

Nested Stars Quilt

BY JACKIE ROBINSON

Construction

- 1 Place a 5¼" square of **Yellow 3** right sides together with a 5¼" square of **Blue 1**. On the backside draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. Make 4.
- 2 Place a 5¼" square of **Yellow 4** right sides together with a 5¼" square of **Blue 1**. On the backside draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. Make 4.
- 3 Position the blade of Patchwork Foot with Guide #57 foot so the drawn line is just barely inside of the blade (toward the needle) and stitch this ¼" seam along both sides of the Steps 1 and 2 drawn lines.



Finished Size 46" x 46"

Yardage

Note: Value 1 is the lightest, 3 is the darkest

Blue 1 – ¼ yd
Blue 2 – ¼ yd
Blue 3 – ½ yd

Yellow 1 – ¼ yd
Yellow 2 – ⅓ yd
Yellow 3 – ¼ yd
Yellow 4 – ½ yd

Note: Fabric shown is from *He Loves Me* by Jackie Robinson and Maywood Studio

Border Stripe – 1⅓ yds
Binding – ⅔ yd
Backing – 3 yards

Cutting

(across the 42" width of quality cotton fabric)

Blue 1: Cut one 5¼" strip into (8) 5¼" squares

Blue 2: Cut one 7¼" strip into (2) 7¼" squares and (1) 6½" square

Blue 3: Cut one 13¼" strip into (2) 13¼" squares

Yellow 1: Cut one 7¼" square

Yellow 2: Cut one 9¾" strip into (1) 9¾" square, (1) 7¼" square, and (2) 5⅝" squares

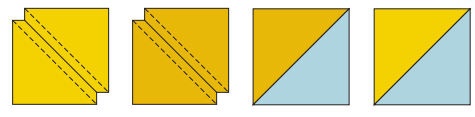
Yellow 3: Cut one 5¼" strip into (4) 5¼" squares and (4) 4½" squares

Yellow 4: Cut one 13¼" strip into (1) 13¼" square and (4) 5¼" squares
Cut two 4½" strips into (16) 4½" squares

Border Stripe: Cut four 5½" lengthwise strips, centering stripe

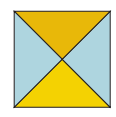
Binding: Cut five 2½" strips across the width of the fabric

4 From the corner of each of these stitched units, cut a square as shown. The 'ears' will be gone. Then cut the units apart on the drawn line, and press them gently toward the Blue. You'll have 4 each of 2 varieties.

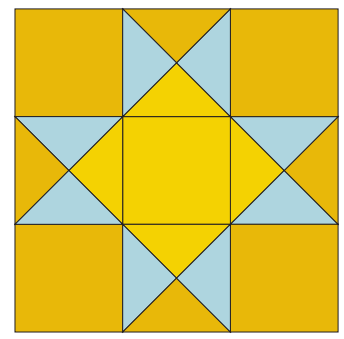


5 Layer one of each of the two triangle units right sides together, with the Blue pieces on opposite corners. On the back, draw a diagonal line from corner to corner perpendicular to the previous stitching lines. Position the #57 foot as before, and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of this new line. Make 8.

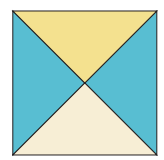
6 As before, cut $\frac{1}{4}$ " squares from the corners between the stitching, then cut the units apart and press gently in either direction.



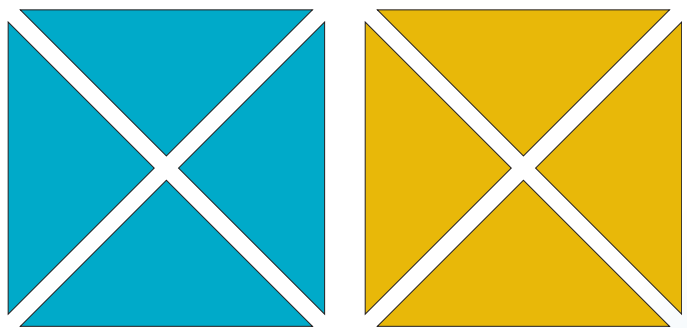
7 Lay out the stars as shown, keeping all the **Yellow 3** to the center and **Yellow 4** around the outer edges. Stitch the stars together using either Patchwork Foot #37 or Patchwork Foot with Guide #57, nesting the seams where they meet. Press. Make 4. These are the 4 corners.



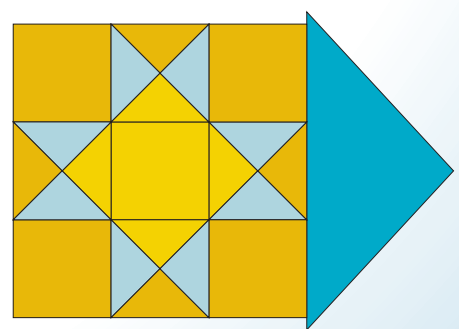
8 In the same manner as Steps 1-6, make 4 Star Point units beginning with 1 set of $7\frac{1}{4}$ " **Blue 2** and **Yellow 1** and another set of **Blue 2** and **Yellow 2**.



9 Cut the $13\frac{1}{4}$ " squares (2 of **Blue 3** and 1 of **Yellow 4**) diagonally in fourths like an 'X'.



10 Stitch the long straight of grain edge of a **Blue 3** triangle to one side of a Step 7 corner block. Fold the **Blue 3** and the Block each in half to find center along the edge, then match those centers. The Blue 3 triangle will extend a bit more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " at each end. Stitch in place. Make 4; finger press – NO iron.

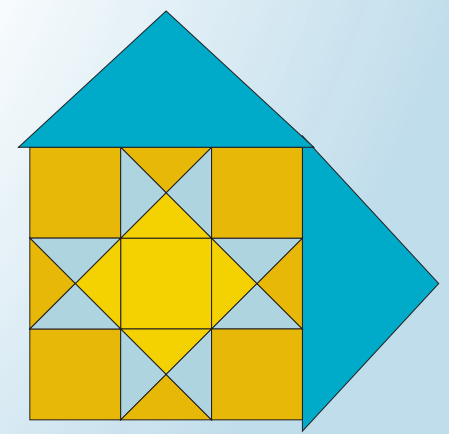


Jackie's Precision Piecing Tips

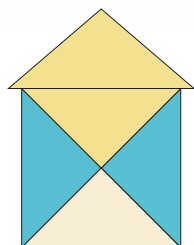
"This pattern is planned with precise $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams throughout. To test your $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to see if it's 'right on', cut two pieces of fabric *exactly* $2" \times 5"$. Stitch them together along the $5"$ length. Measure across the two - at the mid-point. They should be exactly $3\frac{1}{2}"$ wide. If not, adjust your seam allowance, and repeat this procedure until correct."

"For machine piecing, it's best to extend the stitch length on your machine to 2.7 mm. On most BERNINA® machines, that's 3 bumps past the blink."

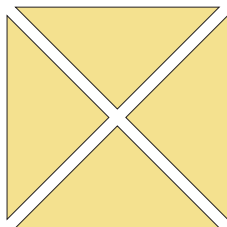
11 Stitch the long straight of grain edge of a **Blue 3** triangle to an adjacent side of each Step 10 unit. Fold the **Blue 3** and the Block each in half to find center along the edge, then match those centers. The **Blue 3** triangle will extend a bit more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " at each end. Stitch in place. Make 4; finger press – NO iron.



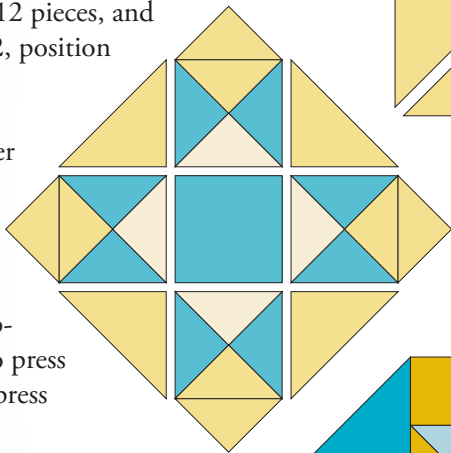
12 Cut the two $5\frac{1}{8}$ " squares of **Yellow 2** diagonally in half. Stitch each of these to the **Yellow 2** of the Step 8 units, centering the triangle. There will be a bit more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " extending at each end. Finger press this seam toward the new triangle.



13 Cut the $9\frac{3}{4}$ " square of **Yellow 2** diagonally in fourths like an 'X'.

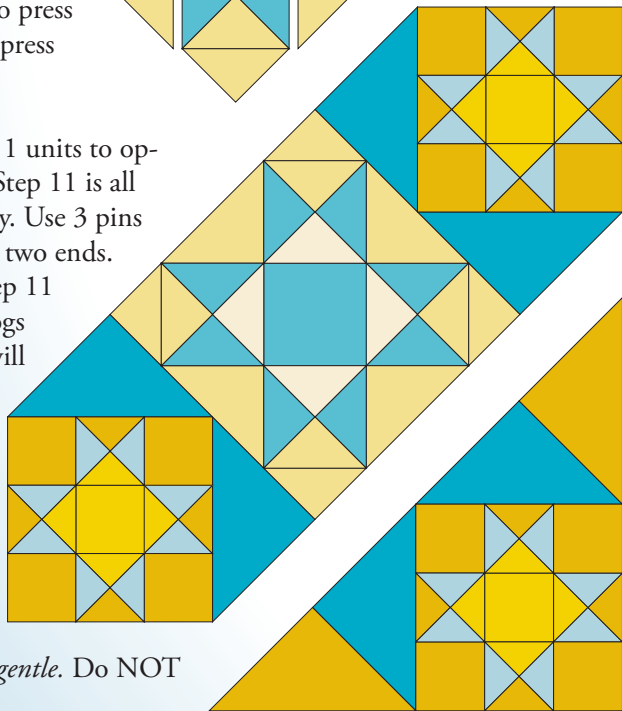


14 Using Step 13, the Step 12 pieces, and the $6\frac{1}{2}$ " square of **Blue 2**, position the center.



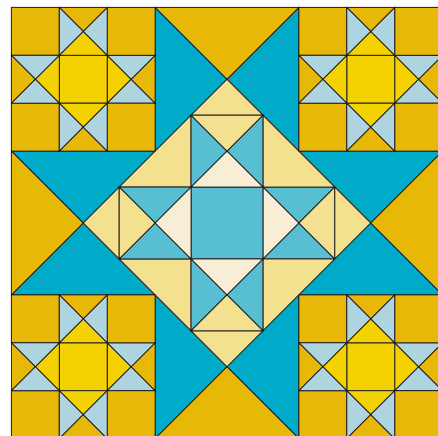
15 When stitching the center together, the square corners of each piece will always match. Stitch the center together, as shown. Send seams in opposite directions. Wait to press until it is all done, then press gently.

16 Attach two of the Step 11 units to opposite sides of Step 15. Step 11 is all bias, and will fit precisely. Use 3 pins to match the center and two ends. Then, place the bias (Step 11 part) next to the feed dogs and stitch. Everything will ease in and it'll be perfect. Do NOT press.



17 Stitch a Step 9 Triangle of **Yellow 4** to each side of the remaining Step 11 units. *Note: Total bias in this stitching. Don't pull - be gentle. Do NOT press.*

18 The Step 17 units are added to Step 15 (see diagram in the next column). Remember to pin and ease. Everything fits perfectly. Direct seams opposite of each other. Once stitched, press carefully.



Borders

19 Center and stitch a Border stripe along each edge, beginning and ending the stitching at the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, and leaving 6" of Border extending at each end.

20 Place a corner to miter on your ironing board, with the border that is lying horizontal extending to the right, and the one that is vertical, on top, and extending up. Fold the top extending border diagonally under and position so it is exactly on top of the one extending to the right. Once you are satisfied that the miter is as it should be, "smash" it with the iron.



For information on the tools and techniques in this article, see your local BERNINA® dealer or contact Jackie Robinson, Animas Quilts www.animas.com or jackie@animas.com

- 21 Place a pin or two to hold the mitered corner in place. From the underside, using Open Embroidery Foot #20/20C, stitch in the pressed crease. Look to see that it's fine, and if it is, trim the excess from the corner to ¼". Press these seams open.

Quilting

- 22 Prepare to quilt your masterpiece. Layer the pieced top with the batting and backing; baste and quilt as desired. I used Walking Foot #50 to secure the seams "in-the-ditch", then switched to the BERNINA® Stitch Regulator to detail it with geometric lines, heavy relief stippling, and soft quilting.



Using the BERNINA® Stitch Regulator (BSR) makes free-motion stitching easy for everyone, even the novice. Drop the feed dog, move the fabric any direction you want, and the machine will sew even, consistent stitches!

Echo-quilt the pieced shapes and trace around the print of the border as desired.



Finishing

- 23 After quilting, use the 2½" strips for Binding, and follow the instructions with the Binding Miter tool from Animas Quilts (www.animas.com). Stitch the Binding with the walking foot, and stitch its miters with Open Embroidery Foot #20/20C.

