

Preliminary notes about fabric selection: To make our Color Wheel stars sparkle, all backgrounds for the 12 blocks are black. Each month's block emphasizes a different color, with a black background. Some blocks also use other colors, in addition to the main color. When choosing your fabrics (including the black for the backgrounds), you may use solids, or prints that read as solids (for example Moda Marbles, or color-on-color prints like a red-on-red or green-on-green). Don't worry about trying to get the exact same shade or tone that others are using - the variety will add interest to the finished quilt. (For example, the June block uses Red-Orange fabric. We will have different ideas about what constitutes the color Red-Orange.)

August 2015 - Yellow-Orange - Five-Pointed Star
Finished Size: 9" square
Skill Building - Fusible Applique

Fabric Requirements:

1/4 yd. (or FQ) each of Yellow-Orange and Black
(Keep leftover fabric for final quilt assembly.)
Fusible web approx. 6" x 11"

Cutting Instructions:

Black - One 9-3/4" square

Yellow-Orange - One 4-1/2" square
One 6" square

Fusible Web - One 4-1/2" square
One 6" square



Instructions:

Option 1: Trace the large star design on the wrong side of the 6" Yellow-Orange square, and the small star design on the wrong side of the 4-1/2" Yellow-Orange square. Option 2: If your fusible web is backed with paper, you can trace the designs onto the paper side of the fusible web. Either way, use a ruler so you get nice, straight lines and sharp star points. (**Note:** Whenever you use an asymmetrical image, such as an animal or house shape, you must reverse the image when you trace onto the back of your fabric or fusible web, in order to have the image facing the correct direction when you fuse it to the background. Here, the star image is symmetrical, so there is no need to reverse the image.)

Before cutting, fuse the web to the wrong side of the Yellow-Orange squares (the side with the traced star), using the instructions given with your brand of fusible web. **Tip:** I like to use a non-stick material, like the Applique Pressing Sheet from Bear Threads Designs, to protect my ironing board and iron. Parchment paper (yep, the kind you use to line a cookie sheet or baking pan) also works well.

Cut out the two stars exactly on the drawn lines. Arrange the stars on the 9-3/4" black square any way you like; they don't have to be arranged like they're shown above. **Important:** When positioning your stars, be sure to leave a 1/2" seam allowance all the way around the outside of the block. Fuse the stars to the background, again following the instructions given with your brand of fusible web.

To finish the edges of the stars, you have a few options. You may finish with blanket stitch by hand or machine, using either Black or Yellow-Orange thread, depending on the look you want. To learn blanket stitch by hand, there are dozens (at least) of instructional videos and tutorials available online. A couple of good ones that I found are www.projectsbyjane.blogspot.com/2014/06/hand-applique-using-blanket-stitch.html (text and photographs), and this video by Connecting Threads: <https://youtu.be/BNK6ebZMxkM>.

Another alternative is to finish by machine with a narrow zigzag stitch, using monofilament thread. This is my preferred method for machine applique. I use MonoPoly, a 100% polyester thread from Superior Threads, in both the top and the bobbin. **Tip:** When winding a bobbin with monofilament thread, wind on the slowest speed, and only fill the bobbin 1/3 to 1/2 full. Before stitching, reduce your machine's top tension considerably. Try the stitch on scrap fabrics first, to be sure you have good tension. **After finishing the star edges, trim the block to 9-1/2" square.**

