

# Lone Star Quilt Block

The instructions included in this packet (as well as online tutorial) are for a lone star quilt block made using nine diamonds in each diamond section.

Top tips for success:

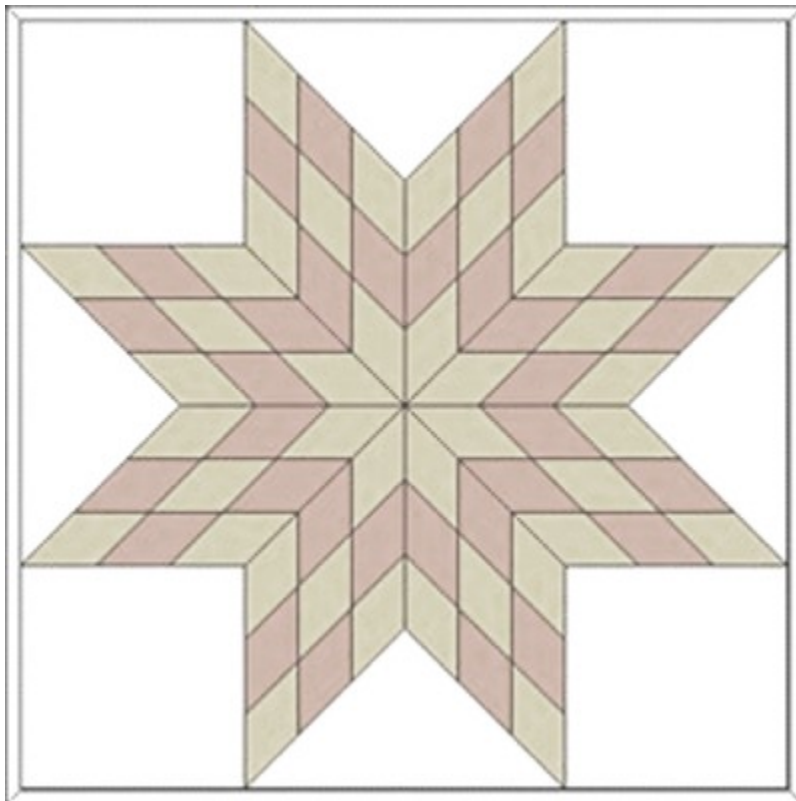
Consistent scant  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam allowance

Learn to pin properly

Don't resist unpicking to get it right

Careful ironing so as not to stretch the bias

These blocks are fun, rewarding, and dramatic. Have fun!



# Lone Star Quilt Block instructions

Steps 1-5



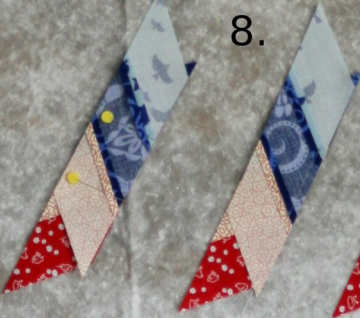
6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



Steps 11-13



www.hopefulhomemaker.com  
More photos and in-depth instructions found at  
<http://hopefulhomemaker.com/2013/04/01/lone-star-block-tutorial/>

## Instructions for sewing a lone star block

1. Choose 5 fabrics to use in your lone star block. Remember that #1 will be the center star, #5 will be the outer point, and #3 will be most prominent. See Table 1.
2. Cut strips according to the size star you want to make. See Table 3 for approximate sizes. Starch each strip carefully. \*Note: I starch my fabrics to help with accuracy when piecing this particular quilt block. I starch individual strips, then again when they're in sets, and again when in diamonds.
3. Sew strips together in order, offsetting each strip by  $\frac{1}{4}$  " less than your strip is wide. Each quilt block requires one strip set of each combination of fabrics, for a total of three strip sets. See Table 2.
4. Iron carefully, moving iron only up and down, not side to side. Press with right sides together to set seam, then carefully open with fingers and press. **PRESS ALL SEAMS OPEN IN THIS PROJECT.**
5. Starch strips.
6. Cut strips on 45 degree angle to create diamond strips for piecing. Each diagonal cut should be the same width as your fabric strips were cut. For example, if your strips were 2" wide, then cut these strips 2" wide as well.
7. Cut 8 diagonal strips from each strip set to make one lone star block.
8. Carefully measure and mark the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam line on each diamond strip. I use a small ruler and a friction pen to do this. Pin two strips together, matching up intersections, not ends of the strips. Again, see online tutorial for in-depth photos and description. Master steps 8-9 for success.
9. Iron, press seams open, and repeat step 8 to add last 3 diamonds to each section. Iron, press seams open, and starch. You should have 8 large diamonds, each made up of 9 small diamonds.
10. Arrange diamond sections. Measure and mark all seam intersections. At outer edge of seam, mark  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam allowance as starting point for the seam, thus allowing for Y seams when adding background. Start at this point and sew toward center of star. Sewing from edge to center will help prevent spreading. Sew together into four sets of two, then two sets of four to create two halves of lone star block. Press seams open.
11. Add background squares and triangle to each half of block.
12. Mark beginning and ending point at  $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark on edges of both halves as well as marking each intersecting seam. Pin carefully. Sew halves together, beginning and ending at marked points.
13. Add remaining two background triangles. Press block. Trim sides according to desired seam allowance and size.

Note: These instructions can easily be modified to make lone star quilt blocks with more (or less) than nine diamonds per section. Simply add strips and increase the number of fabrics accordingly, and follow the same guidelines for sewing the star. Have fun!

**Table 1: Number of fabric strips per lone star block (9 diamonds per section)**

Fabric 1 (center star)	Fabric 2 (second round star)	Fabric 3 (third round)	Fabric 4	Fabric 5 (outer tips)
1 strip	2 strips	3 strips	2 strips	1 strip

**Table 2: Fabric Placement for offset strip sets**

Strip set A	Strip set B	Strip set C
Fabrics 1, 2, 3	Fabrics 2, 3, 4	Fabrics 3, 4, 5

**Table 3: Adjusting sizes for basic lone star block (using 9 diamonds per section)**

Strip Width x WOF (width of fabric)*	Offset strips by:	Diagonal Cutting Width	Number of stars yielded for width of fabric	Background Square size – cut 6**	Approximate finished block size***
3"	2.75"	3"	1	11.5"	36
2.75"	2.5"	2.75"	1	10.5"	33.5"
2.5"	2.25"	2.5"	1	9.5	29"
2.25	2"	2.25"	1	8.5"	25.5"
2"	1.75"	2"	2	7.5" (cut 12 for 2 stars)	22"
1.75"	1.5"	1.75"	2	6.5" (cut 12 for 2 stars)	18.5"
1.5"	1.25"	1.5"	2	5.5" (cut 12 for 2 stars)	15"
1.25"	1"	1.25"	2	4.5" (cut 12 for 2 stars)	11.5"
1"	.75"	1"	2-3	3.5" (cut 12 for 2 stars; 18 for 3)	8.25"

\* When working with strips that are 1.5" wide or smaller, it may be easier to cut strips in half lengthwise. You can make double the sets of strips and help prevent bowing of long strips.

\*\* Cut 2 of the squares in half on the diagonal for the triangles to inset in the center of each side of the block. The suggested square size in the table should be generous enough to allow plenty of room for trimming with a ¼ seam allowance on each size. You can increase the size of these squares for a larger block with more background fabric surrounding each star.

\*\*\* The size of this block will depend on your seam allowance when sewing, and also on any stretching that occurs during construction due to bias.