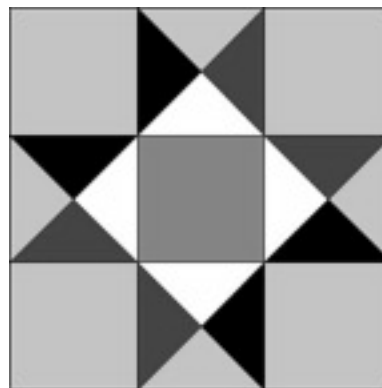


Block 5: Twin Star (provided April 2016; share May 2016)

The Twin Star block uses quarter square triangle or QST units. There are numerous blocks that utilize QSTs. There are also numerous ways to piece these units. The instructions given here utilize a technique that avoids bias edges. The units will be made slightly oversized so that they can be trimmed down to the perfect size. As shown, this block uses 5 fabrics: Lightest, Light, Medium, Dark, Darkest.



Fabric needed: Cut the listed pieces for each fabric. Be sure each piece is cut accurately.

	3" blocks	6" blocks	9" blocks	12" blocks	15" blocks
Lightest	1 at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"	1 at 3-1/2" x 3-1/2"	1 at 4-1/2" x 4-1/2"	1 at 5-1/2" x 5-1/2"	1 at 6-1/2" x 6-1/2"
Light	4 at 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" 1 at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"	4 at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" 1 at 3-1/2" x 3-1/2"	4 at 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" 1 at 4-1/2" x 4-1/2"	4 at 4-1/2" x 4-1/2" 1 at 5-1/2" x 5-1/2"	4 at 5-1/2" x 5-1/2" 1 at 6-1/2" x 6-1/2"
Medium	1 at 1-1/2" x 1-1/2"	1 at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"	1 at 3-1/2" x 3-1/2"	1 at 4-1/2" x 4-1/2"	1 at 5-1/2" x 5-1/2"
Dark	1 at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"	1 at 3-1/2" x 3-1/2"	1 at 4-1/2" x 4-1/2"	1 at 5-1/2" x 5-1/2"	1 at 6-1/2" x 6-1/2"
Darkest	1 at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"	1 at 3-1/2" x 3-1/2"	1 at 4-1/2" x 4-1/2"	1 at 5-1/2" x 5-1/2"	1 at 6-1/2" x 6-1/2"

Piecing Instructions for 9" blocks (3", 6", 12", 15")

Note: Watch carefully as you stitch.

1. On the back of the Lightest 4-1/2" (2-1/2", 3-1/2", 5-1/2", 6-1/2") square, draw a line diagonally from one corner to another. Use a regular pencil, special marking pencil (wash-away or brush-away), chalk, Frixion® marker (irons off) or other fabric-safe utensil. Another option is to press each square in half leaving a crease marking the diagonal.
2. Carefully position the marked Lightest square on a Darkest square, right sides together, matching the edges. The marked line should meet in a corner. Stitch a scant 1/4" seam on either side of the marked line. A scant 1/4" seams means to stitch just a thread or two closer to the line than 1/4". Be careful to sew straight and watch that the end doesn't twist.

3. Cut the units apart along the marked line. Press the seams toward the Darkest fabric. At this point the units should measure something larger than 4" (2", 3", 5", 6") squares and have dogears. Do NOT trim at this time.
4. Repeat Steps 1-3 using the Light square and Dark square. Press toward Dark.
5. On the back of the first two HSTs from Step 3, draw a line diagonally from one corner to another that crosses the seam line.
6. Carefully position the marked HST on the HST from Step 4, right sides together, nesting the seams. The edges may not match - that's OK. Your focus should be on nesting the seams. Use a pin to secure. Stitch a scant 1/4" seam on either side of the marked line.
7. Cut the units apart along the marked line. The units will not be identical but mirror images. Press and furl the seams. At this point the units should measure something larger than 3-1/2" (1-1/2", 2-1/2", 4-1/2", 5-1/2") on each side and have dogears.
8. Use a ruler with a 45 degree line to trim the unit to size. Align the 45 line along one seam. Check that the other seam line crosses the 3-1/2" (1-1/2", 2-1/2", 4-1/2", 5-1/2") markings on the ruler. Trim 2 sides of the unit.
9. Now rotate the unit 180 degrees. Again align the 45 line along one seam. This time, check that the trimmed sides and the other seam line line up with the 3-1/2" (1-1/2", 2-1/2", 4-1/2", 5-1/2") markings. Trim the remaining 2 sides of the unit.
10. Repeat Steps 8 & 9 for the remaining QST units. Each QST unit should measure 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" (1-1/2" x 1-1/2", 2-1/2" x 2-1/2", 4-1/2" x 4-1/2", 5-1/2" x 5-1/2").
11. Arrange the QSTs and the remaining pieces as shown for the block. The top and bottom rows of the block will have 1 QST and 2 Light squares. The middle row will have 2 QSTs and 1 Medium square.
12. Watching the orientation of the units, sew a Light square on either side of the QST to create a top row. Press the seams toward the Light squares. The row should measure 9-1/2" x 3-1/2" (3-1/2" x 1-1/2", 6-1/2" x 2-1/2", 12-1/2" x 4-1/2", 15-1/2" x 5-1/2").
13. Repeat Step 12 to create a bottom row.
14. To create the middle row, sew a QST on either side of the Medium square. Press the seams toward the Medium square. The row should measure 9-1/2" x 3-1/2" (3-1/2" x 1-1/2", 6-1/2" x 2-1/2", 12-1/2" x 4-1/2", 15-1/2" x 5-1/2").
15. Arrange the rows as shown for the block. Stitch the rows together in pairs using a 1/4" seam. Match up the seams and secure with a pin. These seams should nest together snugly. Stitch using a 1/4" seam, removing the pin before stitching over it.
16. Press and furl the seams. Each of the four seam intersections on the back should have a tiny four-patch. The unit should now measure 9-1/2" x 9-1/2" (3-1/2" x 3-1/2", 6-1/2" x 6-1/2", 12-1/2" x 12-1/2", 15-1/2" x 15-1/2").
17. Your Twin Star block should be complete and measure 9-1/2" x 9-1/2" (3-1/2" x 3-1/2", 6-1/2" x 6-1/2", 12-1/2" x 12-1/2", 15-1/2" x 15-1/2") if you have sewn and trimmed your QSTs correctly and sewn accurate 1/4" seams.