

Project: Star Attraction



Practice setting in seams while re-creating this antique throw—a great project for using the many fabric scraps you’ve saved.

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Materials

- 4½ yards total assorted medium and dark prints (blocks)
- 4½ yards ecru print (block backgrounds)
- ¾ yard green print (binding)
- 5⅞ yards backing fabric
- 83x91" batting

Finished quilt: 77x84½"

Finished block: 9x10½"

Quantities are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the order that follows. Patterns A and B are on page 7. To make templates, see Make and Use Templates, page 8. Be sure to transfer the dots marked on the patterns to the templates, then to the fabric pieces. The dots are the matching points and are needed to set in seams.

From assorted medium and dark prints, cut:

- 561 of Pattern A (88 sets of six matching diamonds and 11 sets of three matching diamonds)

From ecru print, cut:

- 534 of Pattern A
- 22 of Pattern B

From green print, cut:

- 9—2½x42" binding strips (These instructions are for binding all four edges of quilt, unlike the original, where the top edge is slip-stitched to the backing.)

Assemble Blocks

We recommend hand-piecing the blocks because of the many 60° diamonds that must be set in.

Hand-stitching from dot to dot on the sewing lines means seam allowances are not sewn down. You can choose the direction to press the seam allowances after you've pieced the units. Carefully machine-piecing from dot to dot also provides this option.

As you piece the blocks, finger-press seams in desired direction to help keep your work smooth. Press completed blocks and the quilt top with an iron, pressing the seams in directions that allow them to lie as flat as possible or that will enable you to quilt as desired without stitching through seam allowances.

1. For one block, you'll need a set of six matching medium or dark print A diamonds and six ecru print A diamonds.
2. Referring to **Diagram 1**, join three medium or dark print A diamonds to make a star half; make sure you do not stitch into the ¼" seam allowance at the inner corners and do not stretch bias edges as you sew. Repeat to make a second star half.
3. Sew together star halves, making sure you do not stitch into the ¼" seam allowance at either end (**Diagram 2**).
4. Set six ecru A diamonds in a Step 3 unit to make a Six-Pointed Star block (**Diagram 3**). Press seams toward medium or dark print diamonds.

5. Repeat steps 1 through 4 to make 72 Six-Pointed Star blocks total.

Assemble Partial Blocks

1. Using six matching medium or dark print A diamonds and only five ecru print A diamonds, refer to **Diagram 4** and Assemble Blocks, steps 2 through 4, to make an end star unit. (The uneven patchwork edge will be trimmed off later.) Repeat to make 16 end star units total.
2. Referring to Assemble Blocks, Step 2, join three matching medium or dark print A diamonds to make a star half. Set in two ecru print A diamonds; press seams toward medium or dark print diamonds. Join an ecru print B triangle to each end to complete a side star unit (**Diagram 5**); press seams toward darker print. Repeat to make 11 side star units.

Assemble Quilt Center

1. Lay out Six-Pointed Star blocks, end star units, and side star units in 11 horizontal rows (**Quilt Assembly Diagram**). Sew together pieces in each row, making sure you do not stitch into the ¼" seam allowances. Press seams open.
2. Join rows, setting in seams as necessary, to make quilt top. Press seams in one direction.
3. Referring to **Quilt Assembly Diagram**, use a ruler and quilter's pencil to mark a straight line on the top and bottom edges of the quilt top. Trim excess from end

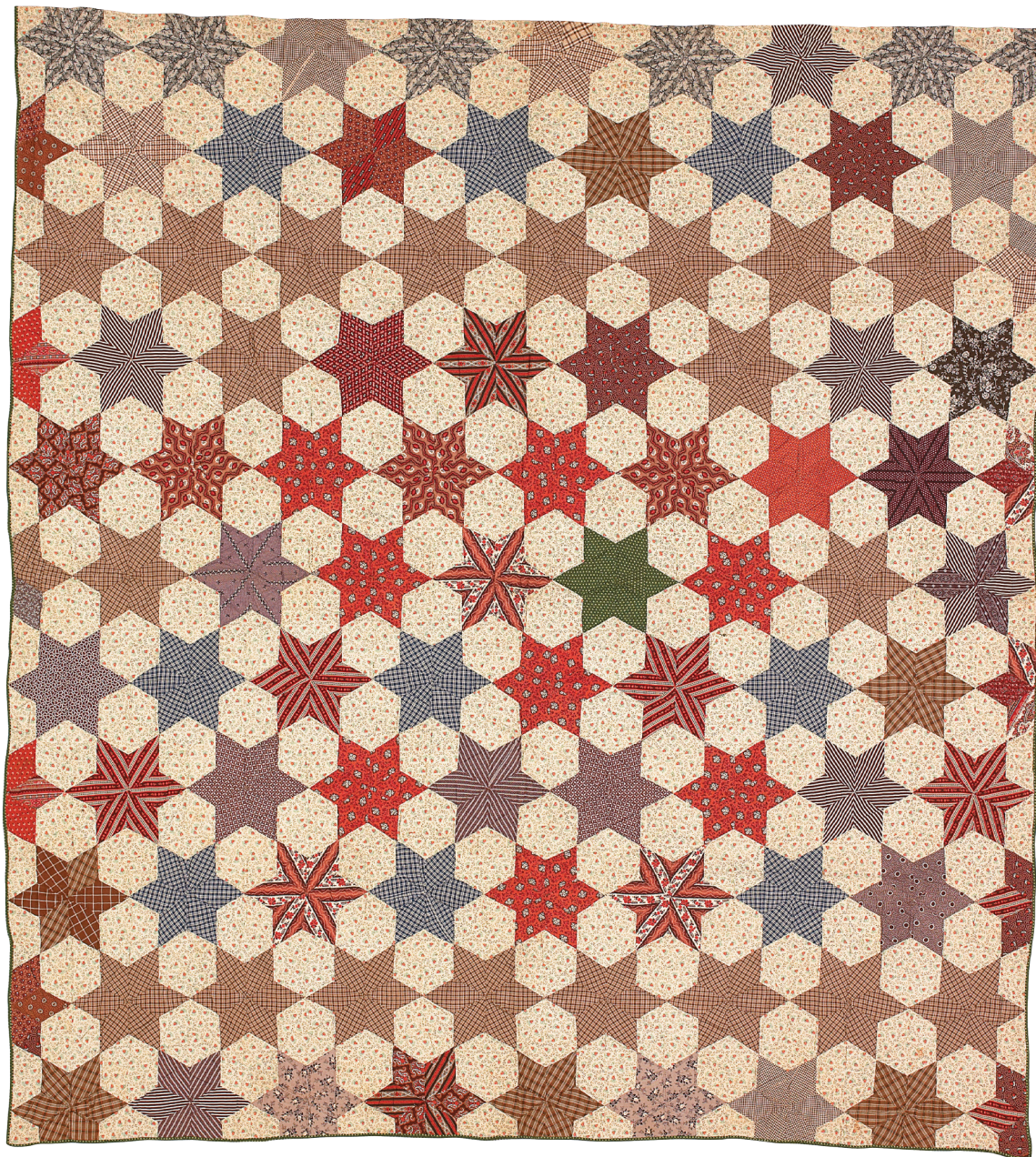
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star units and side star units on the line.

Finish Quilt

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing.
2. Quilt as desired. The antique quilt is hand-stitched with outline quilting a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edges of each A and B piece (Quilting Diagram).
3. Use green print binding strips to bind quilt.

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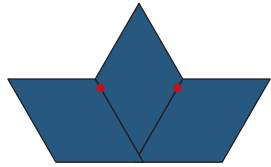


DIAGRAM 1

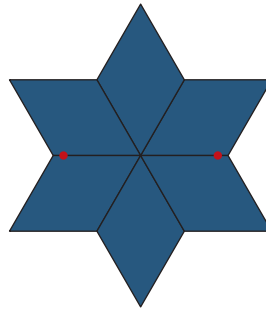


DIAGRAM 2

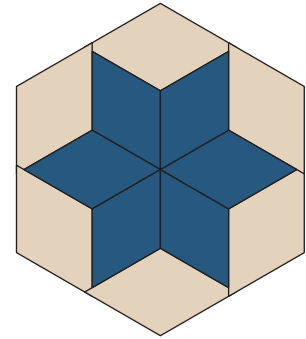


DIAGRAM 3

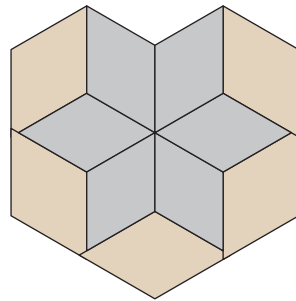


DIAGRAM 4

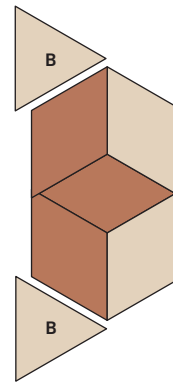
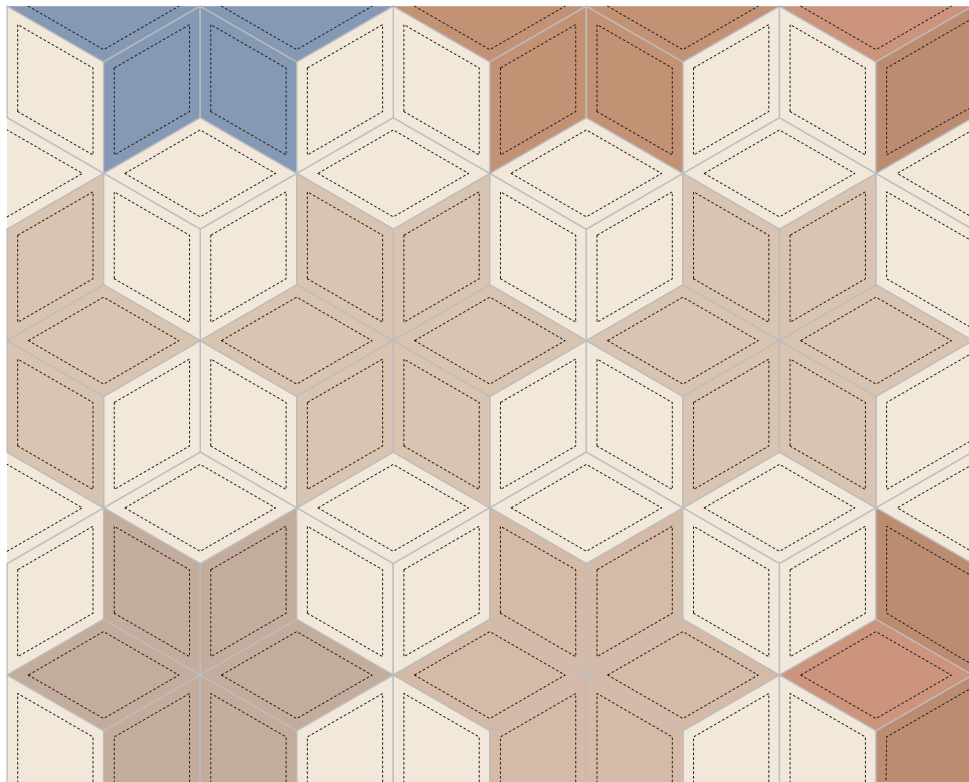
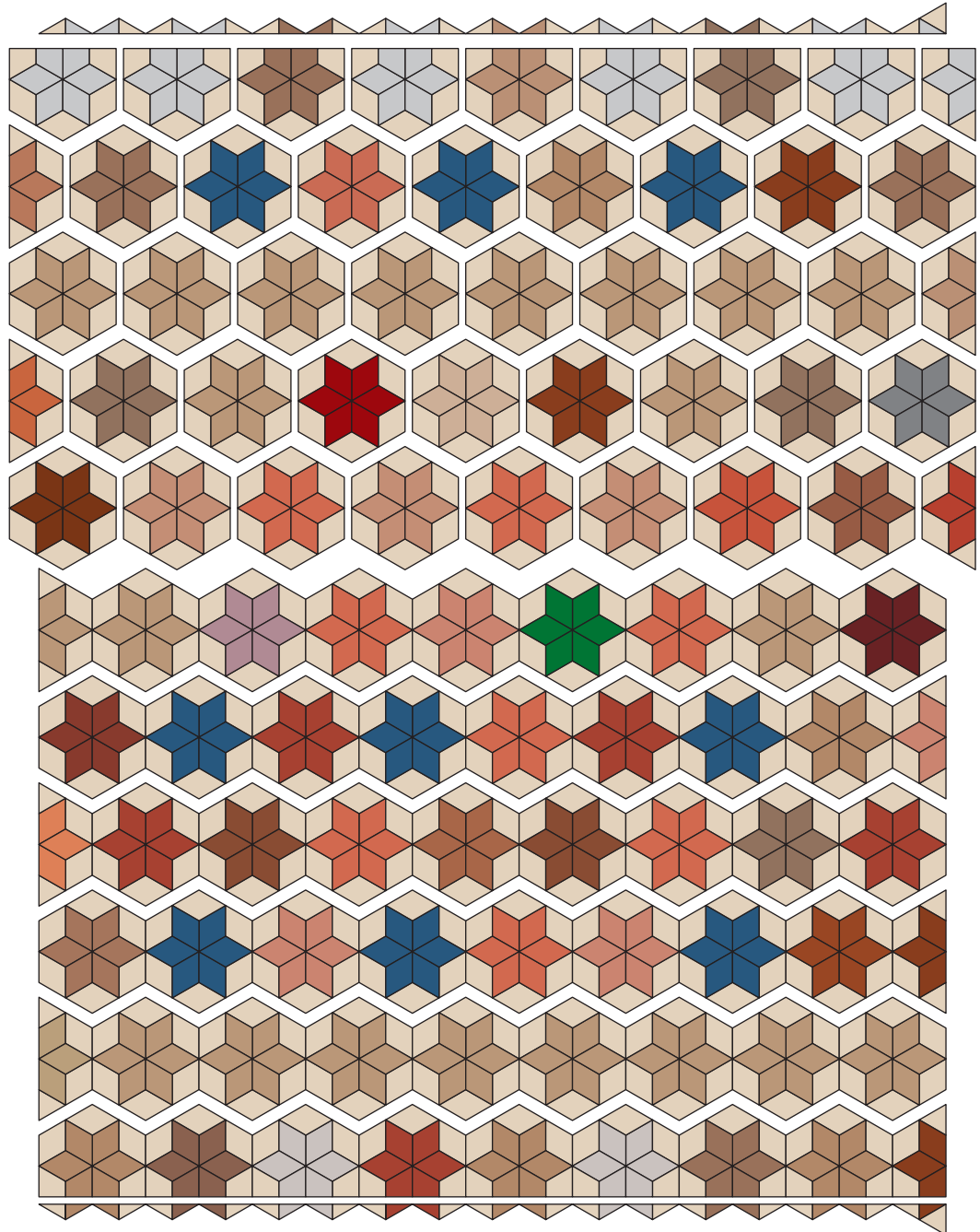


DIAGRAM 5



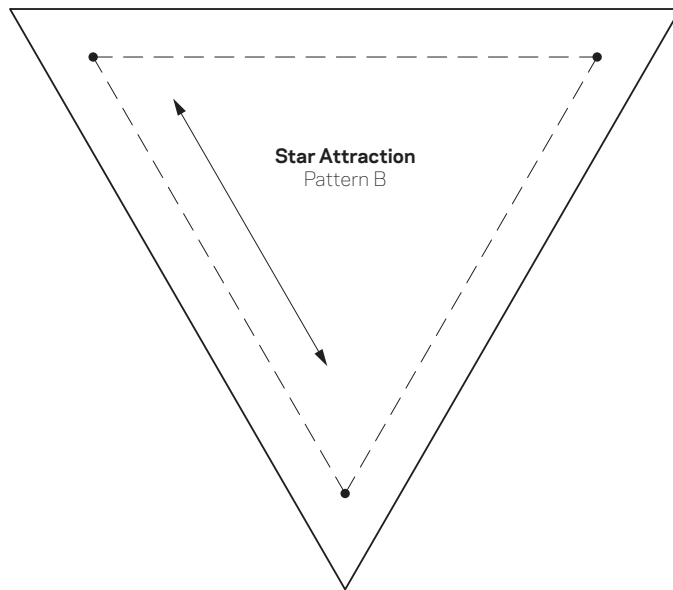
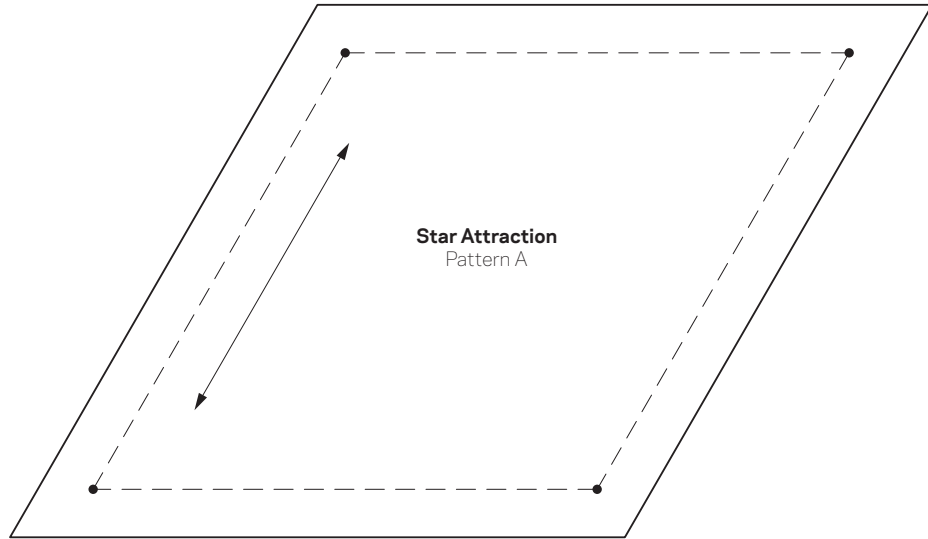
QUILTING DIAGRAM

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QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

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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.

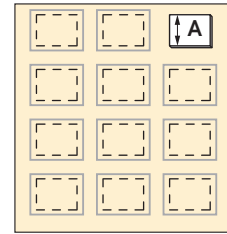


DIAGRAM 1

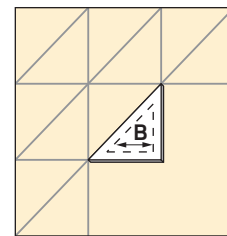


DIAGRAM 2