

BLOCK OF THE MONTH - May, 2023



Found in Best Blocks
by "Quilter's Newsletter"

SKYROCKET

The Skyrocket block was created by Ruby McKim and first published in 1931. Perhaps Ruby was inspired by the 1931 official adoption of the Star-Spangled Banner. Beginning in ancient China, through wars and celebrations, skyrockets have been around for a very long time. In modern times, skyrockets conjure thoughts of outer space and new frontiers. Who can forget that in 1976, the Starland Vocal Band gave us a new meaning for "skyrockets in flight".

Ruby's version, our block, shows sharp, thin points, which could be quite challenging. FPP makes those skinny points a "piece of cake" to accomplish. Ruby printed a paper piecing pattern which involved multiple Y joints. Reworked to eliminate the Y joints, our block has just two simple pattern pieces, each repeated four times. No Y seams and some opportunity for string piecing.

Put four Skyrocket blocks together to find a secondary star. Play with the lights and darks to get significantly different and beautiful effects. Try batiks for an entirely new and more modern look.

I hope you will join the fun.

Give a call or email if you have questions or join us on ZOOM, the Monday following our regular Guild Meeting.


Monday, May 8th, at 6:30PM.

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/85141597785?pwd=dTVvSigvMjB5V280d3VoajNwaGFYdz09>

Marjorie Longo frumml@gmail.com or (831)624-8649

Let's get started with a tip:

At seam intersection where three seams intersect, try reducing the bulk by stopping your first and second seams one stitch shy of the seam intersection. Just as with any mitred corner, lock that last stitch by reducing the stitch length as you

approach the seam. When you complete each seam, use your glue tack to  down the loose end to make sure that those ends don't flap over to the wrong directions.

YOU WILL NEED:

Your favorite foundation or foundation paper

Four (4) different fabrics;

A lightest, a light/medium, a medium, and a dark

Four (4) copies of the FPP patterns on your foundation or foundation paper
Templates shown if you choose to use them.

A simple legend showing the fabrics and their number placement

I have included a small line drawing of the block. Make a bunch of copies, get out your crayons, and play before you start. Placement of lights and darks can make an amazing difference in the appearance of this block.

Cutting your fabric:

This time, I am not going to give you specific measurements for most of the pieces. Instead, I advise making rough templates for some of the pieces. I have included template patterns, including $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances for:

Piece # 1 - cut 4

Piece # 2 & 3 (mirror images) - cut 4 left and 4 right

Piece # 1a - cut 4

Piece # 2a & 3a (mirror images) - cut 4 left and 4 right

On all of the above, I suggest being generous in your cuts as triangle can be a bit tricky to place. A little fudge space may help.

Pieces 4a, 5a, and 6a are HST.

4a and 5a - cut 4 square, $4\frac{1}{8}$ " X $4\frac{1}{8}$ ". Slice corner to corner diagonally to form 8 HSTs.

6a - cut 2 squares, $3\frac{1}{3}$ " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ ". Slice corner to corner diagonally to form 4 HSTs.

If you precut and stack your fabric pieces, you can string piece all of section 1,2, 3 and all except the center of the "a" sections making this, rather complicated, design go quickly.

Assemble from the top of your foundation or the bottom, just be consistent and be careful with your right and left pieces.

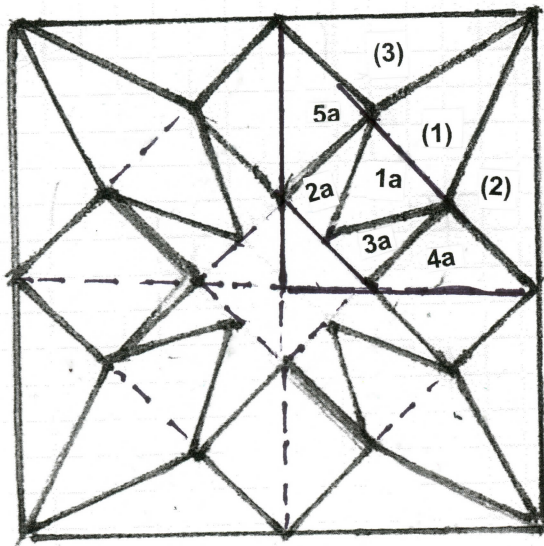
Assemble as usual in the order of the numbers. Always keep right sides together. Use a little glue tack to start your first piece and then to hold pieces in place. Skinny triangles

can easily flip over without that tack of glue. Finger press after each addition, using your nail to push each seam flat.

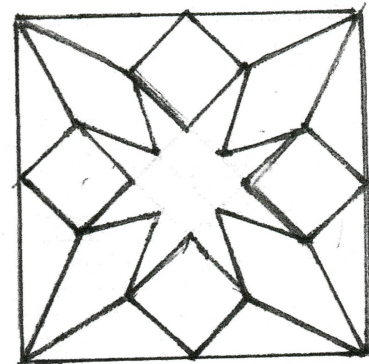
When all pieces are in place join the 1, 2, 3 sections to the "a" sections. Take a moment to line up the points. You will now have four quarter sections completed..

Follow the drawing: Join the top two quarters being careful to line up the points. Remove paper in the last seam only and iron seam open. Now join the bottom two quarters, remove paper in the last seam only, and iron seam open. Join the top half to the bottom half. Line up your points before you sew. Remove foundation from last seam. Iron seam open.

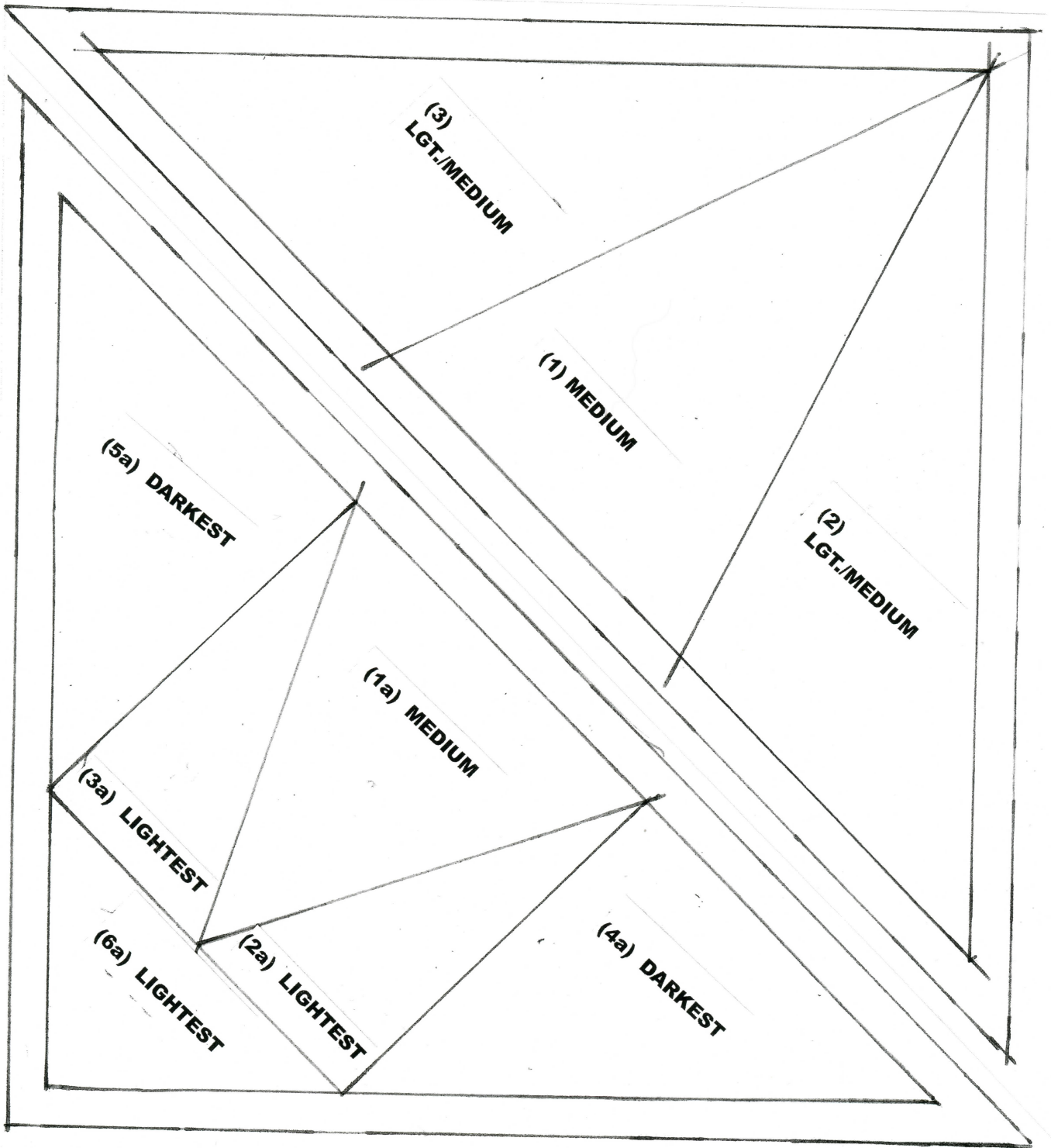
TAH DAH. I told you it was easy.



Layout diagram



Coloring book
Make multiple copies
to play



TEMPLETS

