

Wish Upon a Star

by Gyleen X. Fitzgerald



WISH UPON A STAR, 40" x 50", by Gyleen X. Fitzgerald. Quilted by Erin Underwood.

The traditional name for the block in this quilt is Beautiful Star. This collection of 12 blocks was found in an antique shop in West Virginia, and appears to be from the 1940s. However, you should have no problem finding similar fabrics at your local quilt shop.

When I teach a class based on my WISH UPON A STAR quilt, I encourage students to have fun without getting too stressed over the design of the

finished quilt. I tell them to design at the block level and don't worry about which fabric looks good next to another fabric. The variety among the blocks will create "eye entertainment" and add interest to the quilt.

This pattern uses templates but don't let that scare you! I hadn't used templates in years until making this quilt, and they proved the fastest and most accurate way to make the block.

For more detailed information on making quilts, including making templates, see the AQS Quiltmaking Essentials & Tested Tips at www.AmericanQuilter.com.

Getting started

To use the templates, place the fabric wrong-side up, 2 to 3 layers deep. Draw around the templates with a sharp pencil then cut just inside the drawn lines. *Tip: Place a pin through all layers in the center of each shape to hold the layers together as you cut.*

Sort the fabric patches into sets for the blocks. Each Star block needs 4 matching A diamonds, 4 matching B triangles, and 4 C patches. Mix and match A and B fabric combinations for each Star block. Make 12 blocks.

Piecing the blocks

Working with a patch set for 1 block, align the tips of A and B, and stitch (fig. 1). Press the seam allowances toward the diamond. Make 4.

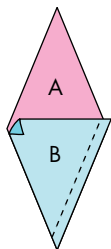


Fig. 1. Match points before stitching

Following figure 2 and matching seam lines, join 4 units to make the star.

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Skill level: Easy

Quilt size: 40" x 50"

Finished block sizes: 10" x 10"

- Requirements are based on 40" fabric width.
- Strips are cut from selvage to selvage unless otherwise noted.

Assorted light to dark prints – 12 scraps at 7" x 17"

- 48 A, 48 B – See "Getting started"

Light print – 1¼ yards

- 48 C – See "Getting started"

Pink print – ½ yard

- border #1, 4 strips 2" x 40"

Multi-color print – ¾ yards

- border #2 sides, 2 strips 4" x 45½" *
- border #2 top/bottom, 2 strips 4" x 42½" *

Binding – ½ yard

- 6 strips 2¼" x 40" for 190" of continuous binding

Backing – 2⅞ yards

- 2 panels 30" x 48"

Batting

- 48" x 58"

* These borders are cut parallel to the selvages and may need to be pieced. An extra 2" has been added to the length of the border strips to allow for adjustments. For un-pieced border strips, you will need 1½ yards of this fabric.

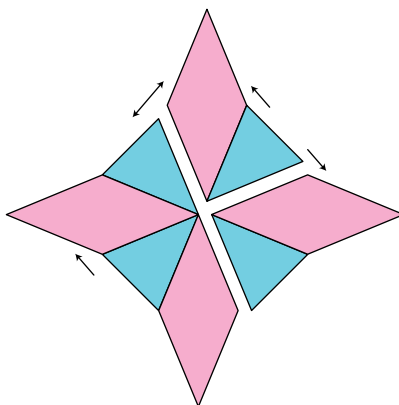


Fig. 2. Star assembly

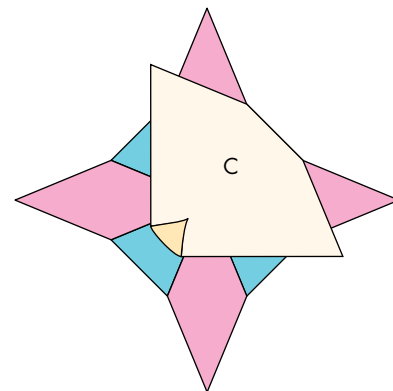


Fig. 3. Position patch C

Add C patches to the star using set-in seams. To do this, sew only on the sewing lines and not into seam allowances. Center a C patch across the base of the B triangle in the star unit (fig. 3). Carefully turn the pieces over and pin (fig 4). Stitch from seam line to seam line, backstitching at each end and taking care not to stitch beyond the seam line. *Tip: If any stitches do cross the seam line, carefully remove the stitching without cutting the thread.* Bring the edge of an adjacent diamond patch to meet the edge of C (fig. 5).

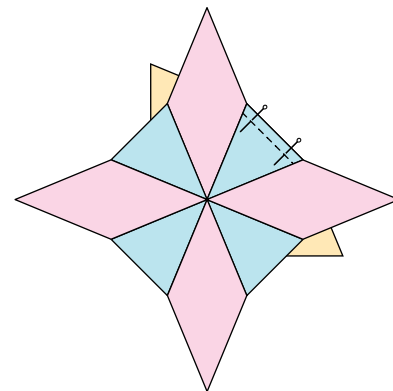


Fig. 4. Back of unit – sew from seam line to seam line

Pin in position, and, starting from the seam line at the triangle end, stitch, backstitch, and then sew to the end of patch C. Sew the other side of the C patch in the same manner. Repeat for all C patches in the block. Make 12 blocks.

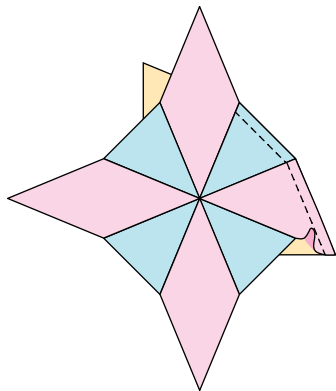


Fig. 5. Sew diamond to C

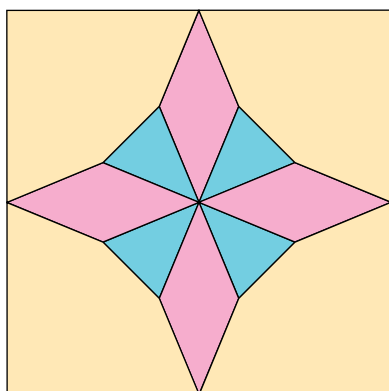


Fig. 6. Make 12 blocks

Assembling the quilt center

Arrange blocks in four rows of three blocks. Rearrange the blocks until you have an arrangement that pleases you. *Tip: Use a peephole or reducing glass, or look through the wrong end of binoculars to view the layout.*

Join the blocks to make the rows. Press the seam allowances of adjacent rows in opposite directions. Sew the rows together and press these seam allowances all in one direction.

Adding the borders

Press the quilt center well. For the inner border, join the 4 pink

fabric strips end to end. Measure the vertical length of the quilt through the center and cut 2 pink border #1 side strips to this measurement. Sew them to the sides of the quilt. Press all seam allowances away from the quilt center. Measure the width of the quilt through the center, including the side borders you just added. Cut 2 pink border #1 strips to this length and sew them to the top and bottom of the quilt.

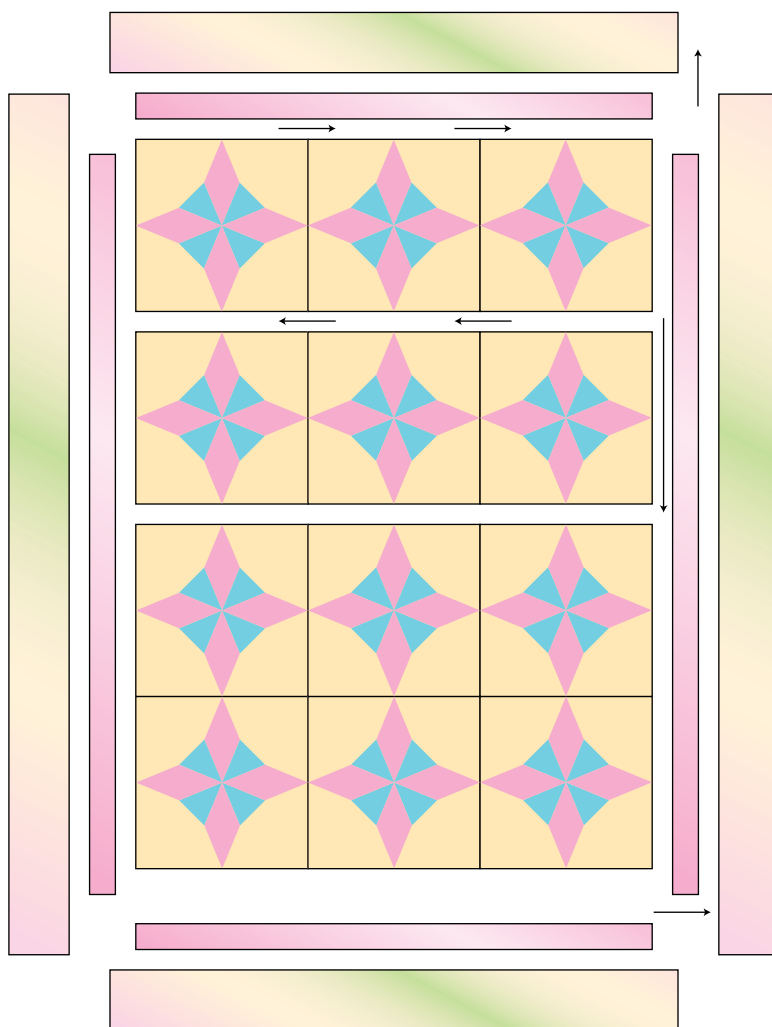
Add the multicolor print border #2 in the same manner as border #1 above.

Quilting and finishing

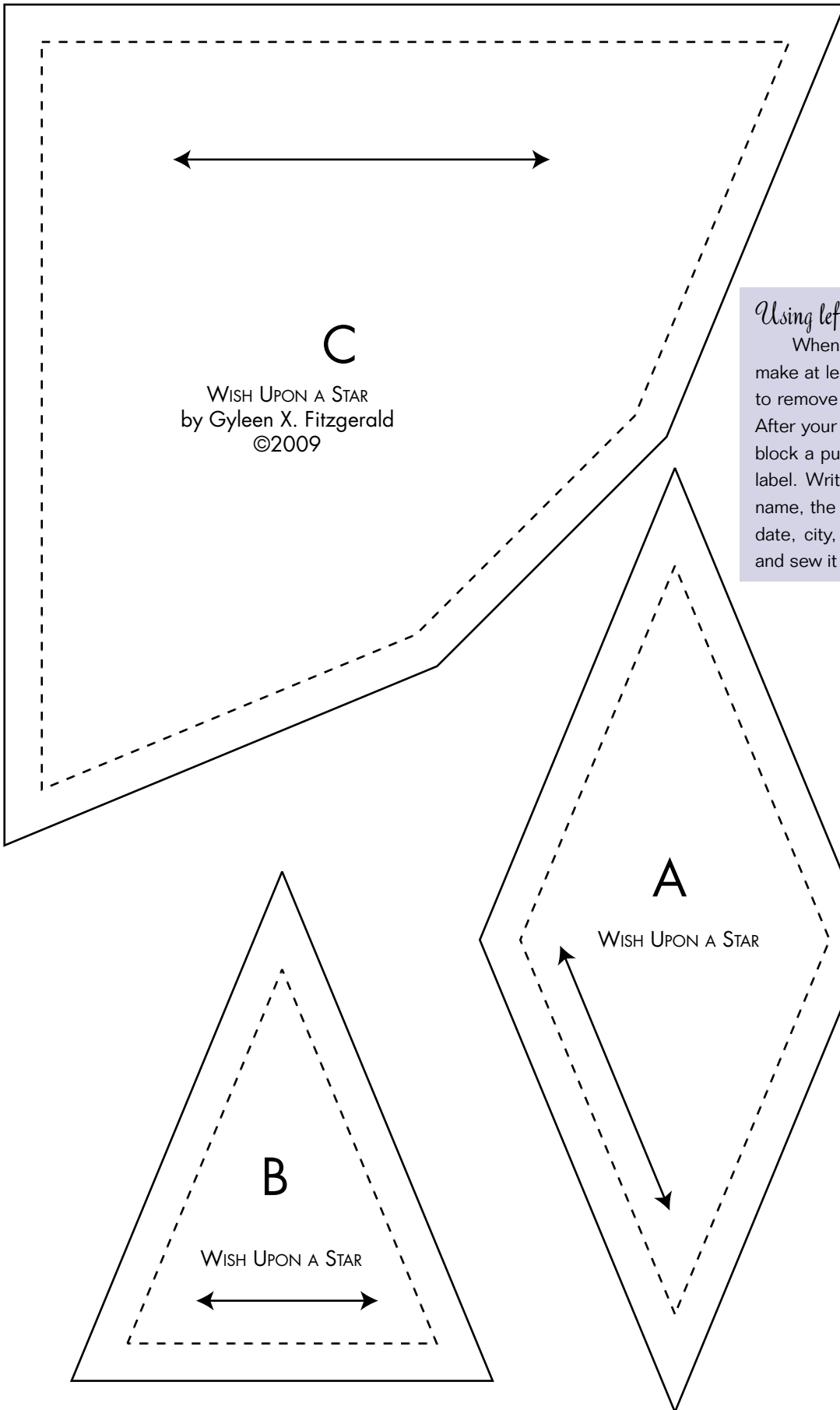
Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Baste the layers together.

The large open areas in this quilt present a good opportunity for special quilting. The stars are quilted with curved lines within the diamonds of the star. The quilting in the circular areas around the stars is Janie Donaldson's *Elegant Butterfly* from *Add-a-Line Continuous Quilting Patterns*. The borders and side half-circles are quilted with patterns from the same book, modified slightly to complement the pattern in the butterfly wings.

Sew the binding strips together to make 190" of continuous binding. Finish the edges of your quilt with double-fold binding.



Quilt assembly



Using leftover blocks

When making scrap quilts, I always make at least one extra which allows me to remove a block that just doesn't fit in. After your quilt is finished, give the extra block a purpose by using it as your quilt label. Write the name of the quilt, your name, the intended recipient's name, the date, city, and state on the extra block and sew it to the back of the quilt.