Block 5: Stars & Stripes

Pattern for a 12” finished block—All seams are 1/4”. Pressing directions are indicated. Make (2) identical blocks. Set aside remaining fabric for the border.

Fabric needed for blocks & Cutting instructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light 1</th>
<th>1/8 yard or scrap, cut (8) 2-1/2” squares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Light 2</td>
<td>1/4 yard, cut (2) 5-1/8” squares, cut twice diagonally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium 1</td>
<td>1/8 yard or scrap, cut (8) 2-1/2” squares (4) 2-7/8” squares, cut once diagonally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium 2</td>
<td>1/8 yard or scrap, cut (8) 2-1/2” squares (4) 2-7/8” squares, cut once diagonally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark 1</td>
<td>1/4 yard, cut (8) 2-1/2”x4-1/2” rectangles (4) 2-7/8” squares, cut once diagonally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark 2</td>
<td>1/8 yard or scrap, cut (8) 2-1/2” squares (4) 2-7/8” squares, cut once diagonally</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

June 6, 1776
We have won the war and won our independence from England! Our quilting group decided to make a quilt to celebrate our independence. Each quilter in our group was challenged to design an original block with these expectations: the blocks must be 12”, must use red, white and blue fabrics, and must fit the theme of “Stars & Stripes.”

I was so proud of my block, with the stripes of the stars extending like ribbons blowing in the wind. And then I heard the rumor that one of the blocks would be chosen to be the focus of our new nation’s flag. I was hopeful that my block would be chosen. My good friend, Betsy Ross, designed a very simple block with a 5-pointed star. She was rather new at quilting, so the block was quite simplistic. I didn’t think she had a chance of being chosen. As it turned out, her husband’s uncle was one of the three men who made the final decision regarding the star block. George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross came to our next quilting group meeting and asked Betsy to construct the flag. We were all happy for her, but I have to admit, I’m a little envious. And I do wonder if the results would have been different if her husband’s uncle hadn’t been part of the selection committee.
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Instructions


2. Stitch a Medium 1 and Light 1 square together as shown. Press toward the Medium square. Make (4) units.

3. Stitch a Dark 1 rectangle to the bottom of the unit from Step 2. Press toward the Dark rectangle. Make (4) units.

4. Construct a flying geese unit by stitching a Dark 1 half-square triangle to the left side of a Light 2 quarter-square triangle. Use a SCANT 1/4" seam. One point of the Dark 1 triangle will slightly overlap the Light 2 triangle (approx. 3/8"). Press toward the Dark 1 triangle. Stitch a Medium 1 triangle to the right side of the unit. Use a SCANT 1/4" seam. Press toward the Medium triangle. Trim dog ears. Make (4) units.

5. Stitch a Dark 2 square to the left side of the flying geese unit from Step 4. Stitch a Medium 2 square to the right side of the unit from Step 4. Press to the outside. Make (4) units.

6. Stitch a half-square unit from Step 1 to each side of the unit from Step 5. Press to the inside. Make (2) units.

7. Stitch (2) units from Step 3 together. Press seam open. Make (2) units.
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Pattern for a 12” finished block—All seams are 1/4”.
Pressing directions are indicated.
Make (2) identical blocks. Set aside remaining fabric for border.

Instructions, continued

8. Stitch (2) units from Step 7 together. Press seam open.

9. Stitch (2) units from Step 5 to the sides of the unit from Step 8. Press seams open.

10. Stitch the units from Step 6 to the top and bottom of the unit from Step 9. Press seams open.