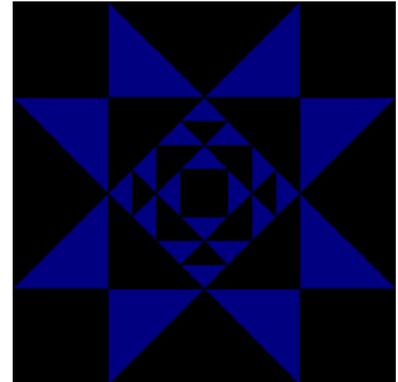


Preliminary notes about fabric selection: To make our Color Wheel stars sparkle, all backgrounds for the 12 blocks are black. Each month's block emphasizes a different color, with a black background. Some blocks also use other colors, in addition to the main color. When choosing your fabrics (including 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.)

December 2015 - Blue - Midnight Star
Finished Size: 12" square
Skill Building - Square-in-a-Square



Fabric Requirements: 1/4 yd. (or FQ) each of Blue and Black
(Keep leftover fabric for final quilt assembly.)

Cutting Instructions:

Black - Four 3-1/2" squares
Four 6-1/2" x 3-1/2" rectangles
Two 3-7/8" squares, cut once on the diagonal
Four 2-5/8" x 1-1/2" rectangles
Two 1-7/8 (2-1/8") squares
One 2" square

Blue - Two 1-7/8 (2-1/8") squares
Eight 1-1/2" squares
Eight 3-1/2" squares
One 2-3/4" square, cut twice on the diagonal
(cutting an X from corner to corner, each way - making four triangular pieces)

Note: I like to cut my squares for the half-square triangle units over-sized, and then trim the units to size after they are sewn. This allows for slight variations in piecing. The numbers in parentheses are for this over-sized cutting.

Piecing Instructions:

Half-Square Triangle Units: Using the 1-7/8" (2-1/8") Blue and Black squares, make four half-square triangles. Instructions for half-square triangles are given in the May and June blocks. Press seams toward the Black. Square units up to 1-1/2".

Flying Geese Units: Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the back of the eight Blue 1-1/2" squares, and the eight Blue 3-1/2" squares. Set the 3-1/2" squares aside. Place a 2-5/8" x 1-1/2" rectangle in front of you, right side up. On the left end, line up a Blue 1-1/2" square, right side down, with the drawn diagonal line running from the lower left corner to the upper center of the rectangle. Sew on the drawn line. (**Tip:** I like to start sewing at the center of the unit, rather than the corner, to prevent the corner from bending and getting caught in the machine's feed dogs.) Before trimming, flip the lower half of the Blue triangle up toward the corner to check placement. The edges of the triangle should line up with the edges of the Black rectangle. If placement is correct, flip the triangle back down flat. Align the 1/4" line of your ruler just inside the stitching line, and trim a scant 1/4" from the stitching line. (**Take care** not to trim on the wrong side of the stitching line! You are trimming off two triangles, not the larger piece of the black rectangle.) Press toward the Blue triangle. Repeat these steps, placing a Blue 1-1/2" square on the right side of the Black rectangle, with the drawn line intersecting the first Blue triangle, and running from the center to the lower right of the Black rectangle. Make four of these units.

Repeat these same steps using the Blue 3-1/2" squares, and the Black 6-1/2" x 3-1/2" rectangles, again making four units.

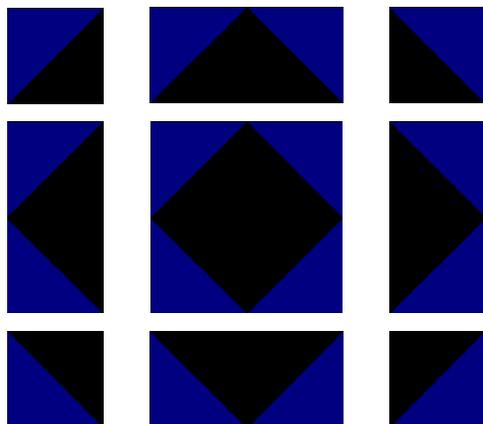
Square-in-a-Square Center:

Take each of the four small Blue triangles you cut from the Blue 2-3/4" square, and press the triangle in half lightly, so you can identify the center of the long side. (Alternatively, you can measure and mark the center of the long side

on each of the triangles.) Take the Black 2" square, and mark the center of each side. Match the center of the long side of one Blue triangle to the center of one side of the Black square, right sides together. Stitch with a scant 1/4" seam. Press toward the Blue triangle. Repeat the process on the opposite side of the square, pressing toward the triangle. Check to see that the points of the two triangles line up exactly opposite one another. Then use your rotary cutter to trim the triangle corners even with the two straight sides of the Black square. Stitch the remaining two Blue triangles to the other sides of the Black square, pressing toward the triangles. Square the unit up to 2-5/8".

Assembling the Center Section:

Using the four 1-1/2" half-square triangles, the four 2-5/8" x 1-1/2" Flying Geese units, and the Square-in-a-Square unit, arrange the center section as shown below, and stitch together in rows. Press seams in the top and bottom rows toward the center (toward the Flying Geese units), and in the center row toward the outside. This will allow your seams to "nest" together as you join the rows. Press both seams joining the rows toward the outside, away from the center Square-in-a-Square section.



Next, mark (either by pressing or measuring) the centers of the long sides of the Black triangles you cut from the 3-7/8" squares. Also mark the centers of each side of the Center Section unit (which should be where the tips of the black triangles meet the edges). Use the same method you used to construct the small Square-in-a-Square unit to add a triangle to each side of the Center Section. Square the entire center of the block up to 6-1/2".

Assembling the Block:

Arrange your block as shown below, and stitch together in rows. Press seams on the top and bottom rows toward the inside, and seams in the middle row toward the outside. Join rows, pressing both seams away from the center.

