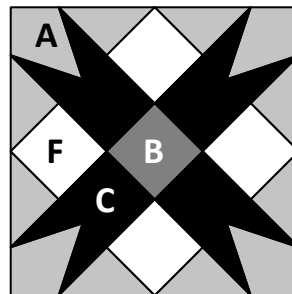
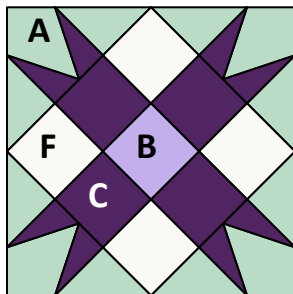


River City Quilters Guild Block of the Month 2023

JUNE

All seams are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Save any extra units, strips, or scraps for future blocks. Don't cut into your saved strips until you are told to (each strip may be used in two or more blocks). For example, if you have cut a strip from your BOM fabric, used some of the strip and have several inches remaining, don't cut into the remaining portion of that strip for another block until the instructions say so.

Be sure to print any templates or foundation patterns at 100%, especially if you have recently printed any documents at a reduced size. The printer always seems to remember some strange setting I used last week!



This block is called "Royal Star Quilt," block #2453 from Barbara Brackman's *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*.¹

BOM fabric F: Use your 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " BOM strip #5 width of fabric (WOF)

Note: *This block finishes at 9". Your pieced block should measure 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".*

REMINDER: *Templates and foundations are labeled automatically by the software. The labels do NOT indicate the fabric colors you have chosen.*

Cutting Instructions and Assembly: Center Nine Patch

Cut four (4) squares of BOM fabric F: $2 \frac{5}{8}$ " x $2 \frac{5}{8}$ "

Using the 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " BOM fabric strip, cut two strips $2 \frac{5}{8}$ " wide each from the short end (making two rectangles $5 \frac{1}{2}$ " x $2 \frac{5}{8}$ "), then subcut into four squares $2 \frac{5}{8}$ " x $2 \frac{5}{8}$ ".

Cut four (4) squares of fabric C: $2 \frac{5}{8}$ " x $2 \frac{5}{8}$ "

Cut one (1) square of fabric B: $2 \frac{5}{8}$ " x $2 \frac{5}{8}$ "

Sew a nine-patch by sewing the squares together into three rows and then sewing the rows together. Stitch a BOM fabric F square to either side of fabric C and press toward the darker fabric. Repeat. Stitch a fabric C square to either side of the fabric B center square and press toward the darker fabric. Nest the seams and stitch the three rows together.



River City Quilters Guild Block of the Month 2023

Cutting and Assembly: Block Corner Units

Choose your method to construct the corners of this block. You may use the templates to cut the patches or use the paper piecing foundations to paper piece the units. Use whichever method you feel most comfortable with **OR** practice the method you feel less confident about!

1. Templates

You only need the templates for the kite shape and the two skinny triangles in each corner kite unit.

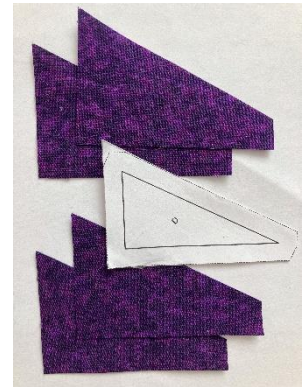
- a. For the kite shape, cut four (4) squares of your fabric A: $3 \frac{3}{4}'' \times 3 \frac{3}{4}''$

Use the template to trim the square into a kite.

- b. For the skinny triangles—templates marked “D” and “E”:

Cut four (4) rectangles of fabric C: $2'' \times 3 \frac{1}{2}''$

Stack **two** rectangles both **RIGHT SIDES UP**, and use the “D” template to cut four (4) triangles. Place the template in the corner of the rectangle and make the first cut (two triangles). Move the template to the remaining fabric and make the second set of triangles.



Repeat, using the “E” template, to cut four (4) skinny “E” triangles.

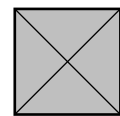
Trim your corners, if you prefer. I leave mine on or trim the point off as you see in the photo above.



Join the pieces of the corner kite units. Lay out your patches before you start. Stitch the skinny triangles to either side of the kite, being sure they are oriented correctly. Press the seams away from the kite patch. Make four (4) of these corner kite units.

- c. For the side triangles: Cut two (2) squares of fabric A: $4 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 4 \frac{1}{4}''$

Cut the squares on both diagonals to make eight (8) quarter-square triangles (QSTs). QSTs will keep the grain or cross grain along the block edges and help to stabilize the edges. No need to trim the corners, but you can use the template to trim the corners if you prefer.



Sew one side triangle to each side of a corner kite unit. Make sure the triangle is oriented correctly. Press toward the triangles. Make four complete corner units.

River City Quilters Guild Block of the Month 2023



Assemble the block by stitching the four corner units to the center nine patch, nesting seams.



You can see that my block needs pressing and that the points aren't trimmed yet.

There is some bulk at the seams. Choose which way you want your seam to go and press well. I am going to press toward the nine-patch center. Some quilters may opt to clip the seam (carefully!) and press bulky seams in opposite directions.



2. Paper Foundation Piecing

You have already stitched the center nine patch without using the foundations. Ignore those sections. Just use the corner patterns. These precut pieces are generous and should be easy to paper piece.

Stitch the four corner units using the paper foundations. Precut your fabric for the corner units.

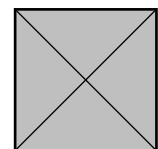
- a. Kites. Cut four (4) squares of BOM fabric **F**: $4 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 4 \frac{1}{2}''$
- b. Skinny Triangles. Cut four (4) rectangles of fabric **C**: $4'' \times 4 \frac{1}{2}''$

Stack two rectangles right sides **together**, longer sides on right and left, and measure **UP** from bottom right corner $1 \frac{1}{8}''$ and make a small tick mark on the edge of the fabric. Measure **DOWN** from the upper left corner $1 \frac{1}{8}''$ and make a small tick mark on the edge of the fabric. Cut the rectangles apart from mark the mark. This makes two **each** of template "D" and "E." Repeat with the other pair of rectangles to make a total of four wedges for each template.



- c. Side Triangles. Cut two (2) squares of fabric **A**: $6 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 6 \frac{1}{4}''$

Cut the squares on both diagonals to make eight (8) quarter-square triangles (QSTs). QSTs will keep the grain or cross grain along the block edges and help to stabilize the edges. The side triangles are labeled "C" on the template paper.

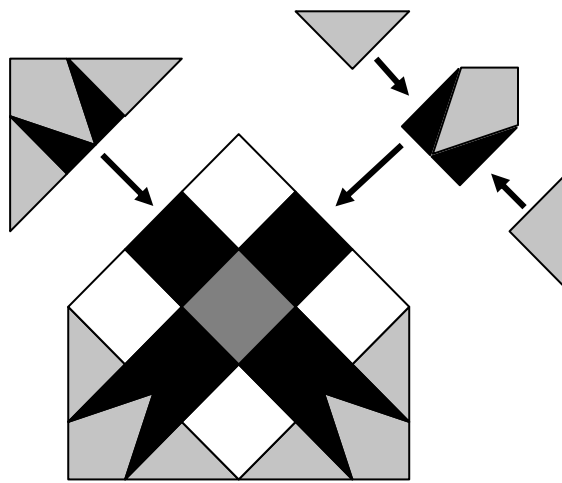


River City Quilters Guild Block of the Month 2023

Follow the paper piecing instructions/methods from earlier blocks. Fold the paper along the sewing lines before you begin. Begin by pinning the kite patch to the unmarked side of the foundation so that it easily covers patch labeled A1 (or B1, etc.), extending beyond the seam allowance by at least $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Fold back the paper along one seamline and trim the extra fabric away, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " for the seam allowance. Add the skinny triangles one at a time, and then the side triangles. Remember to press well and then trim any extra fabric from the seam allowance **before** adding another patch to the foundation.

When the four corner units are complete, press well and trim away the extra fabric along all sides. Be sure to trim on the seamline (dotted line). Gently remove the paper foundations.

Assemble the block by sewing a corner unit to each side of the nine patch.



¹ *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*, Barbara Brackman, 1993, American Quilter's Society, Paducah, KY, p. 306-307.