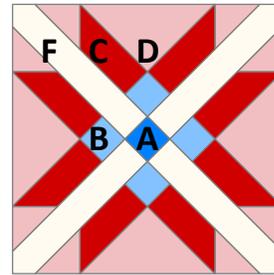
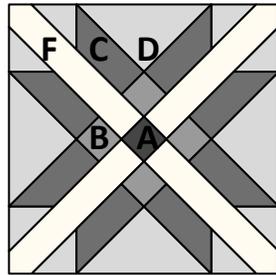


River City Quilters' Guild Block of the Month 2022

APRIL

Each block finishes at 12" x 12". All seams are ¼ inch. Your prepared block should measure 12.5" x 12.5". Save any extra units, strips, or scraps for future blocks.

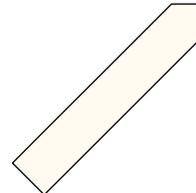
One name for this interesting block is "Mexican Star," #2937 in Barbara Brackman's *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*.¹



We will use some new cutting methods for this block. Be sure to download the templates file, created using Electric Quilt 8.²

Diagonal "X" Strips

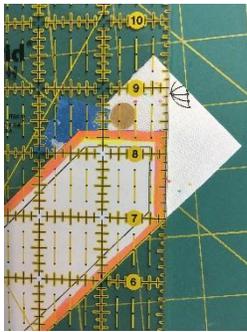
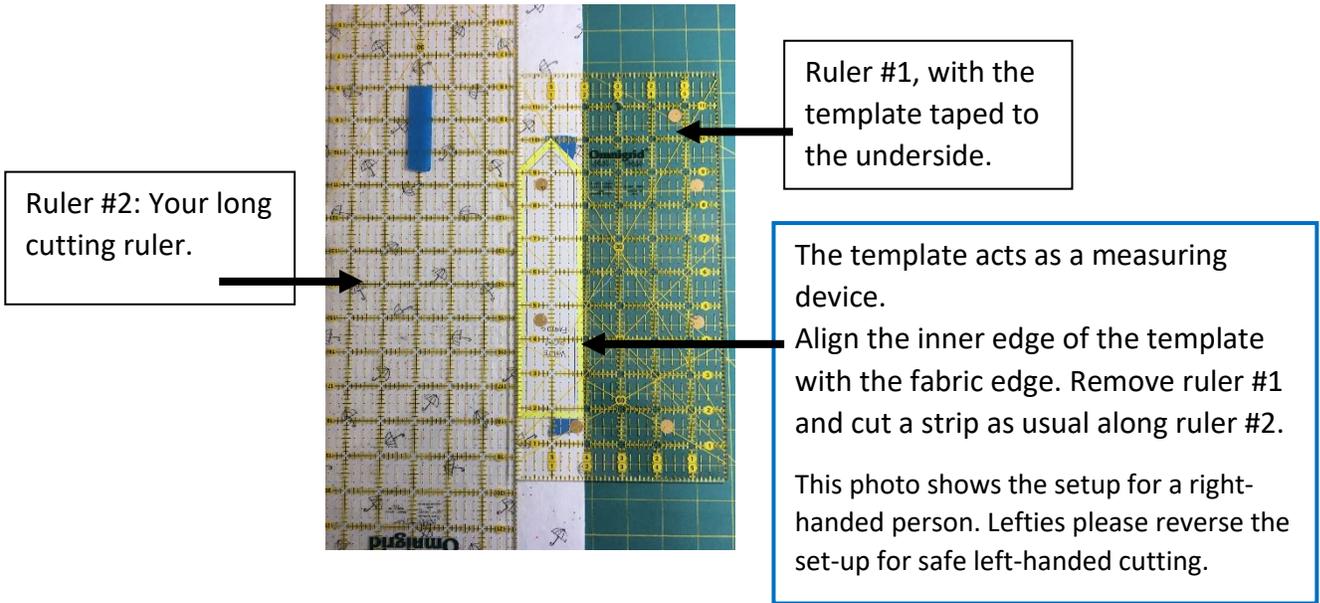
These diagonal strips are the white BOM fabric. These strips measure about 1 and 13/32 of an inch. This is hard to see, since many quilting rulers don't show even 1/16" marks. I don't own any that show 1/32 of an inch, so templates will be needed to cut these to size. Carefully cut out the template along the dashed line (the solid line is finished size of the shape).



Use one of these two possible methods.

1. Cut four (4) shapes, using the template provided.
 - a. Start by cutting a 2" strip WOF (width of fabric) from the BOM fabric. Cut the strip into rectangles that are 2" x 8 ¾". Use the template to trim the rectangles to the proper width and shape.
2. Two-ruler cutting method: Using the template to measure the strip width for cutting.
 - a. To cut a strip of BOM fabric the precise width of the required strip, tape your prepared template to the underside of the first ruler, aligning one long edge with the edge of your ruler. **Hint:** If your template is printed on white paper, use a marker or highlighter to darken the edge of the paper so you can easily see it on when you place it on the white fabric. Use a 6" by 12" ruler or larger for ruler #1.
 - b. Place your ruler on the fabric, aligning the inner edge of the template with clean cut edge of the fabric. (See photo on next page.)
 - c. Place a second longer ruler, such as the 6" x 24" size, against the first ruler. You can slide your smaller ruler along the long ruler #2 to be sure you have the proper width all along the WOF. Then remove the first ruler and cut along the LONG ruler #2. This will make a strip the correct width.
 - d. Cut your strip into 4 rectangles that are 8 ¾" long. Then cut the ends using your template as a guide, and the 45 degree line on your ruler.

River City Quilters' Guild Block of the Month 2022



Cutting the pointy ends

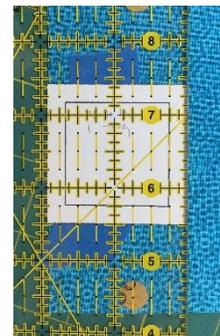
You can even use your ruler to cut the point at the end of the shape by taping the template to the underside of the ruler with the edge you want to cut aligned with the ruler's edge and the fabric strip aligned under the template.

*** Be sure** the straight end of the template is aligned with the end of the fabric strip!

Center Square (A) and Four Squares (B)

Cut one (1) center square of fabric A: Use the template to cut the shape. Tape the square to the underside of your quilting ruler, aligning one side with the ruler's edge.

Cut four (4) side squares of fabric B: Use the template to cut the shape.



Star Points

Cut the star point shapes for fabric C using the same methods. The star has eight (8) point pieces. You will need four (4) right-hand units and four (4) left-hand units.



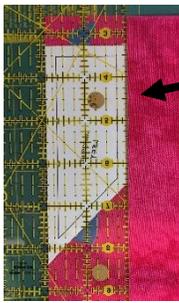
River City Quilters' Guild Block of the Month 2022

Use one of these possible methods.

- A. Cut these pieces by first cutting a strip the correct width using the same methods as above. Then subcut the shapes from the strip. Remember: You need four (4) "left" and four (4) "right" versions of this piece, so be sure to stack fabric in two layers with right sides together.

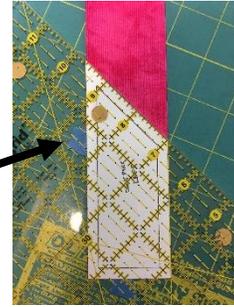
OR

- B. Cut a piece of your fabric C that is $5\frac{1}{4}$ " wide by 17" long. Fold this in half end-to-end, bringing right sides together to form a $5\frac{1}{4}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle. Then tape the long side of the shape template to the underside of your ruler and cut strips the width of the template. Remove the template and tape it back to the underside of the ruler with the angled edge aligned with the cutting edge. Use the template to trim the ends of each pair of strips to the shape of the template.



Here I used a scrap of fabric and the shape template to cut my strips. I also cut a clean end on the strips before preparing to cut the angled end.

Then I cut the pieces to their final shape using my ruler and template.

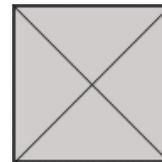


Quarter-Square Side Triangles

Cut one square of the BOM fabric F: $7\frac{1}{4}$ x $7\frac{1}{4}$ "

(You may have a $7\frac{1}{4}$ " wide strip leftover from February to use.)

Cut the square diagonally from corner to corner on BOTH diagonals to create four (4) quarter-square triangles.



Corner Half-Square Triangles

Cut four (4) squares of the BOM fabric F: $2\frac{7}{8}$ " x $2\frac{7}{8}$ "

Cut each square across one diagonal. You will now have eight (8) half-square triangles.

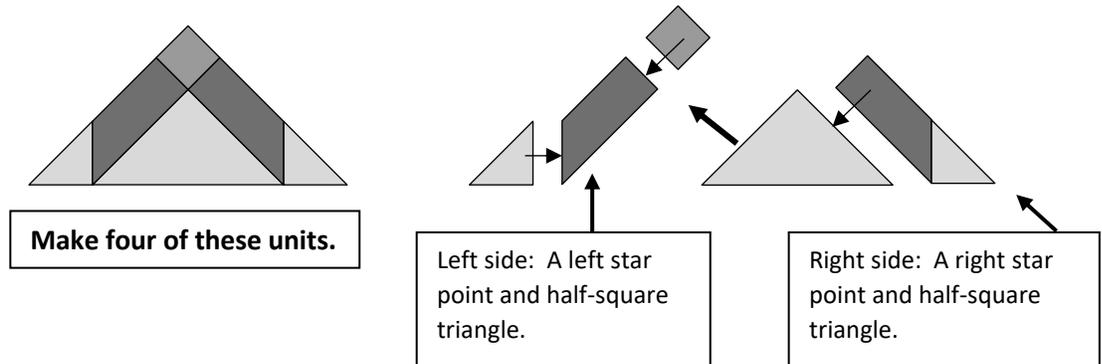


OK, now you have all your block pieces! Phew!

River City Quilters' Guild Block of the Month 2022

Assembly

1. Lay out all the pieces of the block. You will make four identical units that form the large triangles between the block's central "X" shape. Then you will join those sections to the "X" and to each other.



- a. Begin by sewing the small corner triangles to the star points. To make this easy to align for sewing, first TRIM the corner of the star points. Be sure to keep your pairs of star points right sides together when trimming. The photo below shows how to align your ruler with the star point's angled end. The ruler is $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the shape's actual point. Align the triangle with the trimmed edge and stitch. Press toward the star point.

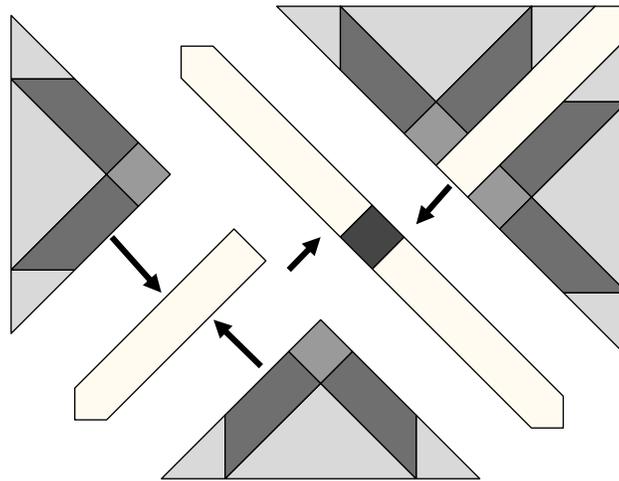


- b. Sew one square of fabric B to the opposite end of the left star point unit. Press toward the square.
- c. Sew one quarter-square triangle of fabric D to the side of the right-side unit. Press toward the quarter-square triangle.
- d. Sew the two sections together, nesting seams at the square of fabric B. Press seams away from the strip with the square.

River City Quilters' Guild Block of the Month 2022

2. Sew one triangle section to the either side of a diagonal "X" strip. Press seams toward the "X" strip. Make two of these sections.
3. Sew one diagonal "X" strip to opposite sides of the center square.
4. Sew the three sections together. Press seams toward the "X" center section.

Diagonal BOM Strips



¹ *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*, Barbara Brackman, 1993, American Quilter's Society, Paducah, KY, p. 356-357.

² Electric Quilt 8, software by Electric Quilt Company, electricquilt.com, 1999-2022.