

Little Dipper Lone Star Quilt

Written by Donna Jordan for Jordan Fabrics

Finished size 78 x 78"



Fabric requirements:

18 Fat Quarters for patchwork and sashing

3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards background

7/8 yard outside border

5/8 yard binding

From each of the fat quarters cut 11 @ 1 ½" strips by the full width (21 to 22").

From the background fabric:

Cut 6 @ 5 ¼" WOF (width of fabric). Sub-cut to 36 - 5 ¼" squares. Cut these squares along one diagonal from corner to corner to form 72 triangles.

Cut 8 @ 7" WOF. Sub-cut to 36 - 7" squares. Cut along one diagonal from corner to corner to form 72 triangles.

Cut 24 @ 1 ½" WOF. Sub-cut to 48 - 1 ½ x 20" for sashing.

The quilt is made with 9 Lone Star blocks. 5 are traditional Lone Star blocks that have colors in concentric circles and 4 are scrappy Lone Star blocks.

To make the first traditional Lone Star, select the following **pairs** of strips.

A – 1 pair

B – 2 pairs

C – 3 pairs

D – 4 pairs

E – 3 pairs

F – 2 pairs

G – 1 pair

Make 2 of the following strip sets; ABCD, BCDE, CDEF, DEFG. Press the seam allowances to one side.

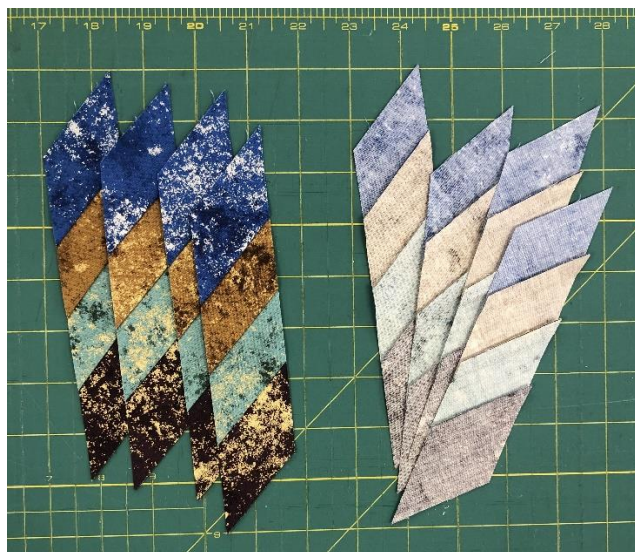


Place the ABCD strip-units right sides together with the colors together (A on A, B on B, etc.) Place one long edge along the 45-degree line on your cutting board. As shown below, make a first cut near the edge but far enough in to make sure you cut off the selvages. Make your next cut 1 ½" away from your first cut. Make six more cuts resulting in 7 patchwork units that are right side up, and 7 units that are right side down.



Take 4 of the right side up units and place them in one stack, and place 4 of the right side down units in another stack.

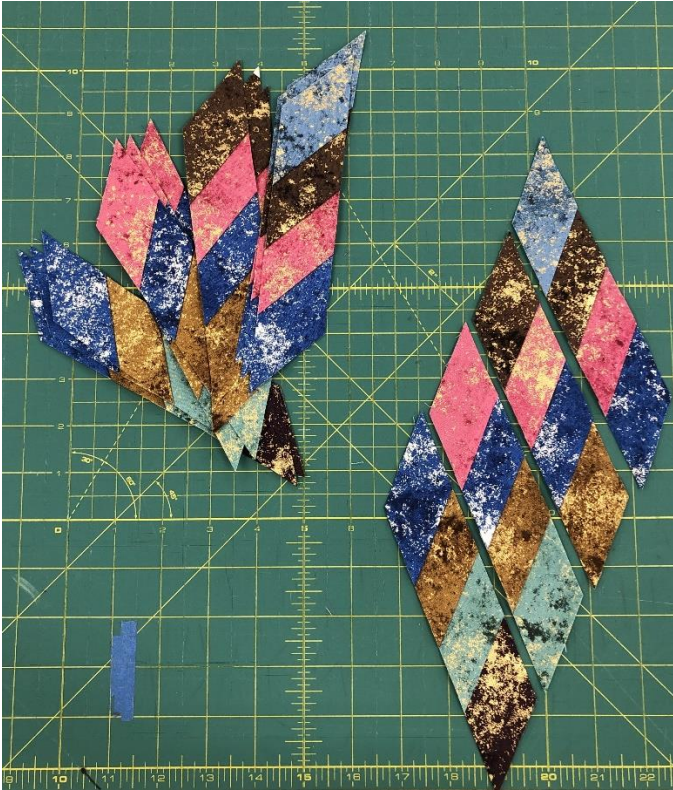
Set the remaining units aside to use for the scrappy stars. Keep the triangular leftover pieces to make the cornerstone blocks (directions to follow).



Follow the above method with the other 3 strip unit sets (BCDE, CDEF, DEFG).

From the right side up units, take one of each and lay out as shown below to create a large diamond. Stitch the rows together. Press all seams to one side. Repeat to make three more large diamonds for a total of 4.

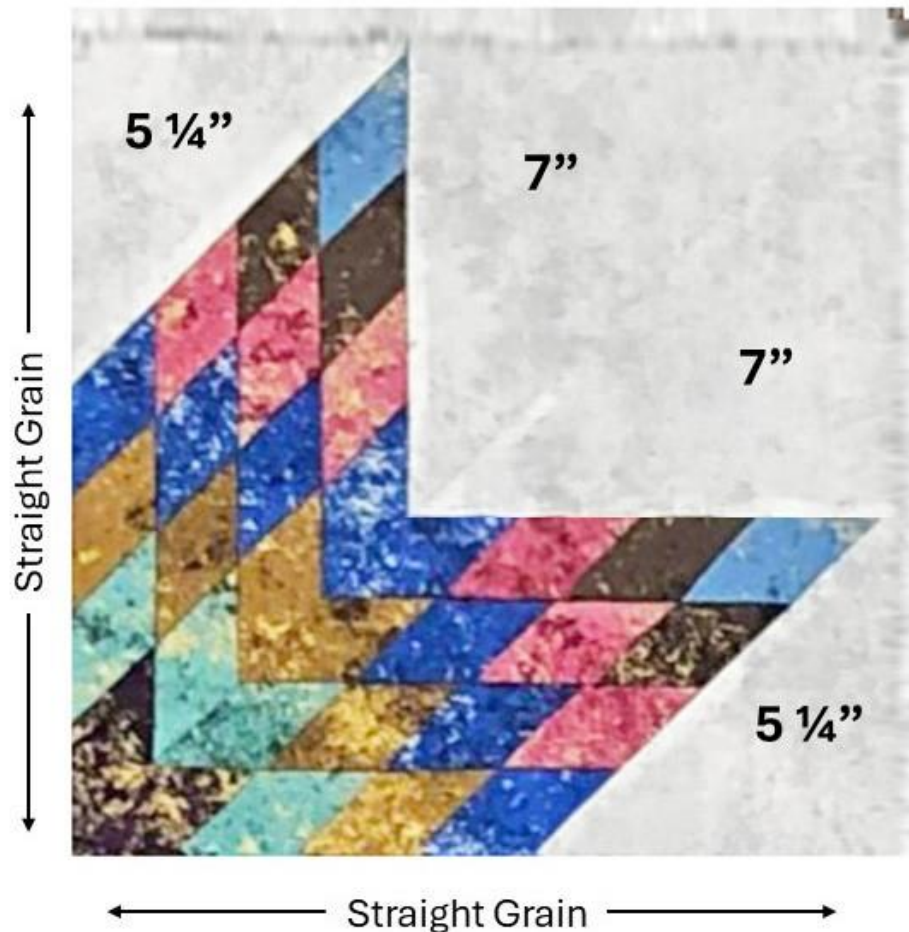
Repeat the sewing process with the diamonds that were cut right side down so that you have four more large diamonds. Iron each section very flat making sure to move your iron in the direction of the straight grain of the fabrics to help prevent distorting or stretching the patchwork.



To make one quarter of your Lone Star block, lay out 2 pieced diamonds (one from the right side up stack and one from the right side down stack) and 2 of each size of background triangles as shown in the picture below.

The background triangles are cut slightly over-sized, and the excess size should end up at the **outside** edge of the block (where the very pointy ends of the star are). This will occur when you place the longer side of the 5 1/4" triangles along the pieced diamonds and matching up the end that is **not** the pointy end. Stitch and finger-press the seam toward the triangle.

Repeat with the shorter sides of the 7" triangles. You now have 2 big triangles. Stitch the 2 together. Press the seam allowances to one side. Repeat with remaining sections and sew all four quarters together to make the Lone Star Block. Steam press very flat. Please note that my blocks were very lumpy looking at this point, but they did iron back into shape nicely. Trim down to 20".



NOTE at this point you will want to lay out your strip pairs for all 4 remaining concentric Lone Star blocks so that you can make sure that you have enough pairs in the correct quantities.

Repeat above instructions to make 4 more concentric Lone Star Blocks for a total of 5.

Scrappy Lone Star blocks: make 2 of the 4-piece strip units and cut as you did for the concentric Lone Stars, but the strip units can be different colors and do not have to match. Using the resulting strip units and all the left-over ones from your concentric Lone Star strip cutting, select sets of 4 strips units to make 32 large, pieced diamonds. Don't worry too much about fabric/color placement, they should look scrappy and fun. Take 8 pieced diamonds and make a Lone Star block as described above. Note the straight grain of the fabrics when laying the diamonds out for the block. Repeat to make a total of 4 scrappy blocks.



Sashing: Take a 1 ½” strip from the fat-quarters cut it to 20”. Stitch a 1 ½” background strip on each side of the colored strip. Press seams toward the darker fabric.

Cornerstones: stitch 2 of the triangular shaped leftovers from when the strip units were cut. Stitch together along the diagonal to make a block. Trim down to 3 ½”. Make 20.

Lay out the blocks, sashing and cornerstones. Stitch into rows and stitch rows together.

Borders: cut 8 @ 3 ½” WOF. Stitch together along the short edges into one long piece. Measure your quilt top (I like to measure in several places and take the average size) and cut 4 borders to that length. Stitch a border onto the top and one onto the bottom of your quilt. Add a cornerstone to each end of the side borders and stitch onto the quilt.

Note: these instructions will result in all your Lone Star blocks having a straight grain. If you get some stacks of big diamonds mixed, your blocks may have some straight and some diagonal grain diamonds in them. This is not a big deal. The pieces will still fit perfectly, but it **may** be harder to iron your blocks flat. One of my blocks in the quilt above that I demonstrated in our YouTube video has **all** the diamonds with the grains on the diagonal and I didn’t notice until the quilt was almost done.

Quilt, bind, and enjoy!

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