Project: Sophisticated Stars

INSPIRED BY *ANTIQUE CHIC* FROM QUILT COLLECTOR TARA LYNN BAISDEN OF SEW UNIQUE CREATIONS
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FABRICS are from the Canterbury collection by Quilting Treasures *(quiltingtreasures.com).*

Dark sashing squares cut from an intricate Jacobean floral and star blocks in an elegant colorway set the stage for a sophisticated, traditional wall quilt.

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Materials
- ½ yard *each* of blue tone-on-tone, red tone-on-tone, and green tone-on-tone (blocks)
- ½ yard cream tone-on-tone (blocks)
- ½ yard black floral (sashing squares)
- ⅝ yard tan floral (sashing rectangles)
- ⅜ yard binding fabric
- 1¼ yards backing fabric
- 41" batting

Finished quilt: 33" square
Finished block: 9½" square

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.
Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Choose Machine or Hand Piecing
The following instructions involve machine-piecing the blocks, which have many set-in seams. If you prefer to hand-piece them, stitch carefully on seam lines between matching points, sewing from dot to dot.

Cut Fabrics
Cut pieces in the following order.
Patterns are on *page 6*. To make templates of patterns, see "Make and Use Templates," *page 7*, referring to the instructions for the piecing method you prefer. Be sure to transfer the dots to the templates, then to fabric pieces. The dots are matching points that are used when joining pieces and setting in seams.

From blue tone-on-tone, cut:
- 48 of Pattern A

From red tone-on-tone, cut:
- 48 of Pattern A

From green tone-on-tone, cut:
- 32 of Pattern A

From cream tone-on-tone, cut:
- 32 of Pattern C (or rotary-cut 8—3¼" squares, cutting each diagonally twice in an X for 32 C triangles total)
- 16 of Pattern D (or rotary-cut 16—1⅞×3¼" D rectangles)
- 48 of Pattern B (or rotary-cut 48—1⅞" B squares)

From black floral , cut:
- 9—5" sashing squares

From tan floral, cut:
- 12—5×10" sashing rectangles

From binding fabric, cut:
- 4—2½×42" binding strips

Assemble Blocks
1. Gather 12 blue tone-on-tone A diamonds, 12 red tone-on-tone A diamonds, eight green tone-on-tone A diamonds, 12 cream tone-on-tone B squares, eight cream tone-on-tone C triangles, and four cream tone-on-tone D rectangles.

2. Referring to **Diagram 1,** pin together a blue tone-on-tone A diamond and a red tone-on-tone A diamond, aligning two pairs of marked matching points. Sew together between aligned matching points—do not stitch into the ¼" seam allowances—to make a diamond pair. Repeat to make eight blue-and-red diamond pairs total.

3. Repeat Step 2 using green tone-on-tone A diamonds and red tone-on-tone A diamonds to make four green-and-red diamond pairs total.

4. Repeat Step 2 using blue tone-on-tone A diamonds and green tone-on-tone A diamonds to make four blue-and-green diamond pairs total.

5. Referring to **Diagram 2,** join two blue-and-red diamond pairs to make a star half. Repeat to make a second star half.

6. Pin star halves together, aligning matching points. To prevent puckering at center, join star halves with two seams, beginning each seam at the center and stitching to outer matching points, to make a star unit **(Diagram 3)**. Press all seam allowances in one direction; the seam allowances should swirl neatly, reducing bulk at the center.

7. Referring to **Diagram 4,** sew a cream tone-on-tone B square into each angle of the star unit using set-in seams. Press seams away from squares.

8. Referring to **Diagram 5,** join one green-and-red diamond pair, one blue-and-red diamond pair, and one blue-and-green diamond pair, stitching between dots as before; press seams in one direction. Using set-in seams, sew a cream tone-on-tone B square into the center angle of the joined diamond units and a cream tone-on-tone C triangle into the outer angles to make a corner unit **(Diagram 6)**. Press all seams toward diamond units. Repeat to make four corner units total.

9. Join a corner unit to each corner of Step 7 star unit using set-in seams **(Diagram 7)**; press seams toward corner units.

10. Referring to **Diagram 8,** join cream tone-on-tone D rectangles to sides of Step 9

Project: Sophisticated Stars

unit using set-in seams to make a block. Press seams away from rectangles. The block should be 10" square including seam allowances.

11. Repeat steps 1–10 to make four blocks total.

Assemble Quilt Top

1. Referring to **Quilt Assembly Diagram,** sew together three black floral sashing squares and two tan floral sashing rectangles to make a sashing row. Press seams toward sashing rectangles. Repeat to make three sashing rows total.

2. Referring to **Quilt Assembly Diagram,** join three tan floral sashing rectangles and two blocks to make a block row. Press seams toward sashing rectangles. Repeat to make a second block row.

3. Join rows to complete quilt top. Press seams away from block rows.

Finish Quilt

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. Quilt as desired.

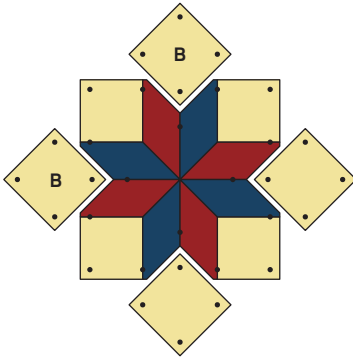**2.** Bind with binding strips.

Project: Sophisticated Stars
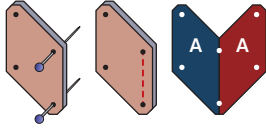
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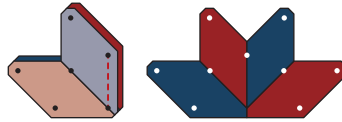
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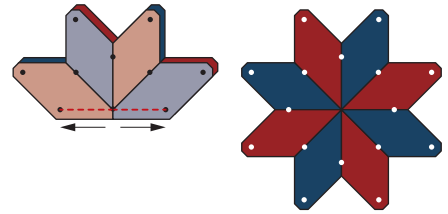
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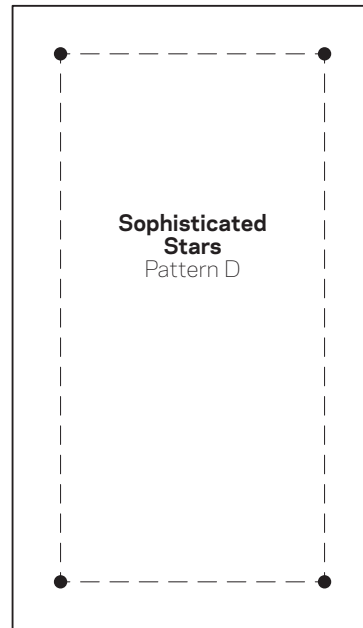**DIAGRAM 4**
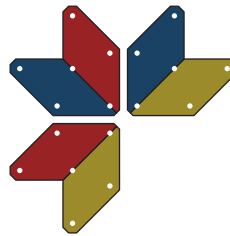
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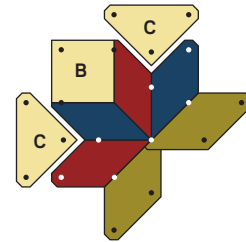
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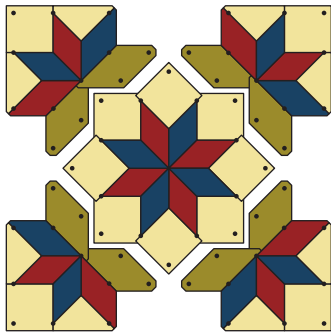
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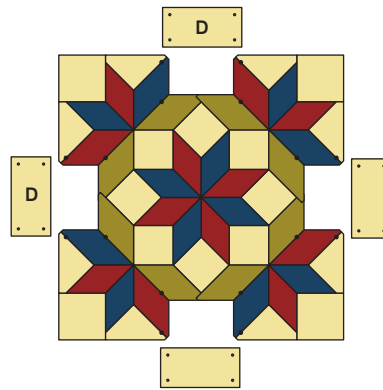
DIAGRAM 8

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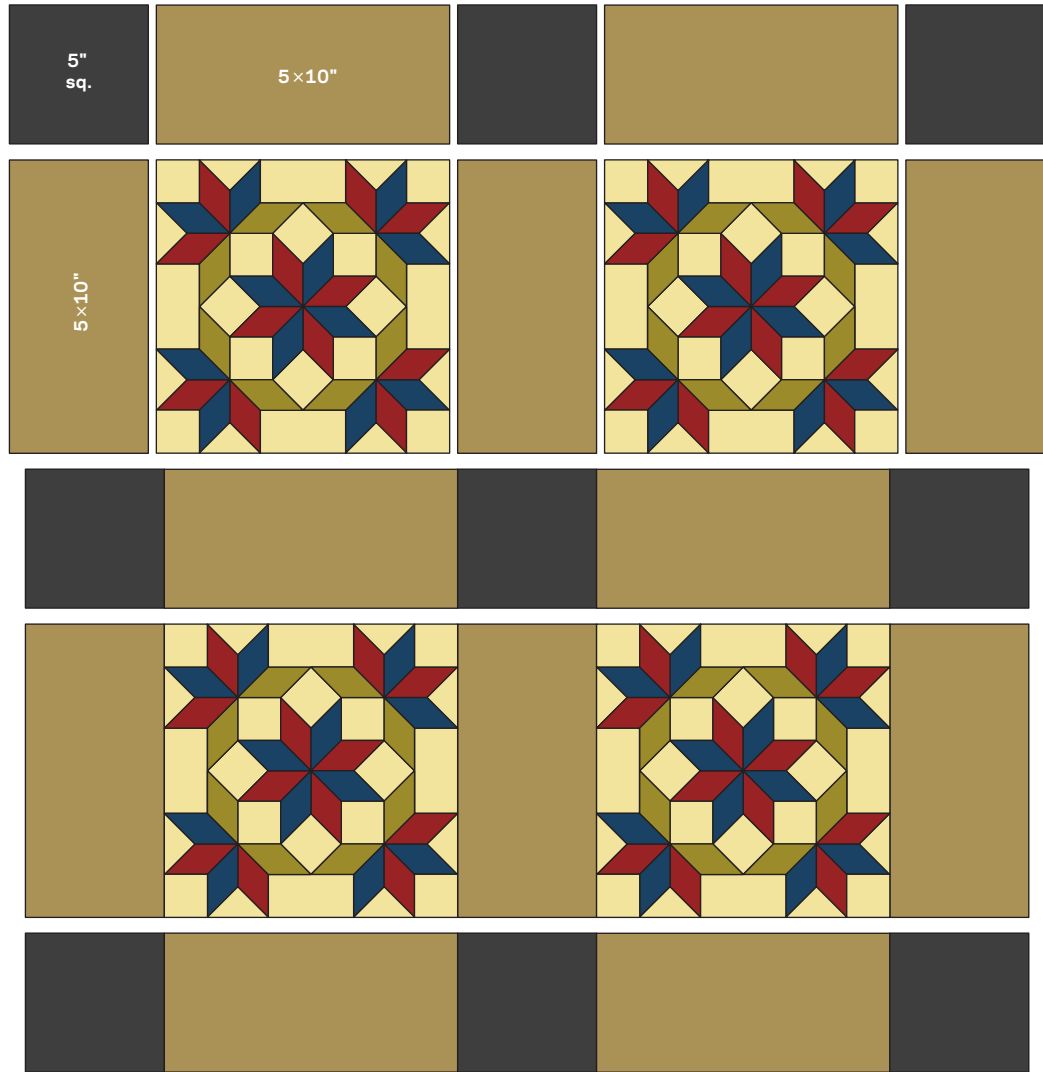
QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

Project: Sophisticated Stars

Sophisticated
Stars
Pattern A

Sophisticated
Stars
Pattern B

Sophisticated
Stars
Pattern C

Sophisticated
Stars
Pattern D

This box should
measure 1".

⟵ 1" ⟶
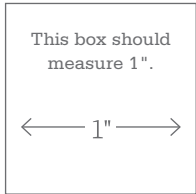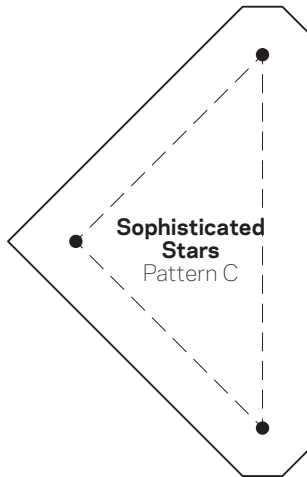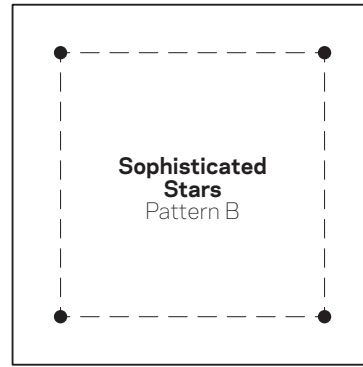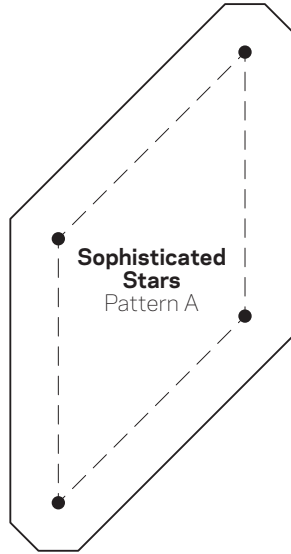
✳ NOTE:

When printing a
downloadable pdf, set Page
Scaling preference to NONE
to print patterns at 100%.
Do NOT "Shrink to Fit"
or "Fit to Printable Area."

Make and Use Templates

Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least $\frac{1}{2}$" away from the previous tracing (Diagram 1), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$" away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$" seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$" seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (Diagram 2); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.
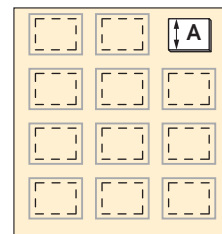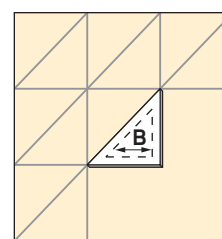

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2