

MembersOnly Club Block of the Month

December 2011

Presented by Deirdre Hallett of [Hallett House Designs](#)
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Welcome to the final installment of my Block of the Month series for 2011! This month, we are tackling another block that is generally made with diamonds and difficult seams. This variation is much easier to create and is beautiful!

This month, I submit to you the altered Blazing Star block. Let's get started!

FABRIC AND CUTTING

You will need 4 different fabrics for this block. Small to medium prints are best, and this layout is generally done in high-contrast colors. I chose a muted jewel-tone combination.

Cut the following:



Color A (my blue):

1 square measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "
8 squares measuring 2" x 2"



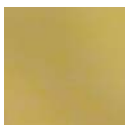
Color B (my purple):

12 squares measuring 2" x 2"
4 rectangles measuring 2" x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "
4 squares measuring $2\frac{3}{8}$ " x $2\frac{3}{8}$ "
Cut diagonally to create two triangles from each square



Color C (my pink):

8 squares measuring 2" x 2"
4 squares measuring $2\frac{3}{8}$ " x $2\frac{3}{8}$ "
Cut diagonally to create two triangles from each square



Color D (my yellow):

4 squares measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "
4 rectangles measuring 2" x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "
4 rectangles measuring 2" x $6\frac{1}{2}$ "

STARTING TO SEW

1. Place a **Color B** and **Color C** triangle right sides together and line up all edges. Pin in place.
2. Using your $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam, stitch along the long diagonal seam. Press seams *open*.

Make 8 HSTs like this.



Next, we will be creating three different Geese units. I will be using the *Crumbs Method 2 (Trim and Stitch)* from the March edition of my *Basic Quilting 101* series. Refer back to that, as well as the figures below for more instruction:

1. Place a **Color B** square (2") on top of a **Color D** rectangle (2" x 3½"), right sides together (Fig. 1).
2. Using your cutting mat and ruler, line up the first quarter-inch line of the ruler with the points of the **Color B** squares (Fig. 2). Trim the excess with your rotary cutter (save and stitch the crumbs for another project if desired) and notice that you have a new ¼-inch seam allowance on the outside of your points (Fig. 3).
3. Stitch from one point to the other and press seam *open* (Fig. 4).
4. Turning the rectangle as shown in Fig. 5, place a **Color B** square on top, right sides together.
5. Trim, stitch and press by following numbers 1-3 above.

Make 4 Geese units like this.



Fig. 1

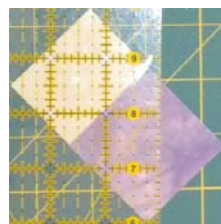


Fig. 2

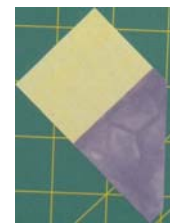


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

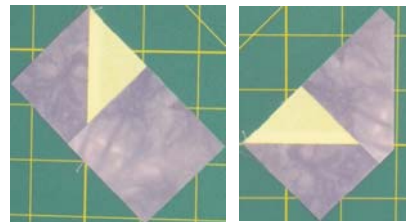
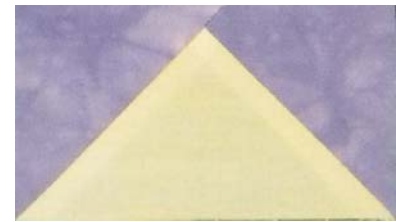
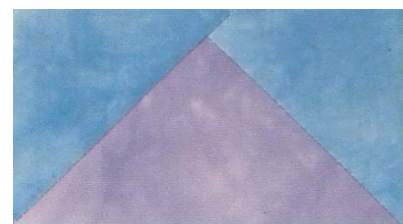


Fig. 5

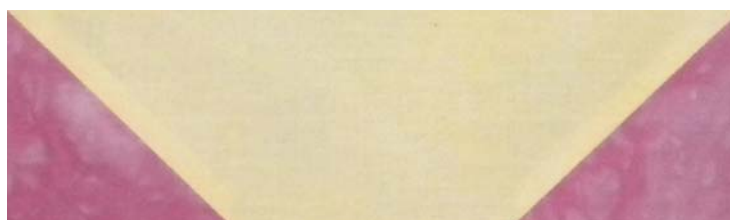


Finished Geese Unit

6. Using your Color A squares (2") and your Color B rectangles, follow numbers 1-5 above to create 4 Geese units like this.



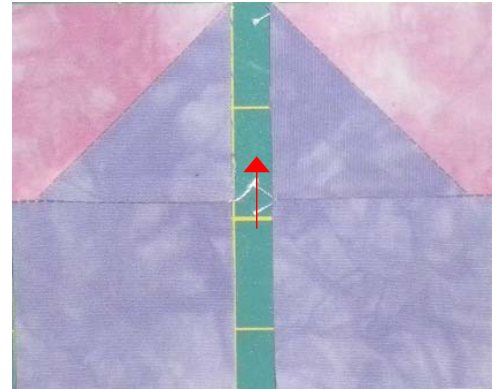
7. Using your Color C squares (2") and your long Color D rectangles (2" x 6½"), follow numbers 1-5 above to create 4 long Geese units like this.



CREATING UNITS (*PARTIAL BLOCKS*)

We've created many small units. Now it's time to combine them into larger units.

1. Using your remaining **Color B** squares (2") and your **Color B/Color C** HSTs, create 2 of each of these units. Notice that they are mirror-images of each other!
2. Press seams *towards the HSTs*.



3. Using your two sets of normal Geese units, create 2 units like this.
4. Press seams *towards the Color A/Color B unit*.

5. Using your HST and Geese units, create 4 larger units like this.
6. Press seams *towards the HST units*.



7. Add your wide **Color C/Color D** Geese units to create 2 like this.
8. Press seams *towards the wide HST units*.

9. Stitch a *Color A/Color B* Geese units to both sides of your *Color A* square (3½").

10. Press seams *towards the Color A square*.



11. Stitch a *Color B/Color C* HST both sides of a *Color C/Color D* Geese unit as shown. Make 2.

12. Press seams *towards the HSTs*.



13. Add your remaining wide Geese units to create 2 larger units like this..

14. Press seams *towards the wide Geese unit*.



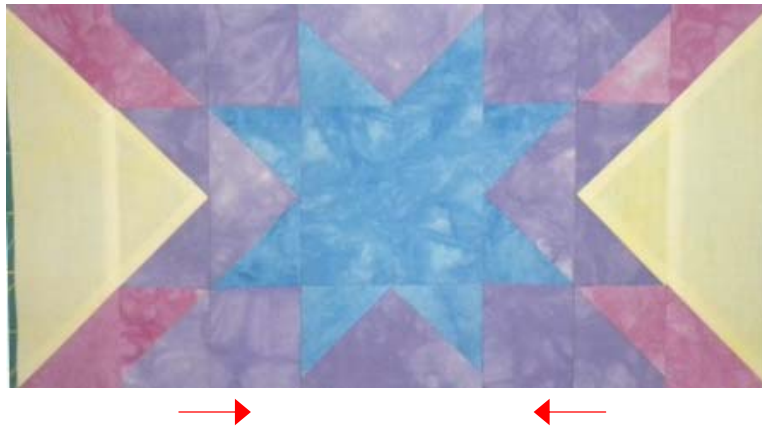
15. Add a *Color D* square to each side to create 2 side strips like this.

16. Press seams *towards the center section*.



17. Stitch a Geese/Wide Geese unit to your center section to create one center strip.

18. Press seams *towards the center section*.



CONSTRUCTING THE BLOCK



1. Lay out the final three sections as shown. One at a time, stitch each outer section to the middle section using your $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam.
2. Press seams *open or to one side* (your choice).

And, that's it! Lone Star style blocks and quilts are some of the most stunning, but they can also be quite fussy to make! Turning all those diamonds into HSTs and Geese units makes it so much easier!

Your block should now measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ ".



Once again, you may have noticed that my instructions differed from my normal ones. I am trying to show that quilt patterns are written by so many people and that each of us has our own style. Not all will be my style that you're familiar with. So, in this "safe setting", I've tried to introduce a bit of variety!

This is the last block for the year, and I hope you have enjoyed it! If you have any questions or comments, I really would love to hear from you!

Be sure to download the Basic Quilting 101 for December! You'll find information on setting blocks into a quilt top as well as a pattern and direction for creating a quilt from this year's blocks!

Have a wonderful holiday season and, as always, happy quilting!

DeDe

If you have questions or need help, contact Deirdre at support@oregonpatchworks.com

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I just wanted to share one of my favorite layouts for the actual Lone Star style of quilt. This particular quilt has the design in a Carpenter's Wheel setting. It can be made larger by adding more rounds to the "wheel".

Because this fabulous quilt can be made easier through the techniques I've shared in the past month, I will create this quilt one of these days ... without all the fussiness of diamonds and Y-seams.

