

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.)

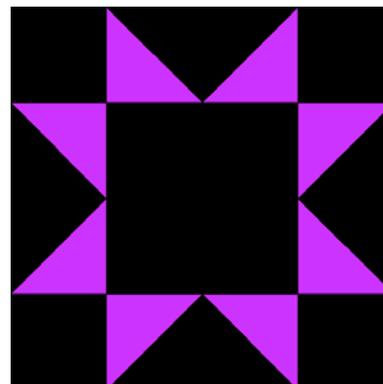
March 2016 - Violet - Sawtooth Star
Finished Size: 6" square
Skill Building - Maintaining Sharp Points

Fabric Requirements: 1/4 yd. (or FQ) of Black; leftover Violet from February.
 (Keep leftover fabric for final quilt assembly.)

Cutting Instructions:

Black - One 3-1/2" square
 Four 2" squares
 One 4-1/4" square, cut twice on the diagonal
 (in an "X" forming four triangles)

Violet - Four 2-1/2" squares, cut once on the diagonal



Piecing Instructions:

Follow instructions from the February block to sew one Violet triangle to each side of a Black triangle, creating a Flying Geese unit. Square up to 2" x 3-1/2", being sure to leave yourself a full 1/4" seam allowance past the point. Repeat three more times. Lay out block as shown below, and stitch together in rows, pressing seams in top and bottom rows to the outside, and seams in center row to the inside. Join rows, pressing both seams toward the center.

How to prevent cutting off your points: Many quilters have difficulty maintaining nice, sharp points at both the inside of the Flying Geese units (next to the center square), and at the outer tips of the star points (where there should be a full 1/4" seam allowance beyond the point). There are three common causes for this, two at the piecing stage and one during the pressing. (1) Ensure that the pieces you're stitching together are perfectly aligned. Try using a couple of pins to hold your fabrics in place as you stitch. When you finish stitching a unit, turn it over and check to be sure you caught both sides of the fabric evenly. (2) Use a full 1/4" seam allowance. It's helpful to use a stiletto (or the tip of your scissors or seam ripper) to hold the fabrics in place until just before they pass under the needle, to prevent slippage at the edges. (3) When pressing, first press flat to "set" the stitches. Then press the unit open from the front, letting the weight of the iron push the top piece up and away from the bottom piece. This will prevent the small crease that often occurs right at the seam line when pressed from the back first. If your seam allowance turns under while pressing from the front, then turn the unit over and press the seam allowance in the correct direction.

