of fabric partway out from under the background triangle – so there is $\frac{1}{2}$ " showing on two sides (photo 5). Lay a ruler on the point 1 fabric so it is covering this fabric and a corner of the background (photo 6). Trim off this corner – you should not be cutting any of the point 1 fabric – just the background fabric. After cutting off the corner, flip the two pieces over so they are right sides up. Flip the point 1 fabric over so it is wrong sides up on top of the background fabric. Line up the second longest edge of this piece with the hypotenuse (this is not the edge we were calling the cut edge). The

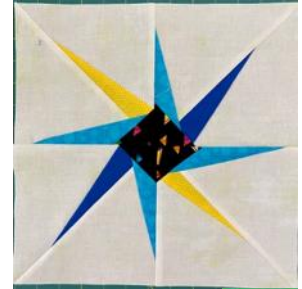


Photo 2



Photos 3 & 3a



Photo 4

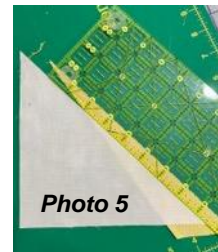


Photo 5

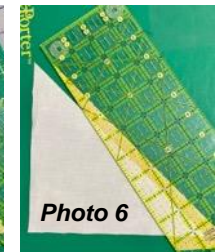


Photo 6



Photo 7

top point of the hypotenuse of the background triangle should extend approximate $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the point 1 piece (photo 7). You want the part that sticks up to meet the point 1 piece at your $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Sew this seam – remember that this being sewn to replace the piece cut off – it doesn't go all the way along the hypotenuse. You should sew off between the two pieces of fabric. Press to the darker fabric. Repeat this for the other three point 1 points. If your point 1 pieces are all the same size, you can use the piece cut off as a template to know what to cut off the other three background pieces. After you have your four point 1 pieces sewn, we need to trim these to the same size as the other four background triangles (photo 8).

- Next, take one of these remaining four background triangles and place it right sides together over one of the pieces we just made, matching the hypotenuse'. Sew the hypotenuse edge together. Press to the dark. Repeat with the other three pairs of triangles. Now trim the two edges next to where we inserted point 1 so they are straight with a nice 90° angle. You don't need to trim the other edges now. This piece should be at about 7" square. (Photo 9)
- We are now going to put the remain star points on – point 2. These go on in the same method as we used earlier, but we are putting them on the edge next to point we just added. With right sides up, lay the 90° edge of a point 2 onto the corner of a star point 1 square so that the corner of the point covers part of point 1. Use the same method as above to pull back the point and find the part to cut off. Photo 10 shows this (I have the star point piece underneath to make it easier to see which corner to use). Add this second point to each of your point one pieces and press to the dark. Trim the edges where the point was just added, so it is approximately 7" square. You still don't need to trim the two edges. (Photo 11.)
- Now we add one last triangle to this same corner. For this, you use your four triangles of focus fabric and use the same method we used for the other triangles. Add these on. After you are done, press these seams open or if you know your arrangement of the final block, you can alternate the pressing so these may nest. These triangles are not exact, so they may not nest. Trim these same two edges one last time. (Photo 13.)
- Now arrange your pieces so the center of these four units make the star. Sew them together, first the top row, then the bottom. Press seams open. Sew the final seam to join the top and bottom, press seam open.
- 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 8



Photo 9



Photo 10

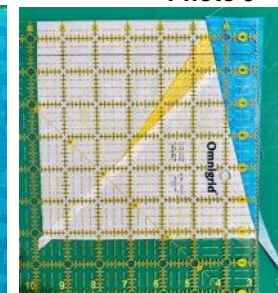


Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



2023 Focus fabric



Link to YouTube video

We hope you have enjoyed this year of block of the month. See you all in 2023! Our focus fabric for next year is called Paint Impressions by Hoffman of California.

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