

Wonky Christmas star

(The “posh” name is: **Improvisational star**)



This star block does not require very precise cutting and sewing, which makes it ideal for a quick and easy project. The choice of materials is what makes it Christmassy. You can make a few large stars and stitch these together with a sashing strip in between, or use one large star and add a row of small stars to each end. Attach a border and then your runner will be complete.

Finished block will be 12½ x 12½ inches.

Please note that this is not set in stone. The block is not fussy and is very forgiving, so it is easy to adapt the size to suit your own requirements.

Fabric requirements for 1 block:

1. Five or more different Christmas fabrics. Minimum size for the background (light green in my illustration) is 10” square. The points of the star can be smallish scraps, approximately 4” square.
2. Border fabric (darker green, same as the centre): approximately half of a fat quarter.

Instructions:

1. Cut background fabric (approximately 10” square) in 9 different pieces. Make sure that the pieces are all different sizes/shapes. See photograph below.
2. Number each of the 9 pieces from 1 to 9 in the top left corner.



3. Replace piece no 5 with the fabric you want to use as the centre piece (cut the fabric exactly to the shape of the background fabric)
4. Pieces numbered 2, 4, 6, and 8 will be your star points.
5. Cut triangles of the “point fabric” so that these can be sewn onto no 2, 4, 6, 8 in a stitch and flip method.



6. Make sure that the base of the points overlap and the points end in the side seams of each piece. Also make sure that the numbers of each piece remain in the top left corner so that you do not turn a piece around by mistake.
7. Turn the fabric over and remove the background fabric behind each point. Press. See middle photograph above.
8. Once all four points have been sewn, assemble these in the correct sequence.



9. Stitch as you would normally stitch a nine-patch block.



10. Don't worry too much if the inner corners do not match precisely. "*It does not matter!*"
11. Add the border strips after you have squared your star block, or if you want to add more "wonkiness", cut the sides of your star block skew and then add the border fabric. Square each block to the size you prefer.



12. You may want to use the scraps of fabric that you have left over to make a border, using the stitch and flip method.



By Corrianne van Velze

Corrianne is available to teach individuals or small groups of quilters. She loves many different techniques, but improvisational blocks are presently her favourite, since these are quick to make and can be used in many projects. She also does the following techniques: paper piecing, applique and stained glass.

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