

## Block of The Month 2021: Block #11

Our block this month is an improv spinning star block. This is another four-patch block, so each sub-block is 6.5". We think this block looks great with thin star pieces, but you can adjust that if you prefer a bigger star.

To get started, here are the fabrics you need: your focus fabric, a coordinating fabric based on the colors in the focus fabric, and two neutral color fabrics. Pick ones that contrast with each other. (Neutral colors include black, brown, grey, white, and shades or hues of these.) 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 -- you decide fabric placement

**Fabric 1 (background squares):** Four 6.75" squares

**Fabric 2, 3 & 4 (star points):** Total of four rectangles. Approximate size 2.75" X 5.5" -at least one of each fabric. To keep the point narrow, don't use a piece wider than 3.5".

### 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 eight points, two on each of the four patch units. Since each point is unique you will mark the placement of each triangle and then sew it on. Refer to photo 2 and place a triangle piece on the corner of a background square, at this point have both pieces right side up, in one corner (if you cut opposite, yours will look reversed.) Move the triangle so it extends beyond the edge of the background 1/2" on the outer two sides. Make a mark on the background fabric edges on both sides. You can see my marks in photo 3 (I have pulled back the triangle so you can see them. Now flip the triangle over onto the square so right sides are facing together. Align the hypotenuse of the triangle to these marks, but only have the top point stick up 1/4" as shown in photo 4. Sew triangle to background square with a 1/4" seam as shown in photo 5. 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 in opposite corners.
- Trim off the extra background fabric as shown in photo 6. 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 7, I am using a 6.5" square up ruler and the block is slightly oversized. Don't worry about that now, just make sure the units are at least 6.5" square and trim off the uneven parts of the corners. You should have four units with triangles on two opposite corners at this point.
- Now arrange these units as shown in photo 1. Try different arrangements to get your favorite. After you decide your arrangement, sew together horizontal rows. Press the seams in opposite directions. Nest the center seams and sew the final seam. Press.
- Now to square it up. Use your 12 1/2" X 12 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 1/2" X 12 1/2". You can make it wonky or not, it is your decision what you like best.

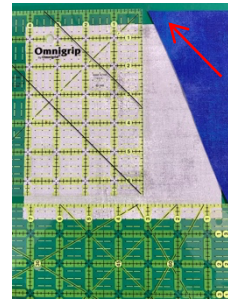


Photo 2

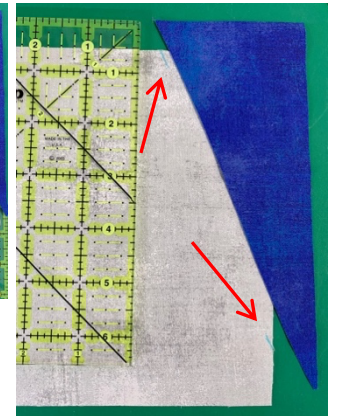


Photo 3

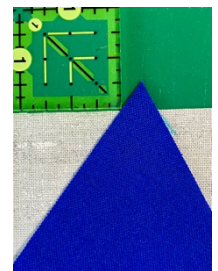


Photo 4

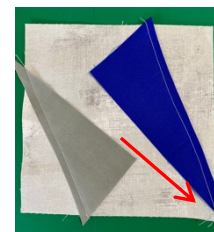


Photo 5

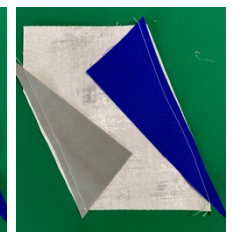


Photo 6



Photo 7

We hope you enjoy this block – one more block left for 2021!

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