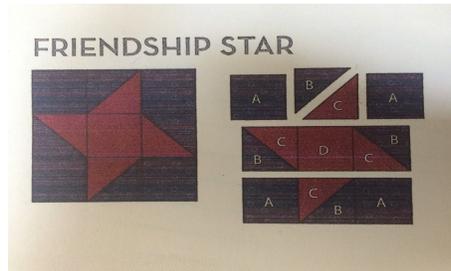


BQ Quilters Block Exchange Block

Friendship Star Block 9 1/2" (unfinished)

Susan Vanchina



Fabric Requirements for 8 Blocks:

Fabric A (medium batik): 1/2 yard

Fabric B (ivory/cream batik): 5/8 yard

Preparation:

1. Wash and dry all the fabric. Press with spray starch.

Cutting:

1. From Fabric A (medium batik), cut 1 8" strip WOF. Cut 4 8" squares from the strip. Cut 1 3 1/2" strip. Cut 8 3 1/2" squares from the strip.
2. From Fabric B (ivory/cream batik), cut 1 8" strip WOF. Cut 4 8" squares from the strip. Cut 3 3 1/2" strips. Cut 32 3 1/2" squares from the strips.

Sewing half-square triangles (HSTs):

1. Lay one ivory/cream 8" square on top of one 8" medium square.
2. Using a mechanical pencil or fabric marker and a ruler, draw 4 lines on the Ivory/cream square: two from corner to corner, forming an "X" and one vertical line and one horizontal line bisecting the diagonal lines (+).
3. Stitch a scant 1/4" seam along both sides of the two diagonal lines. Do not stitch along the vertical and horizontal lines.
4. Using a ruler and rotary cutter, cut the sewn unit on the vertical and horizontal lines. You now have 4 square units, each having a double line of diagonal stitching.
5. Using a ruler and rotary cutter, cut on the DRAWN diagonal lines (in between the two lines of stitching). You will now have 8 half-square triangle units (HSTs).
6. Carefully **press** each unit open along the seam line, with the seam allowance towards the medium batik fabric. Don't **iron**, you will distort the units.
7. Trim each unit to 3 1/2", keeping the diagonal stitching line running from corner to corner. It helps to use the 45 degree line that extends from a corner of your ruler.

8. Repeat steps 1-7 to make the rest of your half-square triangle units. You should have 32 total for 8 blocks.

Assembling the blocks

1. Referring to the diagram at the beginning of this pattern, lay out 3 rows of 3 units. At this point, you are assembling a nine-patch block.
Row 1: Ivory/cream square/ HST/ ivory/cream square
Row 2: HST/ medium batik square/ HST
Row 3: Ivory/cream square/ HST/ ivory/cream square

Pay close attention to the orientation of the HSTs; it makes a difference which way each one points to create the star. (Refer to the diagram above; the star spins clockwise.) Otherwise, you'll do a lot of "unsewing"!

2. Press seams toward medium batik fabric whenever possible.
3. Sew Rows 1,2, and 3 together.
4. Press seams in one direction.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 for the rest of your blocks.