

Stars Ahoy Class Notes

GICS # 21 – 21st to 23rd November 2024

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Cutting the Fabric:

- Cut 4 - 12" x 12" squares from the backing fabric and the batting
- From the dark and light fat ¼'s cut across the fabric:
 - 3 x 2 ½" strips
 - 3 x 2" strips
- From the bright fat ¼'s cut:
 - 3 x 1 ½" strips
 - 3 x 1" strips
- 4 x 7 ½" squares of 2 Dark and 2 Light fat ¼'s for the corner triangles

Thread the machine with Mono Poly clear thread in the bobbin and a normal sewing thread on the top. With a hot iron, press the batting squares to the backing squares.

Tip: If you worry that the fusible batting may stick to your ironing board, lay a piece of baking paper down first to protect the cover.

Laying and Pressing the Strips:

With the batting side of the block facing up, lay a 2" strip of any fabric across the block, on the diagonal, so it lines up with the top & bottom corners of the block. Have the right side of the fabric strip facing up and press in place with a hot iron.

Choose a second strip of any size and color fabric, and lay it face down on the edge of the first strip. Stitch through all layers using a ¼" seam allowance. Fold the strip out and press onto the batting. Repeat laying and stitching strips of different widths and colours until you get to about 4" or 5" from the two corners.

Cut the 7 ½" squares in half on the diagonal to get 2 triangles. Sew a light triangle to one corner and a dark triangle to the opposite corner.

Repeat this process until you make the 4 blocks.

Note - When adding the corner triangles, lay out all 4 blocks so you get a light and a dark corner next to each other on opposing blocks.

Once all blocks are completed, trim them all to be the same size squares.

Joining The Blocks Together:

The blocks are joined together with a piece of the backing fabric (this is called a spacer strip).

Cut 2 x spacer strips 3 ½" wide by the length of your blocks. Join this strip between 2 blocks using a ¼" seam, have the wrong side of the fabric facing up; the right side is to show on the back of the quilt.

Join the other 2 sets of blocks together.

Sashings:

Cut 4 x strips 6" wide x the length of you blocks e.g. if your block measures 11 ½" after trimming, that is the length of your sashing pieces.

Cut 8 x squares using the purple square template from the 3" Pieced Sashing Template Set.

Mark the diagonal line onto each of the squares, by using the split in the template, and stitch a square to one end of the sashing strip on the diagonal line. Fold the sashing corner back to the stitching line on the square and trim ¼" away from the stitching line on the square. Do **not** cut the corner of the sashing strip - only the square to be cut.

Lay the next square down and stitch and trim as on the first piece. Repeat this on all 4 Sashing strips.

Cut 1 x contrast piece using the purple rectangle template from the 3" Pieced Sashing Template Set. Join one of the sashings with the triangles onto one side of the rectangle with a ¼" seam, stitch right through the x mark where the two stitching lines cross over when the squares were stitched on.

Using the Sasher Tool:

Fold the sashing strip in half and finger press the first bit to find the centre. Fold each edge in to meet, thread the strip into the 3" Sasher with the raw edges up, pin the end to the ironing surface with a fork pin, then gently push the Sasher along with the **side** of the iron. Repeat with the longer sashing.

Cut strips of the fusible batting 2 ⅞" wide x the sashing lengths. Open out the sashings, lay the batting inside the creased lines, fold the fabric ends in and press.

Attaching the Sashings:

Using the Roxanne glue, apply small dots right on the stitching line where the spacer strip was joined between the blocks. Lay one of the short sashings down on top, lining the edge of the sashing right on the stitching line of the spacer strip. Press with a hot iron to set the glue.

Use the Mono Poly thread in the top and bobbin, and stitch down both sides of the sashing as close as you can on the edge with a straight stitch.

Use the template from Set M to trace the quilting design onto the sashings using the Bohin fabric marking pencil. Set the machine up and quilt on the lines.

Joining The 2 Rows Together:

Measure the width of the rows and cut a piece of the backing fabric 3 ½" wide x the length (spacer strip). Stitch this between the rows, paying attention that the two sashings line up with each other by putting in the reference lines.

Apply the glue to one side of the star points, lay the long sashing down so the square ends line up with the edge of the small sashing star, press with a hot iron and pin in place. Repeat the other side.

Now go along and glue the sides down & press. Stitch the sashing in place, trace the quilting design on and quilt.

You may choose to make many more blocks and join them to create a big quilt. I hope you have enjoyed this lesson, send me photos of your work so we can share for all to admire. Happy stitching, Pauline