

Star Block Tutorial by Jan-Maree



I love these stars. I use them for so many things and I like to make them so that they can be trimmed to size and you don't have to worry about losing the points. You will see I do a lot of blocks like that.



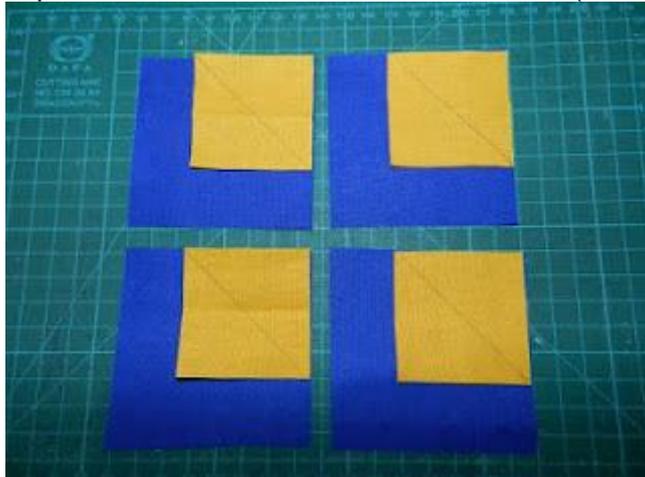
First you have to do some cutting. Blue is my background colour in this example, yellow the points and red for the centre. Start by cutting eight 3" squares from the

background colour and one 3" square from your centre colour. Then cut eight 2" squares from your point colour.

Next take your 8 point squares and, using a pencil or chalk, draw a line diagonally from one corner to the other. This is your sewing line.



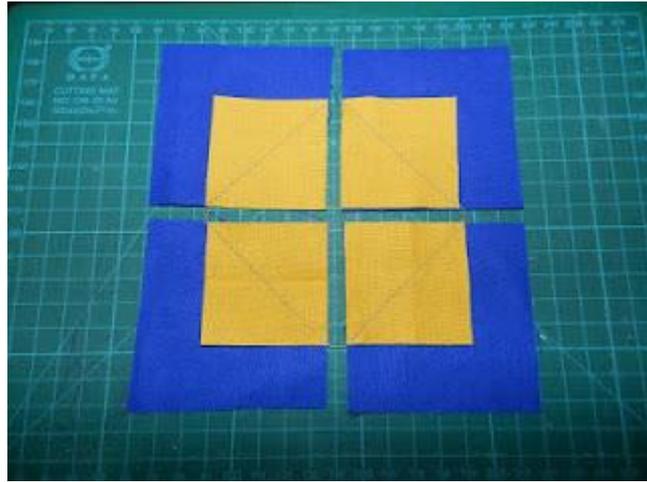
Place one yellow square in the corner of **four** of the blue (background) squares



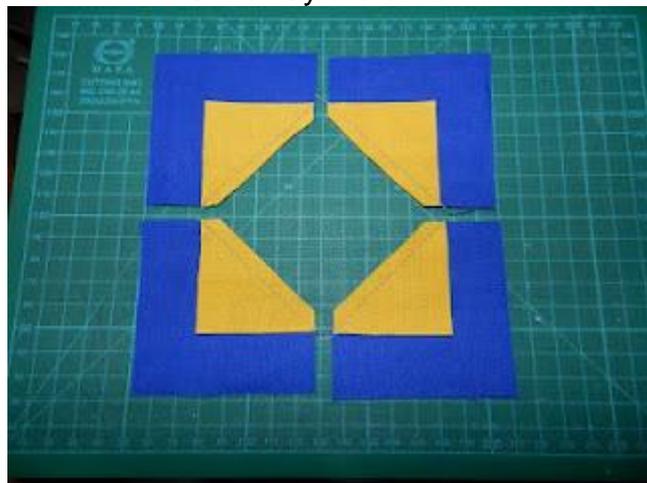
and sew along the line.



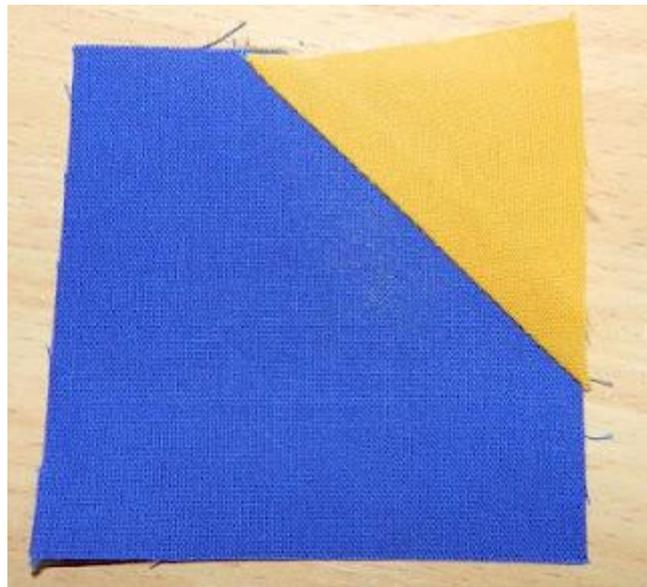
Like so!



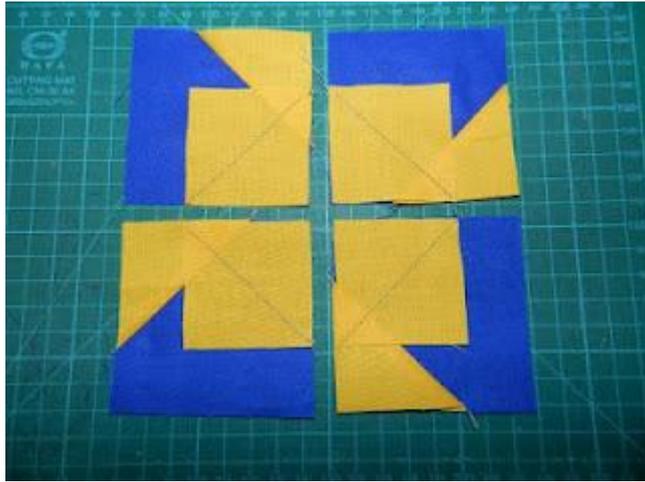
Cut away the extra.



Iron the yellow square open so your square looks like a square again!



Next take the four remaining yellow point squares and place them on an adjacent corner and again sew along the line.



Again cut away the extra and iron the yellow square over to get back to having four squares again.



Take your four remaining blue squares and sew on each side of **TWO** of your squares with yellow points. Take the two remaining squares with yellow points and sew one on each side of the red centre square.



Now here is an important part if you want it all to fit together nicely - the centre row with the four yellow points and the red centre - iron the seams towards the red centre.

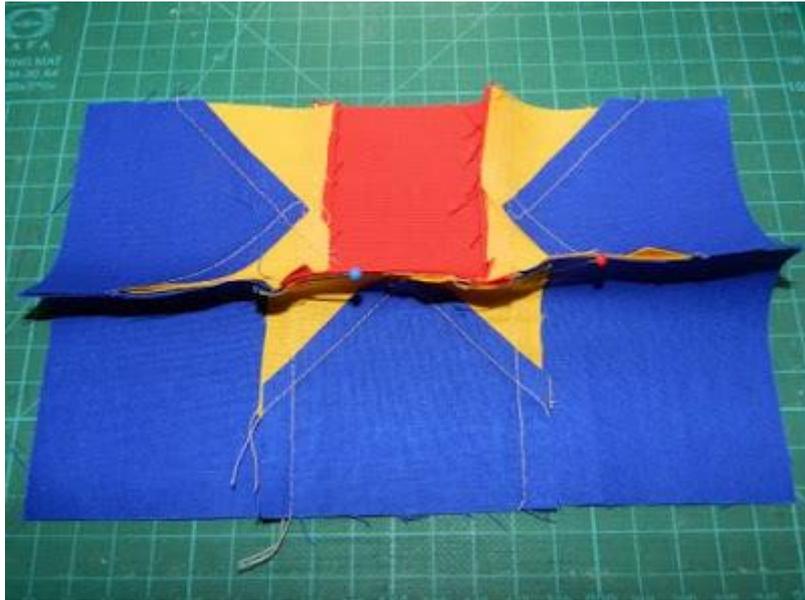
You will end up with less bulk that way. The outer rows with the yellow points and the two blue squares -iron away from the yellow points - again less bulk.



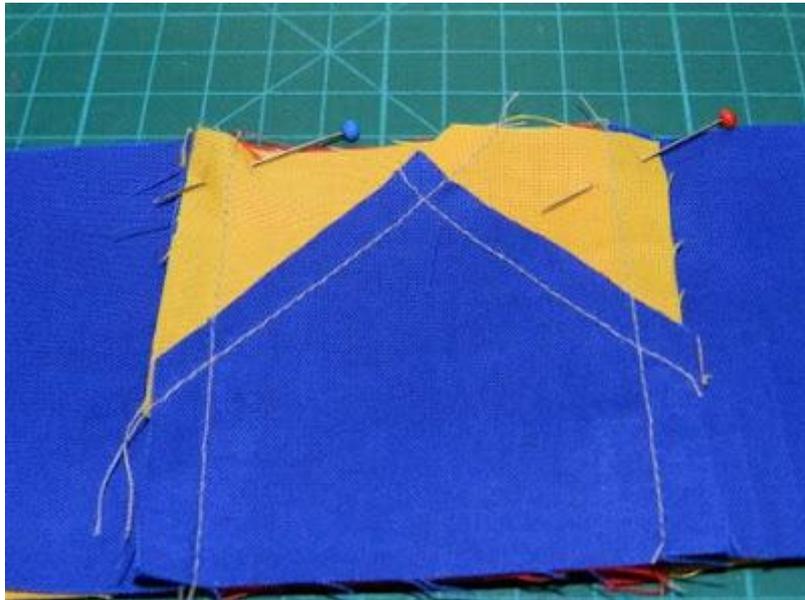
You will see in the next photo that the seams face away from each other and therefore will be less bulky when sewn together.



Now take one of the outer rows and pin it to your centre row.



Make sure your seams align and pin so that they don't move during sewing. Repeat with the final row.



You will now have something that looks like this and needs ironing. Whichever way you iron it, you will get some bulk where the yellow points intersect with the red. Decide how you are going to iron the seams and stick with it for all the blocks.



Turn it over and this is what you have. These blocks are around 7 1/2 inches depending on whether you used your quarter inch foot or not. I am planning to trim these blocks to 7 inches to make them fit my project better. You can also trim these down to 6" or 6 1/2" if that suits your purpose.



So now we are half way to the tutorial for the red quilt above. For that quilt I trimmed the stars to 6 1/2" to fit in with my 6 1/2" strips.

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