

Pattern of the Month - October 2013 by Evelyn George

"Scrappy American Stars"

Tucson Quilters Guild finds many ways to give to our community, and a recent need has been for patriotic quilts to honor those who have served our country. This quilt is 40" x 52", perfect for a small donation quilt, or a quick quilt for anyone on your gift list. Make the very easy star blocks in scrappy patriotic prints or colors of your choice, and try this simple half-drop setting for an interesting layout.

Yardage requirements:

Light background - 1¾ yards

Dark star centers, borders and binding - 1 yard

Assorted prints for star points - about ½ yard total

(also need Backing - 1 5/8 yards)

Cutting:

Light - 80 4½" squares

4 $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles (for half-drops)

 $\underline{\text{Dark}}$ - 10 $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares (star centers)

5 to 10 $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips (5 for borders and 5 for binding, if used)

Assorted prints - 80 2½" squares (star points)

Star Blocks (12" finished size):

Line up a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " print square on top of one corner of a $4\frac{1}{2}$ " background square, *right sides together*, and stitch diagonally from corner to corner of the small square, as shown. (Note: you could draw the line first if you prefer.)

Trim off the corner, leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press triangle open, toward the corner. Line up another (different) $2\frac{1}{2}$ " print square on the corner to the right of the first one, right sides together; stitch, trim and press as before. The background square now has 2 scrappy star points. \downarrow



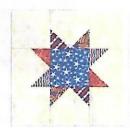






Continue adding 2 scrappy star points each to a total of 40 background squares (the other 40 background squares will remain plain; they will be the *corners* of the blocks).

Arrange 1 center square, 4 star point units and 4 plain background squares to make the star as shown, right. Stitch together in rows; press seams toward plain squares. Join rows to form the star block. Make 10.



Quilt Assembly:

Arrange the star blocks into 3 *vertical* rows, with the half-drop rectangles at the top and bottom of the first and third rows. (Refer to illustration, top of page.)

Sew blocks together into the 3 rows and join rows to make the top. Measure length of top; piece strips to make two side borders this measurement and add to sides of quilt. Measure width of top, including the borders you just added; cut top and bottom borders this size and add. Quilt and finish as desired.