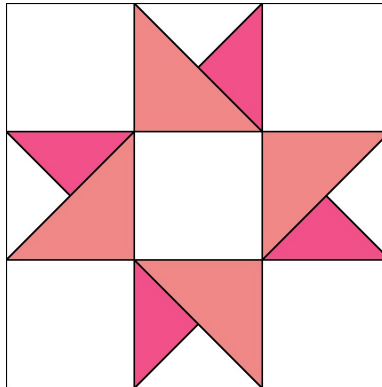


TWIN STAR

12½" unfinished (12" finished)



Block is made from

- 5 – 4½" squares background (cut from fabric given)
- 4 – Half-square triangles make points
- 4 – Quarter-square triangles of background
- 4 – Quarter-square triangles for shadow points

Cutting the 5 squares needed for this block is straight-forward. The triangles pose choices. None of the methods that allow you to make two half-square triangle blocks at the same time work here because they're paired with quarter square units. There are choices for cutting individual triangles.

Choice 1. Use this as an excuse to pick up a specialty rulers that does all the math for you. There are several on the market and they all seem to produce decent results.

Choice 2. Call your fourth grade teacher and thank her (or him) for stressing the importance of fractions.

For the large star points, cut 2 (two) 4⁷/₈" squares, cutting on the diagonal once. This will give you the four large star points (half-square triangles) you need. (Add ⁷/₈" to the finished size of the square unit you need. That's 4" finished square + ⁷/₈" = 4⁷/₈".)

For the small star point/background quarter-square units you will need to cut 1 square from the background fabric and the shadow fabric-- 5 ¹/₄", cutting diagonally twice. Don't move the squares after the first cut. Here's the formula for quarter -square units: 4" finished size + 1 ¹/₄" = 5 ¹/₄".

Lay all the pieces out as if it were a jigsaw puzzle and begin to sew together, smallest pieces first. Sew the quarter-square units together first; attach to the half-square star points; and finished by sewing the rows together. Press seams towards the dark star points or the background squares. Sew the rows together and Twin Star is done.

Comments: This is great practice for cutting individual triangles. This technique will show up again later.

Using chain piecing to great advantage.

Remember to press gently because of all the bias edges. Try a little sizing or starch if you think the edges need a bit of firming. (Think of it as botox for fabric.)