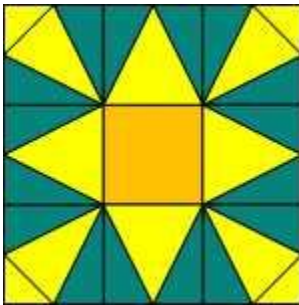


Rockford, ILLINOIS. This month we will celebrate the beautiful state we live in with three Illinois Blocks:

- 1) One 12½" block, simply called Illinois Block
- 2) One 12½" block called corn and beans. Not only is Rockford surrounded by Forest Preserves, there is also a lot of farmland. I think it's rather nice to be so close to farms and forests!
- 3) One 18½" block called the Illinois Star

ILLINOIS STAR BLOCK:



This is an 18 ½" block. You can use 3-4 fabrics for this block.

Star Center

Star Points

Star Rays

Background

(In this depiction the star points and star rays are the same color, but the rays can be different). In my sample block, they are different.

Here are some of my first tries. The construction of the block changed after these, but these are some fun color variations you can consider. Note the center block is prime for custom cutting! As are other areas!

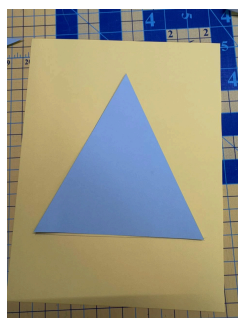
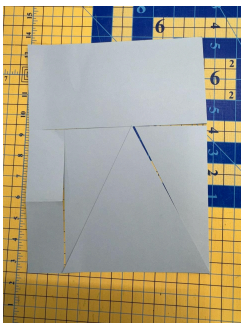


Cutting Instructions:

- **Star center:** 6½" square
- **Star Points:** Cut four 6¾" squares

WANT TO FUSSY CUT?

(1) Cut a 6¾" square out of paper. Find center at top, then cut from center to bottom outside corners to form a triangle



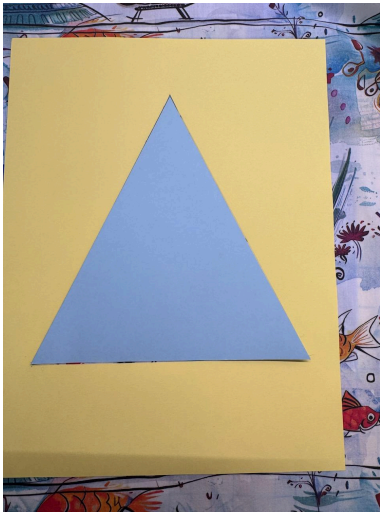
(2) To form a "window", place the triangle on a second sheet of paper, trace, and cut out the triangle.

(3) Now you can use your "window" to find what you want to feature.

(remember that this triangle includes a seam allowance so a ¼" will be lost on all three sides)

(also remember that the star points face up, down, left and right)

Once you have found your feature...



(4)



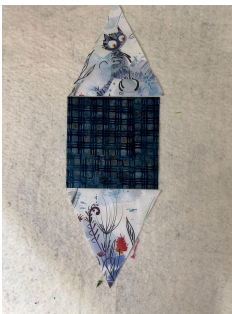
(5)



(6)

(4) Place your original paper triangle inside your "window" triangle, then carefully remove the window frame, but leave the triangle in place.

(5) & (6) Without disturbing the triangle, use it to line up your ruler to cut out your fussy triangle. Continue to find your other three star points to fussy-cut.

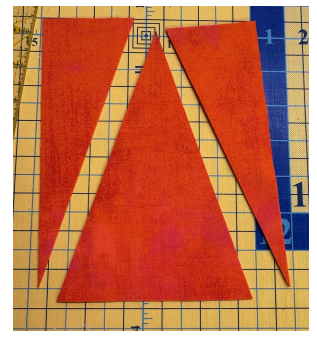
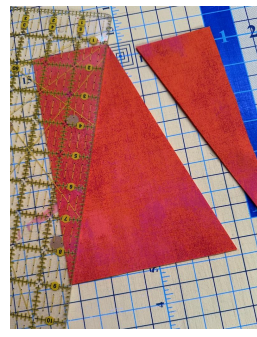
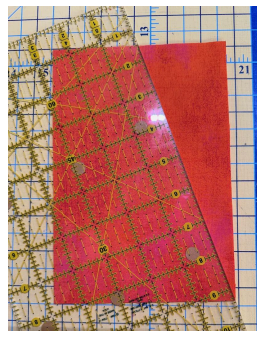
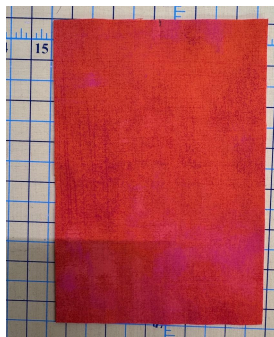
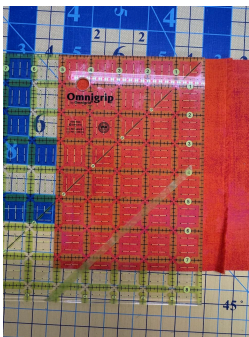


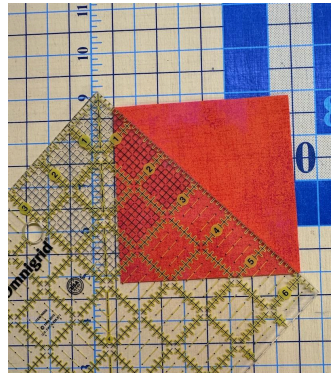
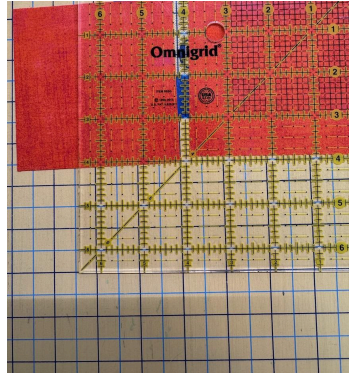
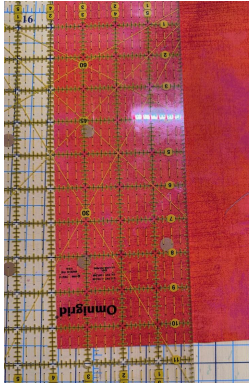
If you don't need to fussy-cut, just cut four $6\frac{3}{4}$ " squares, then find the center at top, and cut from center to outside bottom corners to form a triangle, for a total of 4 triangles. You will not need those leftover triangles.

I start building my block on my design board at this point.

Star Rays: cut a WOF (width of fabric) strip that is $7\frac{3}{8}$ " wide

- Subcut into four $5\frac{1}{8}$ " X $7\frac{3}{8}$ " rectangles -see photo
 - Find the center point & mark one of the short sides of rectangles.
 - Cut from that center mark to the outer corners (as above) to form four triangles

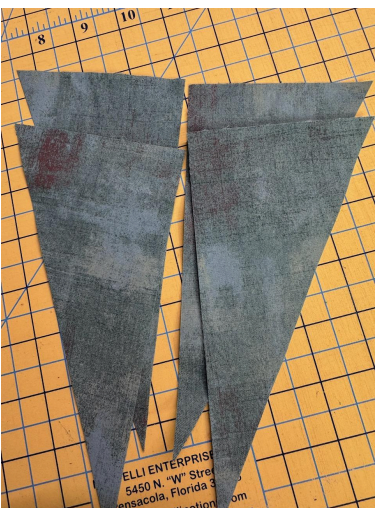
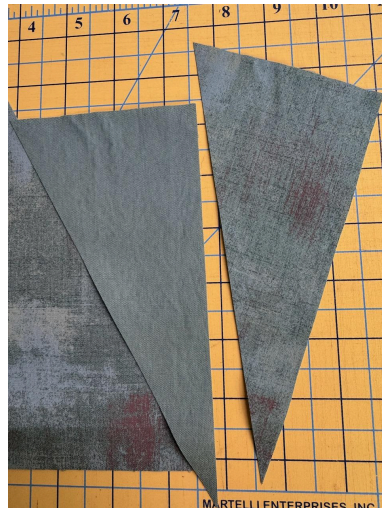
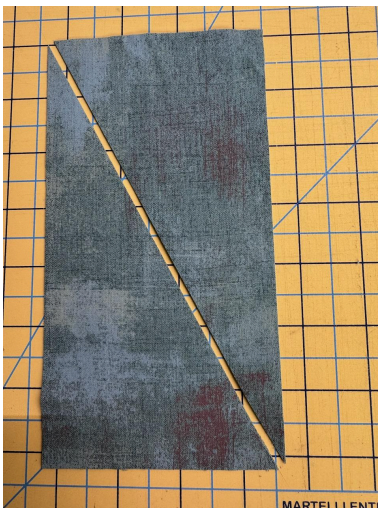
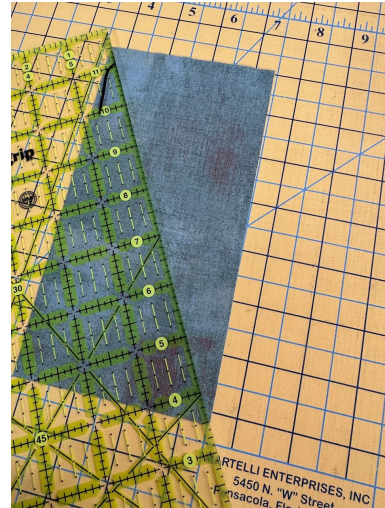
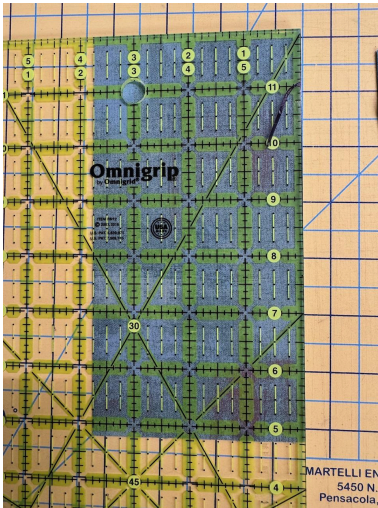




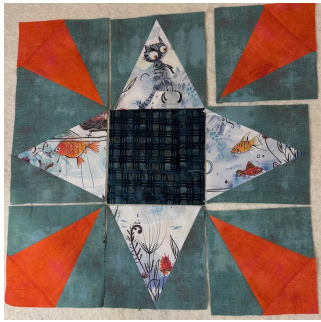
From remaining WOF strip, cut a $3\frac{7}{8}$ " strip, then cut two $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares. Cut each square diagonally in half for a total of 4 triangles

BACKGROUND FABRIC: Cut a WOF strip $7\frac{1}{4}$ " wide

- Subcut eight $3\frac{3}{4}$ " X $7\frac{1}{4}$ " rectangles
 - (NOTE: if using a print, stack pairs with wrong sides together)
- Cut rectangles on the diagonal (remember, pairs should be wrong-sides together!)
- You will end up with 16 half square triangles. 8 going in opposite directions from the other 8.



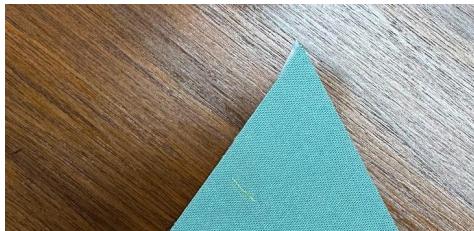
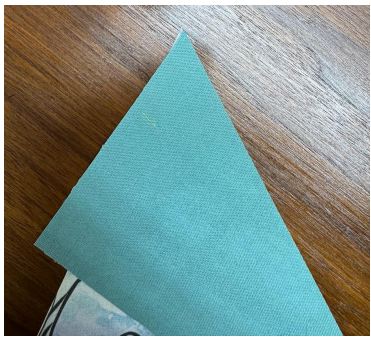
PIECING INSTRUCTIONS:



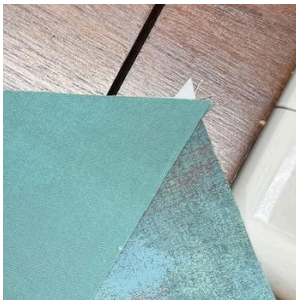
Lay out the Illinois Star block on your design board, or table.
First we will stitch our star points.



Flip over the side triangle. The most important placement part of this, besides lining up the edge, is how far over the point is at the top of the featured fabric.



In the example at right, you will see they line up almost exactly, with the star point being just visible. The other end of the background hangs way over. That's okay. It all works out in the end. Stitch and press seam open



When attaching the second side, both of those tips at the top should extend $\frac{1}{4}$ " .



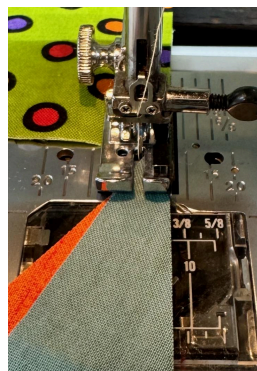
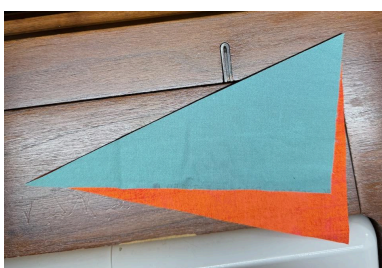
Press seam open.
Square to $6\frac{1}{2}$ "

Now, onto the Star Rays!



Start with a background triangle, and the longer skinny triangle of the star ray.
Fold over a background triangle, Lining up the long edge. Note that in this case, the skinny ends of

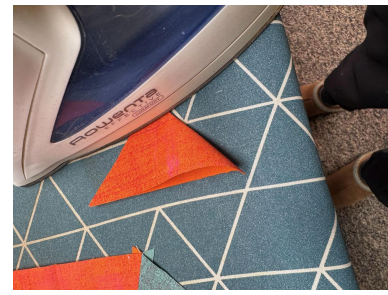
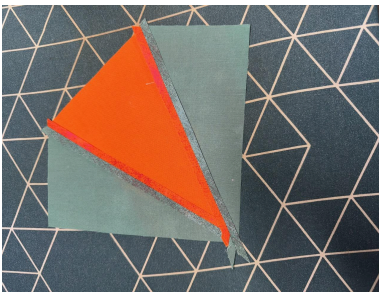
both triangles are on the same end. It doesn't seem right...but it is. The important point is to line up the background piece so that the tip (on the right end) overlaps the ray at a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam line depth.



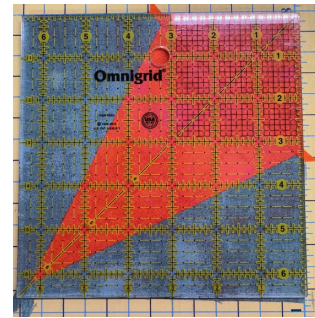
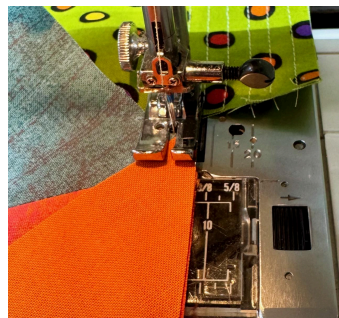
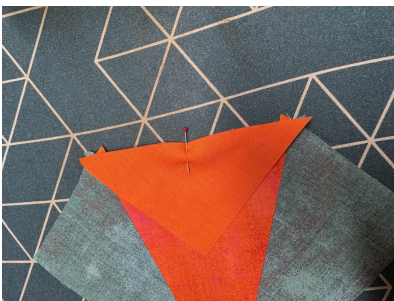
I start this seam with the needle down and the skinny points slid right up to the needle. Your first stitch should connect both pieces at the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.



Press the seam open. Line up the second background triangle. Stitch and press seam open



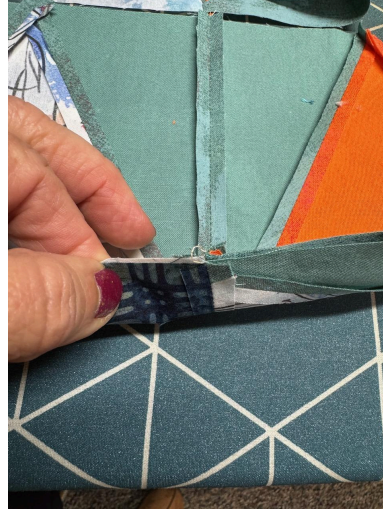
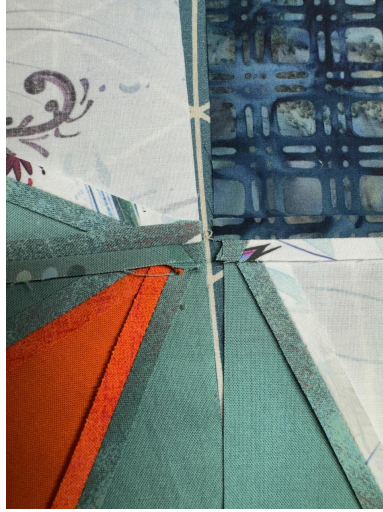
Now to finish the ray, we add the half-square triangle. Find the center mark on the long triangle. Also find the center mark on the base of the half-square triangle.



Pin the center, stitch the seam, press seam open. Square block to 6½". Repeat 3 times.

Lay out your block. Sew together in rows. At this point, there are many seams coming together at a point. Press seams open. Use starch and steam to get them to lay as flat as possible.





Take your time. Use pins or clips to keep things lined up.



The Illinois Star Block is an 18 ½" Block.

Have fun.

Experiment.

Take your time.

Only ONE block left which I will release in January.

If you have questions...PLEASE...call, text or email me. I will be at the holiday party.

kate

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269/436-0531

