

## Month 10 (October): Starburst 12"

### Starburst - 12"

Fabric Keys:



Black = A  
White = B  
Gold = C  
Red = D



Blue = A  
White = B  
Green = C  
Light Blue = D

**History:** The starburst block is an original block, based on the Starburst quilt by Jan Krentz. It is a Lone Star block variation. This starburst block is made up of eight star sections similar to the Lone Star block star points, except the sections extend out to the edge of the block, eliminating the set-in block corner squares.

**Techniques:** Sewing diamonds via a strip piecing method

**Supplies:** 12" ruler with a 45° angle line; masking tape or paper/pencil; spray starch (i.e., Best Press) (optional); pressing sheet or parchment paper (optional); stiletto or other tool that can be used as one, such as seam ripper, tweezers, or purple thang.

#### Cutting Instructions:

All fabrics:

- Cut two 1 3/4" strips from the black/blue [A] and the white [B] fabrics.
- Cut one strip from gold/green [C] and red/light blue [D] fabrics.
- Cut each strip in half (1 3/4" x ~20" strips)

*Note:* To make it scrappier, start with half strips, using multiple fabrics for some colors.

Black/blue [A]: Cut one 3 1/4" strip (outer round background)

- Subcut into eight 3 1/4" squares
- Cut each 3 1/4" square in half diagonally for sixteen triangles

*Note:* Spray starching the strips (e.g., Best Press) may be helpful because these strips can stretch. Starching your fabrics will help your seams be consistent and your points match up. The starch helps the fabric behave more like paper, with less stretching or slipping.

#### Construction:

- Make the following strips sets, sewing the strips right sides together (RST) on the long edges. Off sett each strip by about 1 1/2" (note, some of the strips are staggered in different directions as in figures #1 - #4:

*Strip set #1:* Sew black/blue [A], red/light blue [D], and white [B] strips RST (Figure 1)

*Strip set #2:* Sew black/blue [A], white [B], and gold/green [C] strips RST (Figure 2)

*Strip set #3:* Sew black/blue [A], red/light blue [D], and white [B] strips RST (Figure 3)

*trip set #4:* Sew black/blue [A], white [B], and gold/green [C] strips RST (Figure 4)



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

- Press seams open
- Cut off the left staggered side of the strips to make an even 45° cut:
  - Line up your ruler so the 45° line is parallel with the seams of each strip. Cut along the edge of the ruler (Figure 5).



Figure 5

OR

- Carefully line up the strip set on your cutting mat; find the 45° line and align your ruler on this line. Cut off the edge to make the even 45° cut (Figure #6).
- Line up your ruler with the cut edge and subcut four 1 3/4" sections parallel to the previous cut from each strip set (Figure #7).

*Note:* The strips are on the bias, so be careful when handling the strips as they could stretch.

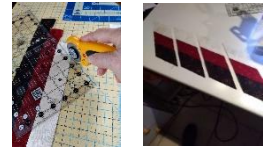


Figure 6

Figure 7

- As you cut each strip, stack the sections together, labeling them with the strip set number, keeping them in order.

### Assemble Blocks:

*Star Sections:* The block is made up of eight star sections, which extend out beyond the edge of the block, ending in ragged edges. These ragged edges will be trimmed off when squaring up the blocks.

*Note:* There are two different star section configurations (A & B), with four sections of each. Pay close attention to the direction/orientation of the strip sets when sewing them together. Always sew them with RST. Note there are pictures in two different color combinations.

### Section A:

- Sew strip set #1 on top of #2), aligning and pinning each seam intersection; press seams open (Figure #9). Make sure to pin the intersections 1/4" distance from each edge. It may be helpful to mark the 1/4" positions before sewing.
- Press seam open.
- Sew a short side of a black/blue [A] triangle to the left side of strip set #1; press seams open (Figure #10).

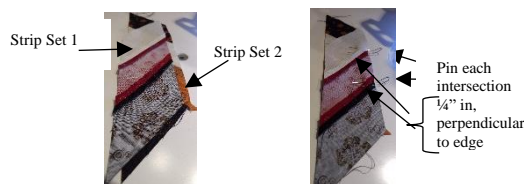


Figure 9



Figure 10

- Sew a short side of another black/blue [A] triangle to the end of the gold/green [C] diamond, keeping the same angle direction. Press the seams open. The base of the section A will be ragged (Figure #11).
- Repeat to make a total of four Section As.

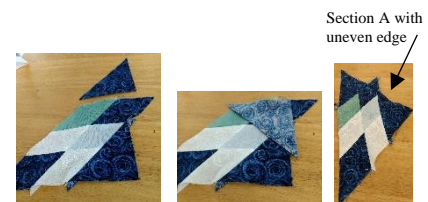
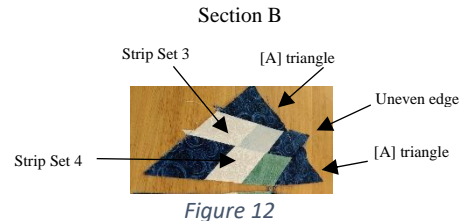


Figure 11

Section B: Section B is the mirror image of section B:

- Sew strip set #3 on top of #4, aligning and pinning each seam intersection; press seams open (Figure #12).
- Sew a black/blue [A] triangle to the right side of strip set #3; press seams open (Figure #12). The base of the triangle may have an uneven edge.
- Sew a short side of another black/blue [A] triangle to the end of the gold/green [C] diamond, keeping the same angle direction. Press the seams open. The base of the section B will be ragged (Figure #12).
- Repeat to make a total of four Section Bs.



Quarter Block Sections:

- Sew an A and B section together, aligning and pinning the seams to make one quarter of the block. Press seams open (Figure #13).
- Square up each quarter block to measure 6 1/2" (Figure #14).
- Repeat to make a total of four Section A/B block quarters. There are now four quarters of the block (Figure #15).



Half Block Sections:

- Sew two quarter block sections together aligning and pinning the seams; press seams open (Figure 16).
- Repeat for the other two quarter block sections. These are the two halves of the block.



- Align and pin the center seam of the two halves together. Baste across the center seams and remove the pins (Figure #17); check the seam and if the seams line up, then pin the rest of the seam together and stitch the seam.
- Press seams open. From the back, use a pressing sheet and hold down the iron with as much pressure as possible to make the seams lie flat.
- Trim the ragged edges and square up the block to 12 1/2", including seam allowances.

