**Strip Method Bethlehem Star**

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Nov. 15, 2015

This star pattern is based on a one or two color scheme that ranges from dark to light to dark or from shades of one color to shades of another and then back to the first color, with one or two fabrics that combine both colors. I chose 7 shades of blue ranging from a light blue to cobalt. The design could also be arranged to go from light to dark to light.

A smaller star can be made by using 5 colors or by reducing the width of the strips. This star makes a queen size with the points draping down the sides about 6 inches or the star lays flat on the top of a king size bed. The background is composed of 4 large squares and 4 triangles made by cutting 2 more squares in half across a diagonal. These can be plain, appliquéd, or contain smaller star blocks.

Use the diamond grid on the next page to determine fabric placement before cutting.

**Fabric Cut Yardage Supplies:**

Color 1 2-3 in. strips ¼ yd Sewing Machine

 Cutting board

Color 2 4-3 in strips 1/3 yd Roller Cutter

 Ruler with 45˚ lines

Color 3 6-3 in strips ½ -5/8 yd General sewing tools

Color 4 8-3 in strips 2/3- ¾ yd

Color 5 10-3 in strips 7/8 yd

Color 6 12-3 in strips 1 yd

Color 7 7-3 in strips 2/3 yd

Background 4 – 25 in squares 3 – 4 ¼ yd

 4 triangles with 36” base, 16” height with both sides 25”

 (Can be made by cutting a 25” square on a diagonal)

**Applique: (*optional)***I used ¼-1/3 yd of color 1 for leaves and stems. Color 2 was fussy cut to create flower centers (about ¼ yd). Scraps of color 6 were used in the buds and ¼ yd of color 5 for the light half of leaves.

**Borders:** 1 inch border 8-1 ½ “ strips 1/3 yd

2 inch border 8-2 ½ “ strips 5/8 yd

 3 inch border 8-3 ½ “ strips 7/8 yd

 4 inch border 8-4 ½ “ strips 1 yd

 ***You should have 1 or 2 strips of each unit left that could be made into a pieced border.***

**Assembling Strip Units**

Use the diamond grid to plan your layout and the number of strips needed for each color. If you have a printer increase the diamond to a full page, cut small diamonds from fabric and position to get a preview of how your color scheme will work.

This design is assembled from 4 strip units (7 if more than one color is used).

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 **Unit A**

 2 3 4 5 6 7 6 **Unit B**

**Unit C** 3 4 5 6 7 6 5

 **Unit D** 4 5 6 7 6 5 4

 **Unit C** 5 6 7 6 5 4 3

 **Unit B** 6 7 6 5 4 3 2

 **Unit A** 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

**Unit A**

Assemble by sewing one strip of each of the seven colors in numbered order together. Start each strip 2 ½” down from the top of the previous strip. All fabric needs to be at least 38 inches wide. Sew 2 sets of strip. Press all seams toward color 7.

 2 ½ “

 2 ½ “

**Unit B**

Assemble 2 sets by sewing in order colors 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 6. Off set each strip 2 ½” as shown. Press all seams toward color 2.

**Unit C**

Assemble 2 sets by sewing in order colors 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 6, 5. Off set each strip 2 ½” as shown.

Press all seams toward the end with color 5.

**Unit D**

Assemble 1 set by sewing in order colors 4, 5, 6, 7, 6, 5, 4. Offset each strip then press.