

Block of the Month - March 2023



Milkmaid's Star

The Milkmaid's Star "block pattern dates from 1948, when it was published by *The Kansas City Star* newspaper. *Quilters Newsletter Magazine* included it in the March 1983 issue's collection of blocks that paid tribute to the dairy state of Wisconsin." With just four easy to assemble parts, this block is quick to assemble. Our blocks are 12". Put four 6" blocks together for a magical effect. "Use coordinating contemporary fabrics for a sophisticated effect or go scrappy for a vintage look."

Most of the above was directly quoted from Quilters Newsletter, Best Blocks publication.

This is an easy and fun one, a good one to try making (four) 4 @ 6" x 6" and see what you get, or using scraps or crayons, try putting light where I show dark and darks where I show lights. Hmm, I wonder.

Once again I recommend a see through foundation. You can work from the front of the foundation or the back, it doesn't matter; but you must be consistent. It can be easy to get your colors turned around on this one, so it might be helpful to both make a legend of the colors with their identifying numbers and letters and mark your four foundations with the correct colors.

Make four copies of the foundation pattern. Mark two patterns as the A set and two as the B set. Don't forget to turn off the fit to page on your copier. Patterns can be found on the last page.

Six (5) different fabrics

- (1) All #1s - darkest, dark - cut four (4) squares @ 5" x 5"
- (2) # 2A & #3A - lightest, light - cut four (4) rectangles @ 3-1/2 x 6"
- (3) # 2B & #3B - a different lightest light - cut four (4) rectangles @ 3-1/2" x 6"
- (4) #4A - #5A - medium or medium dark - cut two (2) squares @ 4-1/2" x 4-1/2"
Now slice each diagonally to make four HSTs of each.
- (5) #4B & #5B - a different medium or medium dark - cut fabric as #4A and #4B

Remember that you will always work with the right sides together, so the glue will always touch only the wrong side of the fabric.

Follow the number order for assembly. Tack glue # 1 in place. Trim, being careful to avoid cutting the foundation.

Add number #2 on the line that joins to #1; sew on the line. Open out, finger press and tack glue in place. Trim, allowing ¼ seam allowance. Add #3 in the same way.

Continue adding in order of the numbers, finger pressing, tack glueing and trimming as you proceed. When all sections are complete, trim fabric and foundation ¼" around the outside of each section.

Keep in mind that your A and B sets use different colors, so premarking your foundations will help avoid mistakes.

When joining the sections, it can help to check the points and pin them, so they don't slip and become wonky.

When all four sections are complete, join an A section to a B section being careful to have the large triangles pointing out. After sewing together, pull out the foundation from the seam and press seam open.

Now, lay out the next B and A section to make sure that they are in the correct position when they are joined to the half you just created. Join the second half as above.

Pull out the foundation from the seam allowance and press seam open.

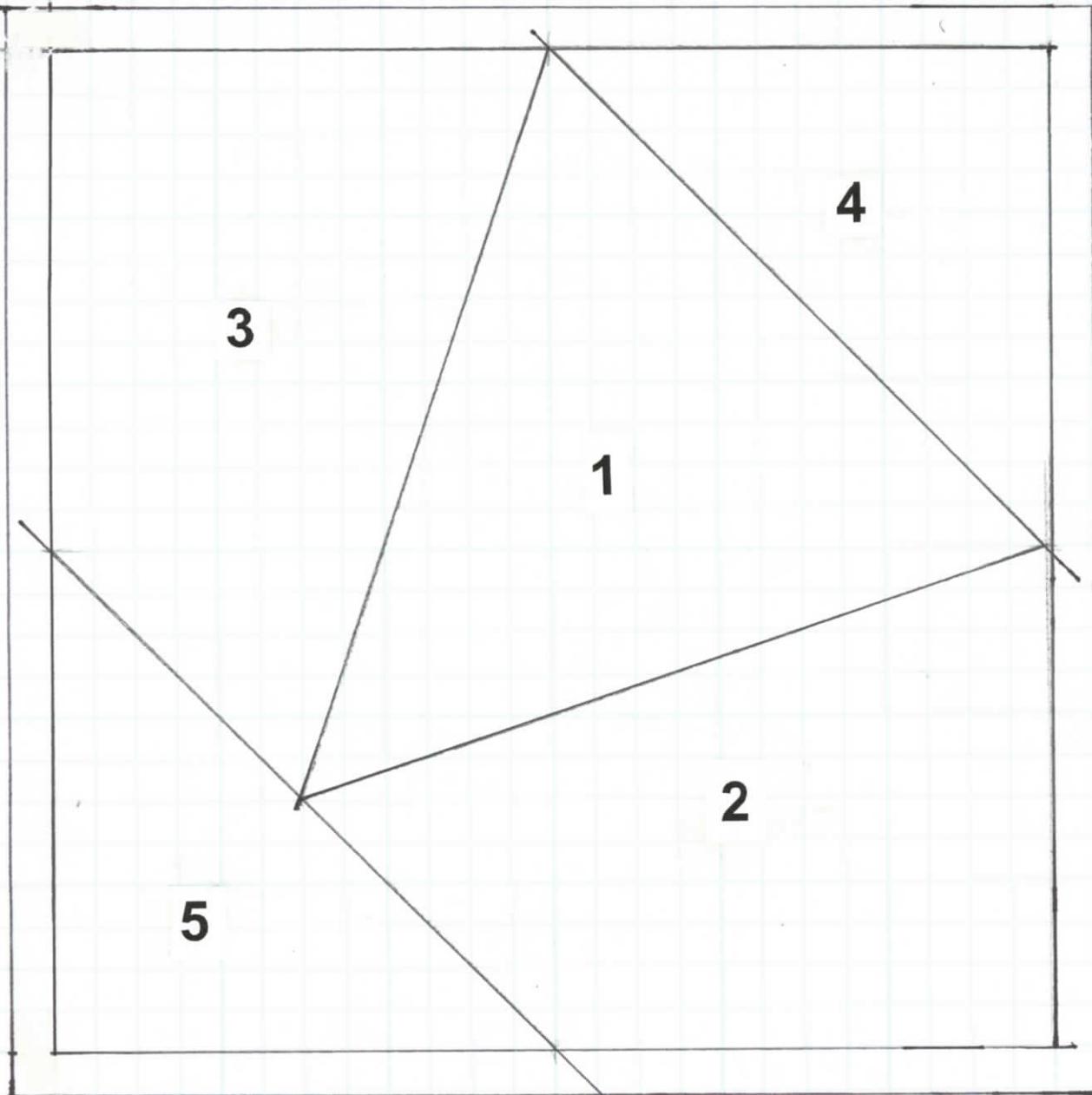
Now join the two halves. After sewing, pull out the foundation in the seam allowance and press seam open.

Love this block especially with four together. It is so fast and the pieces are so large that putting four small blocks together to make one large block is a great way to get practice FPPing.

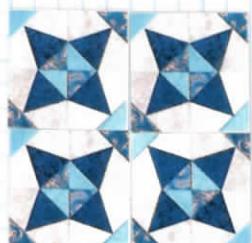
Visit Block of the Month on ZOOM at 6:30 every Monday evening following the regular Guild Meeting. Next ZOOM on Monday, March 13th.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85141597785?pwd=dTVvSlgvMjB5V280d3VoajNwaGFYdz09>

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12" x 12" finished block
Make (4) four units



Put (4) four 6" blocks
together to get one
12" x 12" beauty.

6" x 6"
Make (4) four units

