

### PROJECT: Christmas Stars

Showcase stars composed of favorite holiday fabrics in a stunning wall quilt.

INSPIRED BY: *Friendship Gathering* from quilt collector Jody Sanders

QUILT TESTER: Diane Tomlinson



FABRICS are from the Northern Light collection by Annie Brady for Moda Fabrics ([modafabrics.com](http://modafabrics.com)).

**FINISHED QUILT: 48½" square**  
**FINISHED BLOCK: 12" square**

#### MATERIALS

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

- 9—10" squares assorted green prints (blocks)
- 9—18×21" pieces (fat quarters) assorted red prints (blocks)
- ½ yard solid white (blocks)
- ¼ yard tan print (blocks)
- ⅓ yard mottled green (sashing)
- 1 yard total assorted white prints (sashing)
- ½ yard mottled red (binding)
- 3¼ yards backing fabric
- 57"-square batting

#### CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order.

Patterns are on *page 5*. To make templates of patterns, see *Make Templates and Use Templates, page 6*.

**From each assorted green print, cut:**

- 2—4⅞" squares

**From each assorted red print, cut:**

- 2—4⅞" squares
- 4 of Pattern B

**From solid white, cut:**

- 36 *each* of patterns A and A reversed

**From tan print, cut:**

- 9—4½" squares

**From assorted white prints, cut:**

- 24—3½×12½" sashing rectangles

**From mottled green, cut:**

- 16—3½" sashing squares

**From mottled red, cut:**

- 5—2½×42" binding strips

#### ASSEMBLE BLOCKS

These measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Press seams in directions indicated by arrows on diagrams. If no direction is specified, press seam toward darker fabric.

**1** Use a pencil to mark a diagonal line on wrong side of each assorted green print 4⅞" square.

**2** Layer a marked green print square atop an assorted red print 4⅞" square. Sew together with two seams, stitching ¼" on each side of marked line (**Diagram 1**). Cut apart on marked line. Press open to make two matching triangle-squares. Each triangle-square should be 4½" square including seam allowances. Repeat to make 36 triangle-squares total (nine sets of four matching triangle-squares).

**3** Referring to **Diagram 2**, sew a solid white A triangle to left-hand edge of an assorted red print B triangle. Add a solid white A reversed triangle to right-hand edge to make a side unit. The unit should be 4½" square including seam allowances. Repeat to make 36 side units total (nine sets of four matching side units).

**4** Lay out one tan print 4½" square and four triangle-squares and four side units that use the same red print in three rows (**Diagram 3**). Sew together pieces in rows. Join rows to make a block. The block should be 12½" square including seam allowances. Repeat to make nine blocks total.

#### ASSEMBLE QUILT TOP

**1** Referring to **Quilt Assembly Diagram**, lay out blocks, assorted white print 3½×12½" sashing rectangles, and mottled green 3½" sashing squares in seven rows. Sew together pieces in rows. Press seams toward sashing rectangles.

**2** Join rows to make quilt top. Press seams away from block rows. The quilt top should be 48½" square including seam allowances.

#### FINISH QUILT

**1** Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste.

**2** Quilt as desired. Handi Quilter Studio Educator Kim Sandberg used two layers of batting—wool on top of 80/20 cotton—to make the quilting stand out. She used thread from the Superior Threads The Bottom Line collection in three colors: silver, green, and red. She chose holly motifs from the Pro-Stitcher library to fill in the sashing and used rulerwork to highlight the piecing in the center of the blocks (**Quilting Diagram**).

**3** Bind with mottled red binding strips.

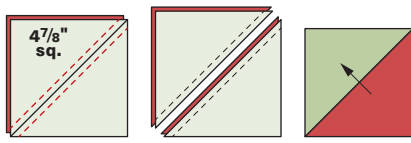


Diagram 1

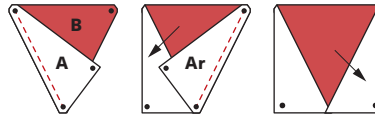


Diagram 2

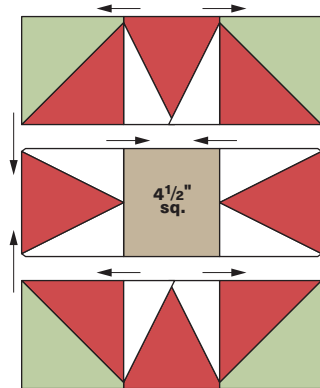
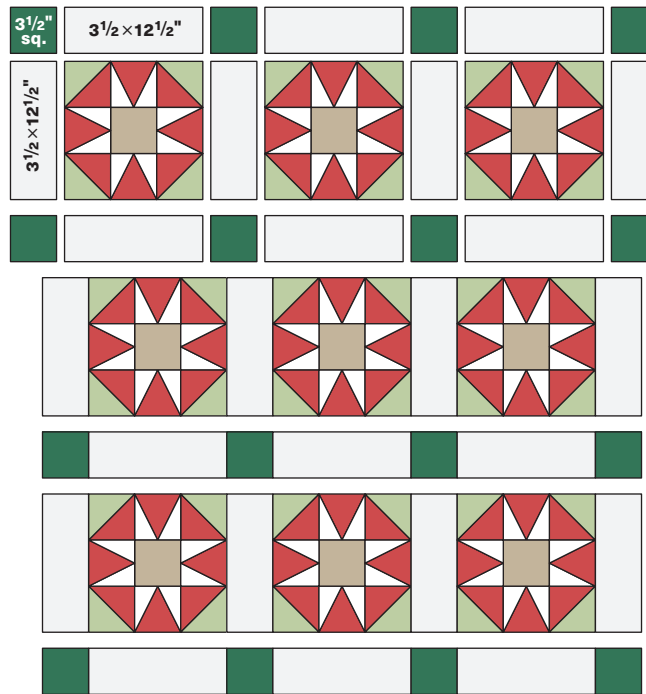
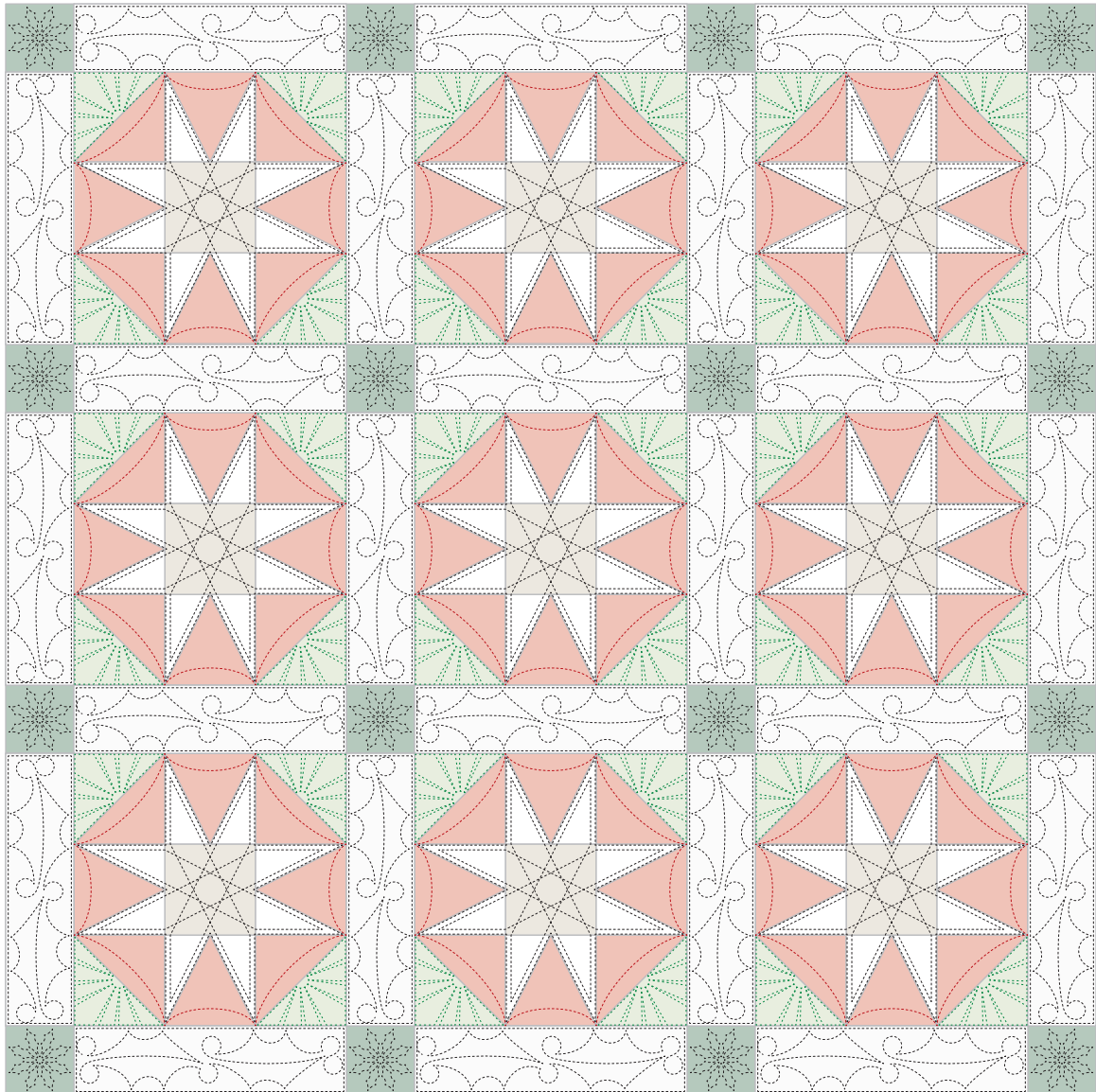


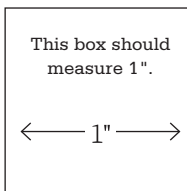
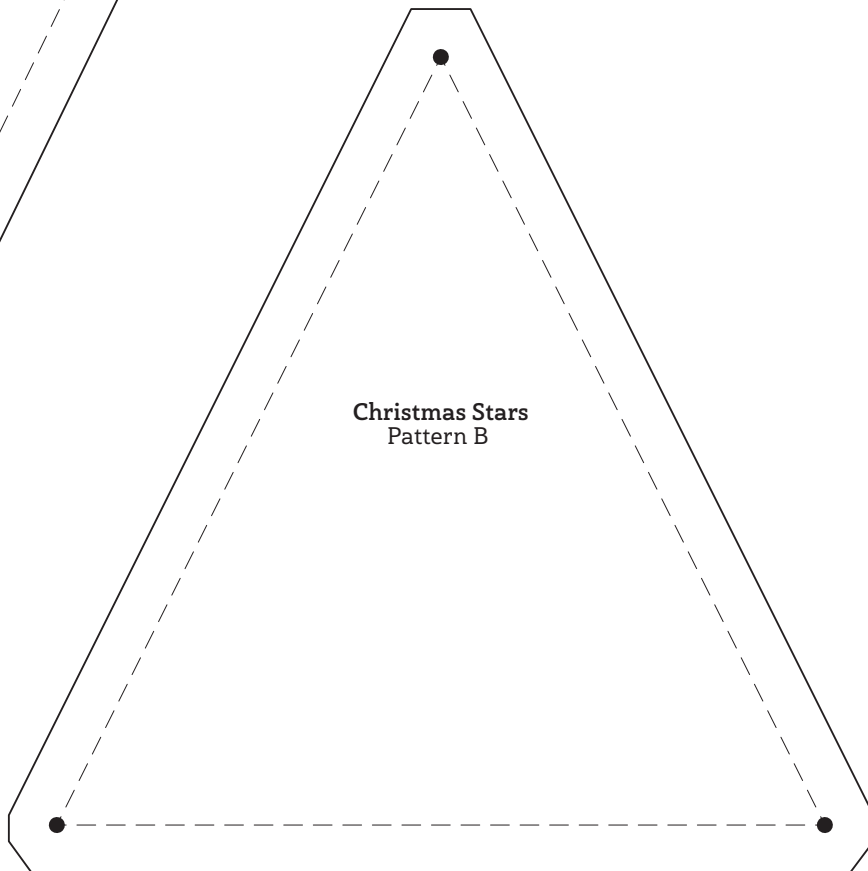
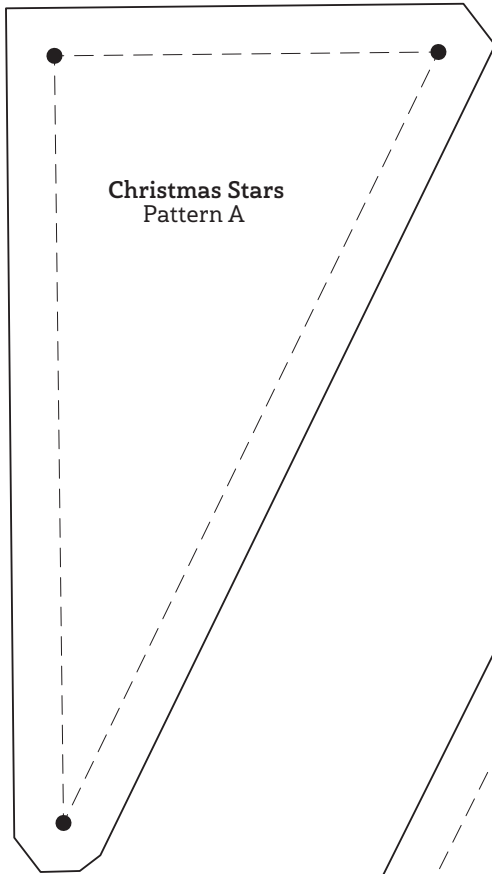
Diagram 3



Quilt Assembly Diagram



Quilting Diagram



**\* NOTE:**

When printing a downloadable PDF, set Page Scaling preference to None to print patterns at 100%. Do not use Shrink to Fit or Fit to Printable Area.

## MAKE TEMPLATES

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

## USE TEMPLATES

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a  $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

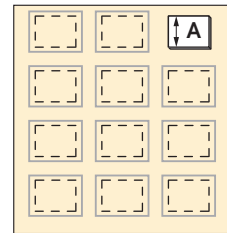


DIAGRAM 1

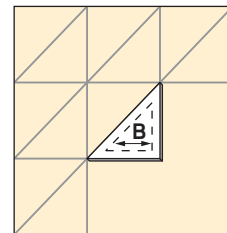


DIAGRAM 2