

I Love Stars!

August is a lazy month in the sun, on the beach or just chilling out on your patio or deck. If you have a chance to be outside at night and look into the sky, you may see some glorious stars. The Free Trade Block for this month is really a star within a star. It is also a nice BIG block - 16".

This 3 color quilt features the one Free Trade Star block in the center, with a repeat of the center stars used in the four corners of the borders. This quilt uses a LOT of triangles. There are several ways to quick piece the triangles and I'm going to share my favorite method (see quick lesson on the right). I know your local quilt shop has several tools and notions to aid in making accurate half-square triangles. Ask the staff and I'm sure they'll show you the perfect one.

You certainly can make this quilt in any color combination that suits your fancy. Don't think that you have to use my yellow-green-brown theme. Ask your quilt shop for the latest fabrics which are always color coordinated. It's always fun to buy new fabrics, isn't it?

If you still have your April Calendar Girls Newsletter, you might refer to it for another method for making half-square triangles using strips. If not, ask your shop owner if she still has it. The method I share here is a tried and true one that works the same and guarantees sharp points.

Easy Half-Square Triangles

Half-square triangle units are just that - a square composed of two equal sized triangles (Diagram 1). Knowing the finished size of the unit - for example 2" - is the first step. Next, add 7/8" to that measurement and cut two squares 2-7/8", one from each color. These can be stitched BEFORE cutting. This is a preferred method because it eliminates the possibility of stretching the fabric along the bias (which runs along the long edge of the triangle).



Diagram 1

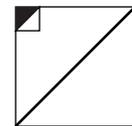
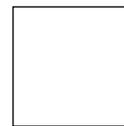


Diagram 2

Diagram 2 shows the squares paired with a diagonal line drawn on the wrong side of the lighter square. Place them together, right sides together and stitch 1/4" along BOTH sides of the drawn line (Diagram 3). Press. Cut them apart along the drawn line. Press both units open toward the darker fabric (Diagram 4). This method yields two half-square triangle units for each pair of squares.



Diagram 3



Diagram 4

What's happening at my web site?

- Information on quilt guild programs
- Teaching schedule & exciting workshops
- Patterns for sale
- Free quilt lessons
- Links to more free lessons and patterns

Visit www.quilterbydesign.com &
DebbyKratovilQuilts.blogspot.com

Ask your quilt shop for

- tools, rulers and notions for making accurate half-square triangles
- books featuring stars

Did you know?

- My calendar has a LOT of blocks where triangles are used
- Your quilt shop offers classes in new techniques