

# Quilt Block Club #11: Ohio Star Block

## Terms used in these instructions:

Block: The basic unit of design for a quilt. A single quilt will be made up of many blocks, which may be identical or use a variety of patterns. Blocks are generally, though not always, square.

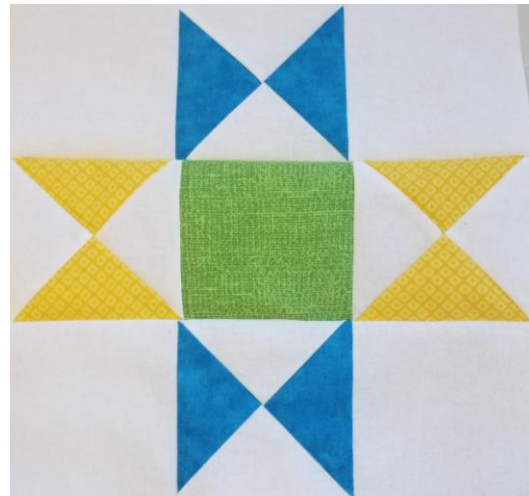
Quarter square triangle (QST): A fabric square made up of four identical triangles, usually in two contrasting colors.

RST Right Sides together (RST): Placing two pieces of fabric together so that the printed ("right") sides face one another

Seam allowance: The area between the fabric edge and the stitching line on two pieces of fabric being sewn together

## Tools:

Sewing machine  
Thread and bobbin  
Scissors  
Pins  
Marking pen or tailors chalk  
Quilting ruler  
Seam ripper  
Iron  
Ironing board  
Rotary cutter  
Cut mat



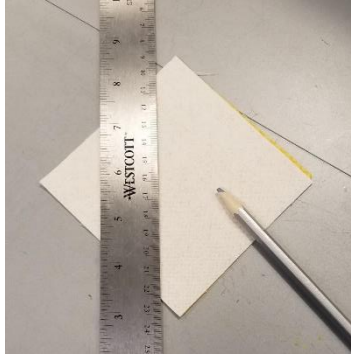
## Supplies:

Yellow fabric: 1 square  $4\frac{3}{4}$ "  
Blue fabric: 1 square  $4\frac{3}{4}$ "  
Green fabric: 1 square  $3\frac{1}{2}$ "  
White fabric: 2 squares  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " and 4 squares  $3\frac{1}{2}$ "

# Instructions

## Make 4 quarter square triangles (QSTs)

1. Place one  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " white square on top of your blue square, right sides together (RST).
2. Using a ruler and marking pen, draw a straight line from one corner of the blue square to the opposite corner.



3. Sew two seams, one on either side of this line,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away.



4. Cut along the marked line. You now have two HSTs.



- Using a hot iron, press seams flat to set them, then press toward the darker fabric.
- Place your two HSTs on top of one another, RST. The blue triangles should be **opposite** one another.



- Using a ruler and marking pen, draw a straight line from one corner of the blue square to the opposite corner, crossing the seam at a perpendicular angle.



- Sew two seams, one on either side of this line,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away. Be careful going over the bump of the previous seams.
- Cut along the marked line. You now have two QSTs.

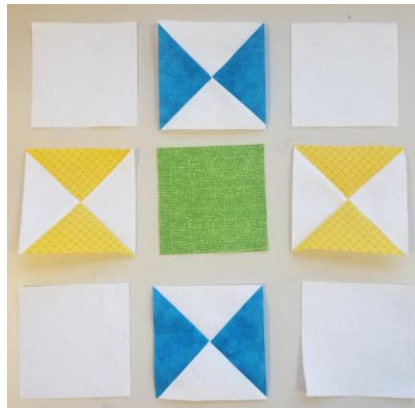


- Repeat steps 1-9 using the  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " white and yellow squares.. You now have four QSTs.

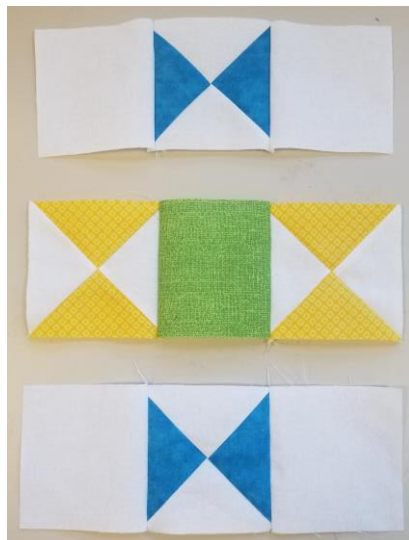
11. Cut your QSTs down to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares if necessary. TIP: Position the  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " line of a quilting ruler at the center of the QST and cut off any fabric that overhangs the edge.

## Create 3 Rows of 3

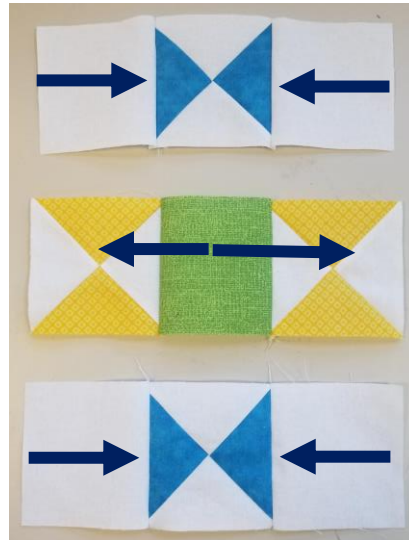
1. Lay out your nine squares of fabric in three rows to create an Ohio Star pattern.



2. Stitch the squares of each row together to create three rows of three squares each. Remember to sew with RST and leave a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Use pins or fabric clips if needed.

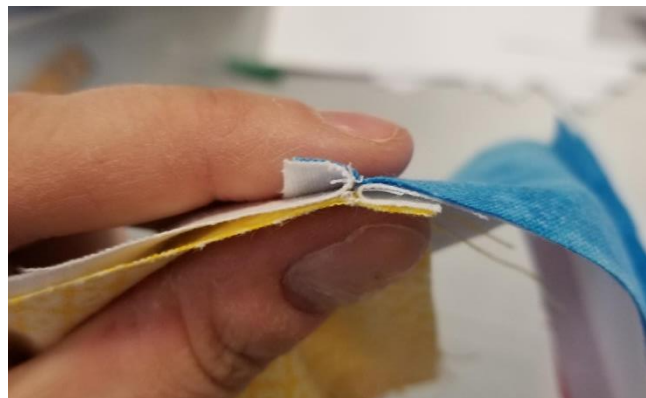


- Using a hot iron, press seams flat to set them, then press in the direction shown below. This will make it easier to match the strips up neatly later.



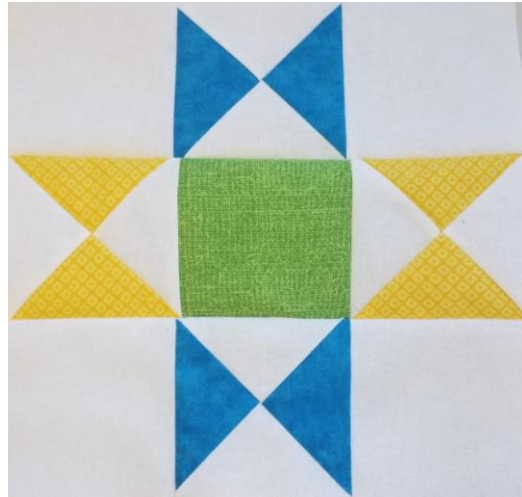
## Join rows together

- Line up your top two rows, RST. Match up the vertical seams as precisely as possible. Since the seams have been pressed in opposite directions, they should “nest,” helping you to match them.



- Stitch the two rows together. Remember to sew with RST and leave a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Use pins or fabric clips if needed.
- Using a hot iron, press seams flat to set them, then press toward the darker fabric.

- Repeat steps 1-3 using the middle and bottom rows. You have finished your Ohio Star Block!



## Notes

The Ohio Star pattern originated in the early 1800s, and was very popular during the Great Depression because it could easily incorporate small fabric scraps that would otherwise go to waste. It is sometimes called the Eastern Star, Western Star, or Variable Star.

Ohio Star doesn't have as many variants as most quilt blocks, but by changing the colors and placements of the blocks, quilters have come up with some very different designs that are all still Ohio Star quilts!



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