FAST NO-MATCH STARS

One of our local shops is making warrior quilts and we came up with this quick star to help with the project. It uses fat quarters, and every fat quarter is cut exactly the same way, so you can stack them if you like. One fat quarter yields one star and one background, so make half your fat quarters dark and half light.

Block size: 12”

Cutting:

Cut every fat quarter parallel to the selvage as follows.

For the background, cut:
1. 1 strip 4” x length of fat quarter; subcut into 4 squares 4” x 4”.
2. 1 strip 5 1/2” x length of fat quarter; subcut into 4 rectangles 4” x 5 1/2”.

For the star, cut:
1 strip 6” x length of fat quarter. From one end, cut 1 square 5 1/2” x 5 1/2”. From the remainder, cut 2 strips 3”; subcut into 8 squares 3” x 3”.

If you want to add skinny lattices later, cut strips 1 1/2” x length of fat quarter from the remaining fabric.

Sewing:

1. Align a 3” star square with a corner of a background rectangle (4” x 5 1/2”). Sew diagonally, stitching from corner to corner of the rectangle as shown. Be sure to sew the points to the long side of the rectangle.

2. Trim outer corner off, leaving a 1/4” seam allowance, and press the remaining corner triangle out.

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 on a corner adjacent to the one you just sewed.
4. Repeat steps 1 through 3 with 3 more of the same background rectangles.

5. Use the remaining 4 background squares and the 5 1/2” star square to construct the star block as a 9-patch, following the pressing arrows.

Quilt Construction:

The top may be sewn together block to block. The blocks have been pressed so that the side seam allowances will butt. If yours don’t, rotate one of them 90°.

If you cut enough for 2 quilts, you can have all your backgrounds light on one quilt and dark on the other. In either case the top looks surprisingly good with a 1” lattice. Use the leftovers to cut lattice pieces 1 1/2” x 12 1/2” and fail-safe squares 1 1/2” x 1 1/2”.

I’ve made this as a going-to-college quilt several times; it’s always a big hit.

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urban elementz
125 sunny creek
new braunfels, texas 78132
830-964-6133
www.urbanelementz.com

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