

Project: Cold Snap

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Chain piecing makes easy work of the sharp points in this classic blue-and-white icy-crystal delight.

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Materials

- 2⁵/₈ yards total assorted white prints (blocks, outer border)
- 2⁵/₈ yards total assorted blue prints (blocks, outer border)
- 1 yard dark blue print (inner border, binding)
- 3¹/₂ yards backing fabric
- 63×71" batting

Finished quilt: 56¹/₂×64¹/₂"

Finished block: 8" square

Quantities are for 44⁴/₅"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics. All **measurements** include a ¹/₄" seam allowance. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

To make the best use of your fabrics, cut pieces in the following order.

From assorted white prints, cut:

- 168—2⁷/₈" squares (you'll need 42 sets of 4 matching squares)
- 168—2¹/₂" squares (you'll need 42 sets of 4 squares to match each set of 2⁷/₈" squares)
- 56—2⁷/₈" squares for outer border
- 4—2¹/₂" squares for outer border

From assorted blue prints, cut:

- 168—2⁷/₈" squares (you'll need 42 sets of 4 matching squares)
- 168—2¹/₂" squares (you'll need 42 sets of 4 squares to match each set of 2⁷/₈" squares)
- 56—2⁷/₈" squares for outer border

From dark blue print, cut:

- 12—2¹/₂×42" strips for inner border and binding

Assemble Blocks

1. Gather a set of white print pieces (four 2⁷/₈" squares and four 2¹/₂" squares from the same

white print) and a set of blue print pieces (four 2⁷/₈" squares and four 2¹/₂" squares from the same blue print).

2. With a pencil, draw a diagonal line on wrong side of white print 2⁷/₈" squares. (To prevent fabric from stretching as you draw the lines, place 220-grit sandpaper under the squares.)

3. Layer a marked white print 2⁷/₈" square atop each blue print 2⁷/₈" square. Sew each pair together with two seams, stitching ¹/₄" on each side of drawn line (**Diagram 1**).

4. Cut a pair apart on the drawn line to make two triangle units. Press each triangle unit open, pressing seam toward blue triangle, to make a triangle-square (**Diagram 2**). The triangle-squares should each be 2¹/₂" square including seam allowances. Repeat to make eight matching triangle-squares total.

5. Referring to **Diagram 3** for placement, sew together two triangle-squares, a blue print 2¹/₂" square, and a white print 2¹/₂" square in pairs. Press seams toward squares. Join pairs to make a unit A. Press seam open. Unit A should be 4¹/₂" square including seam allowances. Repeat to make a second unit A.

6. Referring to **Diagram 4**, repeat Step 5 using the same pieces in a different arrangement to make two of Unit B.

7. Referring to **Diagram 5**, sew together A and B units in pairs; press seams toward unit B. Join pairs to make a star block.

Press seam open. The star block should be 8¹/₂" square including seam allowances.

8. Repeat steps 1 through 7 to make 42 star blocks total.
9. Repeat steps 2 through 4 using the remaining assorted white print and blue print 2⁷/₈" squares to make 112 triangle-squares total. Set aside for outer border.

Assemble Quilt Center

1. Referring to photograph, page 4, for placement, lay out the 42 star blocks in seven horizontal rows.
2. Sew together blocks in each row. Press seams in one direction, alternating direction with each row.
3. Join rows to make quilt center. Press seams in one direction. The quilt center should be 48¹/₂×56¹/₂" including seam allowances.

Assemble and Add Borders

1. Cut and piece dark blue print 2¹/₂×42" strips to make:
 - 2—2¹/₂×56¹/₂" inner border strips
 - 2—2¹/₂×52¹/₂" inner border strips
2. Sew long inner border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short inner border strips to remaining edges. Press seams toward inner border.
3. Referring to photograph opposite for placement, sew together 30 outer border triangle-squares to make a long

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outer border strip. The strip should be $2\frac{1}{2} \times 60\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances. Repeat to make a second long outer border strip.

4. Sew together 26 outer border triangle-squares and two white print $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares to make a short outer border strip. The strip should be $2\frac{1}{2} \times 56\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances. Repeat to make a second short outer border strip.
5. Sew long outer border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short outer border strips to remaining edges to complete quilt top. Press seams toward inner border.

Finish Quilt

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste.
2. Quilt as desired. The featured quilt was stitched with beige thread in an all-over curlicue design.
3. Use remaining dark blue print $2\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips to bind quilt.

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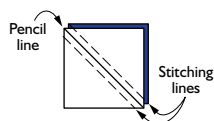


DIAGRAM 1



DIAGRAM 2

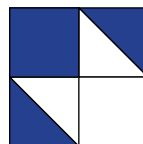


DIAGRAM 3

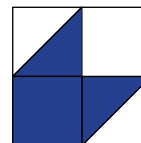


DIAGRAM 4

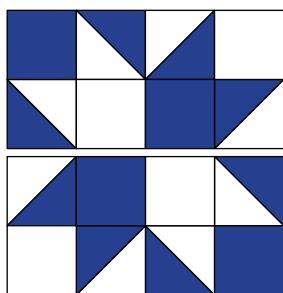
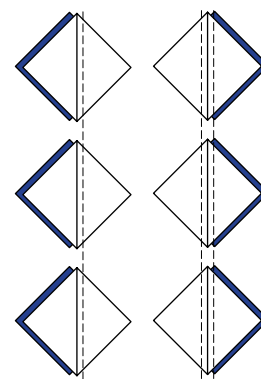


DIAGRAM 5

Speed It Up

To save time when you're making a lot of triangle-squares, chain-piece the layered squares. To chain-piece, machine-sew the pairs together one after the other without lifting the presser foot or clipping threads between pairs. First sew along one side of the drawn lines, then turn the group of pairs around and sew along the other side of the lines (see diagram right). Clip the connecting threads between pairs.



CHAIN-PIECING DIAGRAM