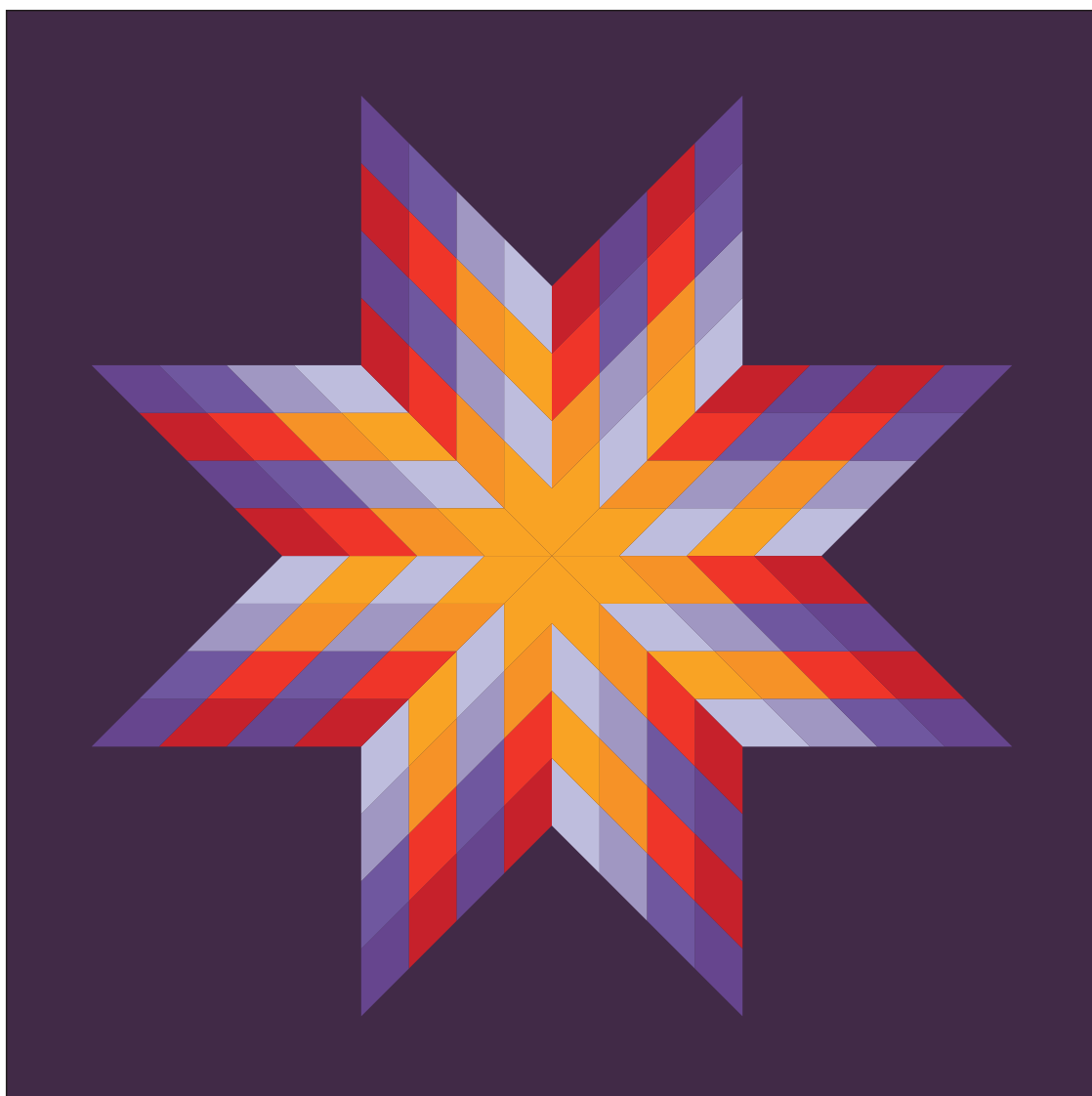




# STARATATOUILLE QUILT BLOCK



**Block size: 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>” X 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>”**

**Level: advanced beginner**



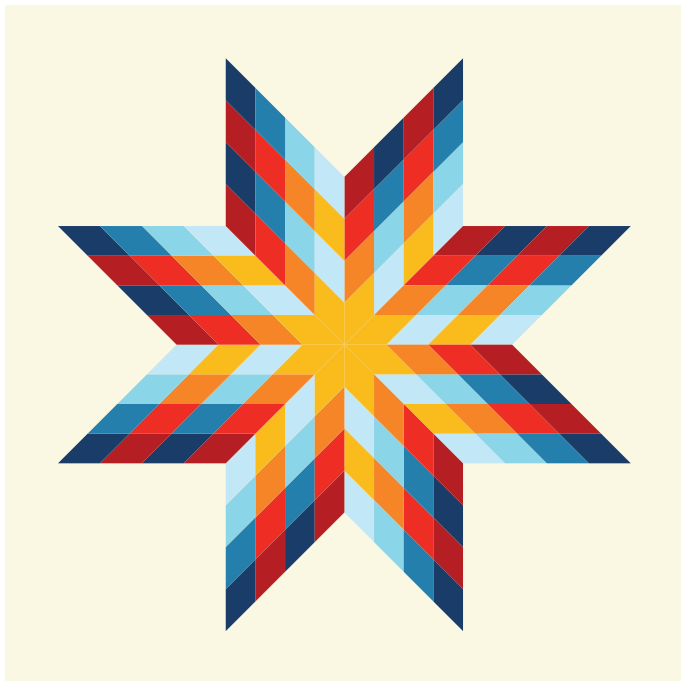
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**Hello, dear enthusiastic quilter!**

Let's face it, a free block pattern is always a good thing, and even more so if it's a star block. So let me treat you to a bit of fun by creating a cute little star full of energy and color.



(Color inspiration)

**Important basics to note:**

- WOF means Width of Fabric.
- WOF is assumed to be 42".
- RST means right sides together.
- It's very important to use an accurate scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance for this pattern.
- Test your  $\frac{1}{4}$ " measurement by sewing together four  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " strips. The finished piece should measure at  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ". Adjust your seam if needed.
- Press all seams open for best results.
- A seam-roller tool is the perfect notion to avoid having to handle your pieces too much. It's become my best friend. It's not necessary, but very helpful.
- Make sure you have a ruler marked with a  $45^\circ$  angle.
- As you sew, remember to use pins. Pins are great, and I pin everything!
- Fabric starch might be useful.

**One last note before we get started:**

I created this pattern to play with colors, gradients and contrasts. It is particularly well suited to solids or blender fabrics. Please note: additional fabric may be required or cut in alternating directions if you choose directional print fabrics.

If you want the same effect as the star on the cover, select two main tones, with four color gradations for each. You can also choose eight different colors, with the star pattern ensuring an elegant layout for a scrappy effect.

Remember to use [#staratatouillequilt](https://www.instagram.com/staratatouillequilt) to share your version on Instagram. I can't wait to see what you create!

Check [www.octopurse.be](http://www.octopurse.be) for pattern corrections and updates.

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## ★ CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

This version uses nine different colors from Moda's Bella Solids: one for the background and eight for the star gradients (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

### CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

COLORS	CUT	SUBCUT	LABEL
1 to 8	(1) 1½" x WOF strip		1 to 8
9 (background)	(1) 7¼" x WOF strip	(2) 7¼" SQ* > subcut in half along the diagonal to make (4) triangles (4) 6½" SQ	C1 C2

\* Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner and then sew a ¼" seam on each side to reinforce the triangles. Then, cut along the diagonal line (Fig. 2).

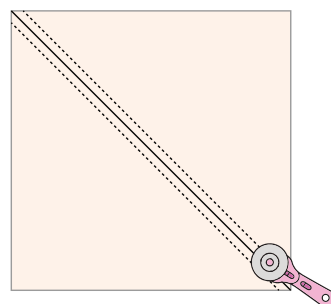
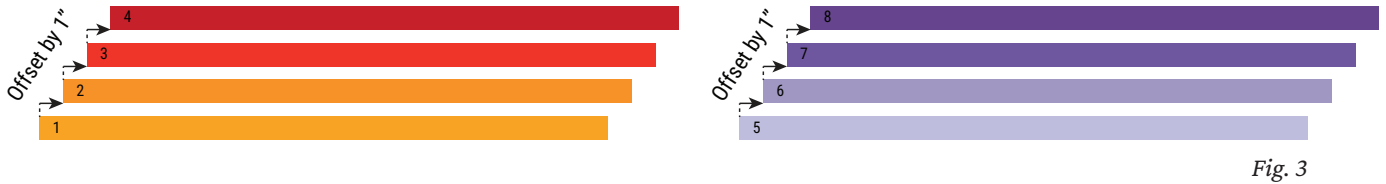


Fig. 2

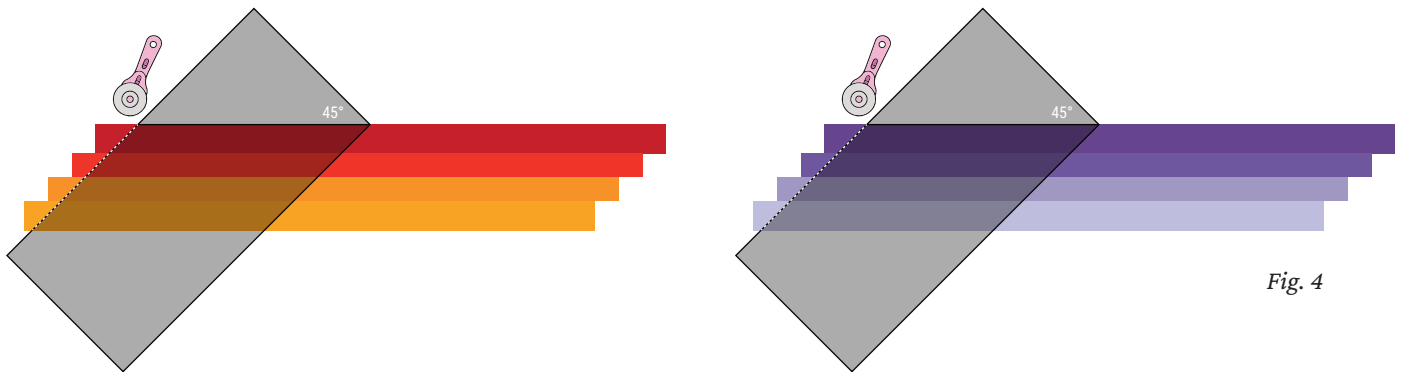
## ★ SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

This star is made of 8 identical diamonds, each comprised of (2) different strip sets, which we're going to start assembling. The only difficulty in this step is to keep consistent scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " allowances. Sew carefully and reduce the length of your stitches to 1.8 or 2, as this will prevent your seams from unravelling when you cut your diamonds.

1. Lay out one WOF strip each of colors 1-4 in ascending order, making sure to offset each strip by 1" along the left edge. The direction of the offset is important, so be sure to arrange the strips as shown. Carefully sew the strips together using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press seams open. Repeat with colors 5-8 (Fig. 3).



2. Line up each strip set with the 45° line on your ruler and trim off the selvages (Fig. 4).



3. Line up either the top or bottom of the strip set with the 45° line on your ruler and cut: (16)  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diamonds from each strip set. We'll call them strips A (colors 1-4) and strips B (colors 5-8). Be sure to cut strips in the direction of your offset.

Precision is really important at this stage. You're cutting fabrics on the bias, so it's easy to be out of alignment after your first cut, so take your time, and trim the strip set if necessary before continuing.

Discard any excess strip set pieces (Fig. 5 - 6).





Fig. 6

**Good job! You now have all the pieces you need to create your diamonds. Intersections are always a bit tricky to assemble, but you and I are going to do just fine!** First, a little preparation.

**4.** Use your ruler and a fabric marking tool and mark a line  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the right edge of all your strips A, and half of your strips B (right side). This will serve as a reference point for joining your intersections (*Fig. 7*).

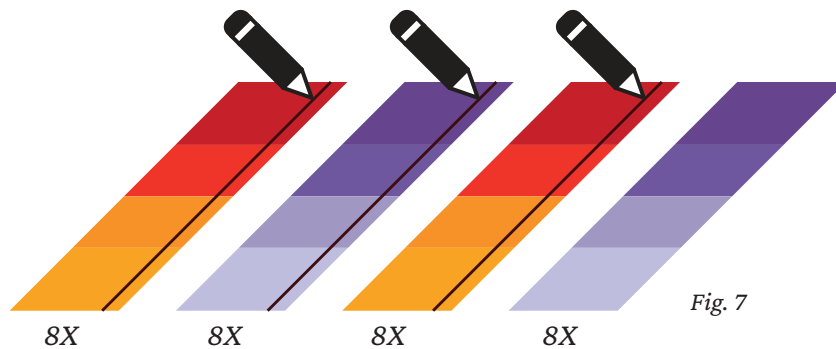


Fig. 7

**5.** Align (1) strip B on top of (1) strip A, RST, with the tips of the strips set  $\frac{1}{4}$ " over the edges as shown (see the black circles in *Fig. 8*). Pay attention to the color placement.

Lift the edge of the top diamond slightly and align the intersections at the mark you've drawn. Pin each intersection. Proceed with caution, as your bias edges can warp easily if pulled while sewing (*Fig. 9*).

You can now sew your strips together  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge to create a large strip (as shown by the dotted line *Fig. 8*). Press seams open.

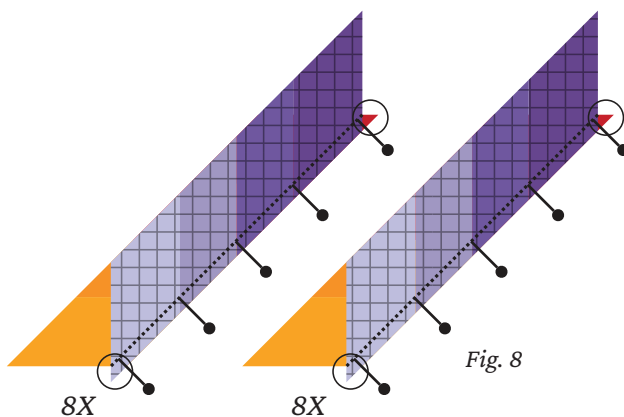


Fig. 8

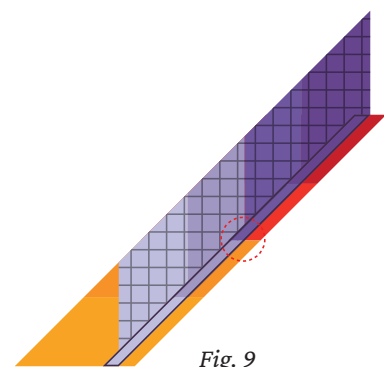
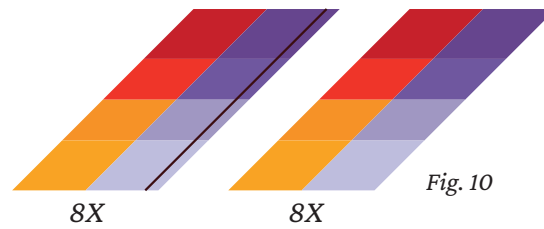


Fig. 9

**Tip:** cut the "dog ears"/overlaps that stick out as your pieces are assembled. This will reduce the bulkiness of your quilt and prevent them from showing through your top.

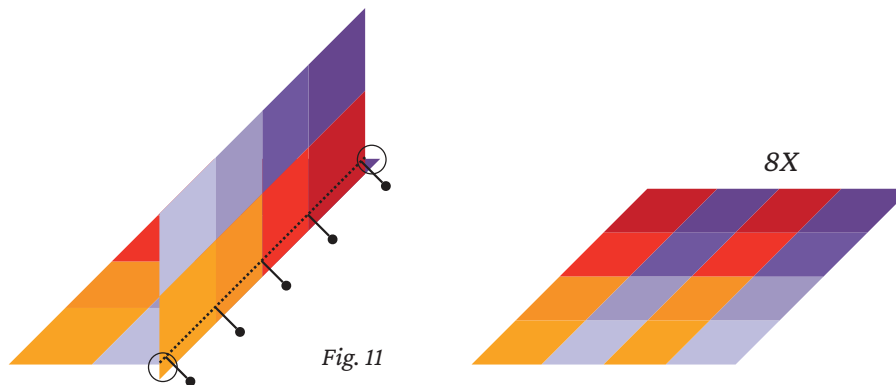
6. Repeat with all strips A and B to have a total of (16) large strips (Fig. 10).



If you want perfect intersections, don't hesitate to use your seam ripper, then adjust the meeting points before re-assembling. Everyone has different requirements, and this is a time-consuming process. It's up to you to find the right balance.

7. Align (1) large strip with no marks on top of (1) large strip with marks, with the tips of the strips set  $\frac{1}{4}$ " over the edges as show (see the black circles in Fig. 11). Pin each intersection and sew your strips together  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. Press seams open.

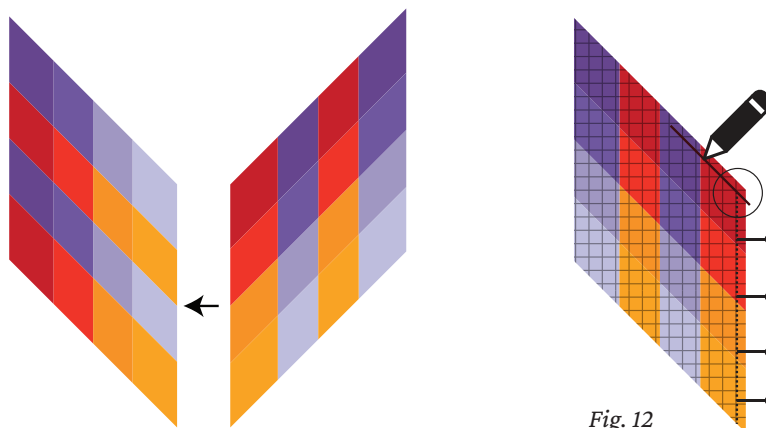
Repeat with all large strips to have a total of (8) diamonds (Fig. 11).



**You've done it! These little diamonds are ridiculously cute! Before you know it, they'll turn into perfectly adorable stars. Let's go!**

## ★ ASSEMBLING THE STAR

8. Each star is made up of 4 identical quadrants. Prepare them as shown below using (2) diamonds. Start by sewing the quadrant halves together, RST, starting  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top edge and securing your seam with a few backstitches. Pay attention to the alignment of the diamond seams throughout. Repeat with all diamonds. Press seams open (Fig. 12).



9. We'll now prepare the first Y seams. You'll find that it's not as difficult as it looks!  
 On the wrong side of one background triangle, make two marks  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edges of the right angle (Fig. 13).

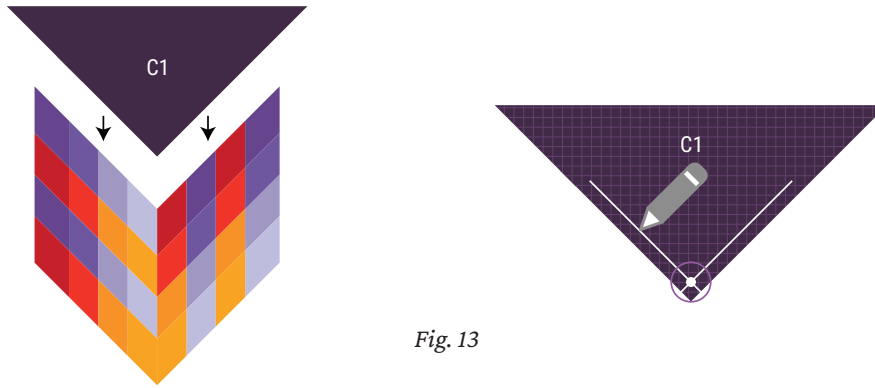


Fig. 13

10. Pass a pin through the point where these marks meet and the point where your bottom diamond seam ends. Start your seam in the center, working towards the edge. Secure the starting point with one or two backstitches, but do **not** go beyond the starting point!

The C1 triangle is slightly bigger than the diamonds (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch), nothing to worry about! Don't force anything, just make sure each triangle edge is sewn evenly to the quadrant diamonds.  
 Sew along one side of triangle, then press seam open (Fig. 14).

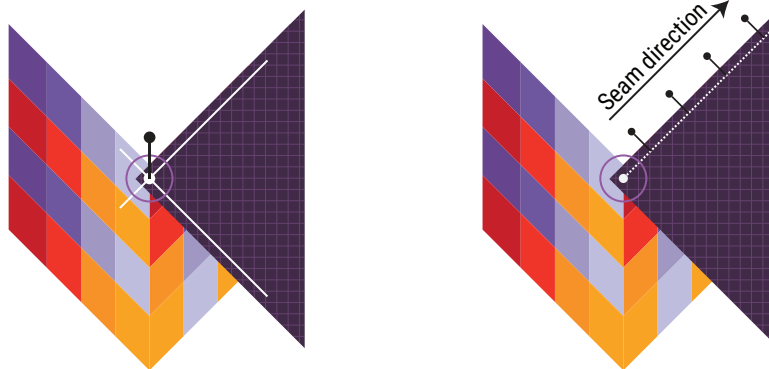


Fig. 14

11. Flip your C1 triangle so that it's RST with the adjacent diamond. This time, I prefer to place the triangle at the bottom, so that I can easily sew from the center (your quadrant is folded at this point, which is normal). Carefully align these two sides, pin, then sew from the center to the edge. Press seam open (Fig. 15).

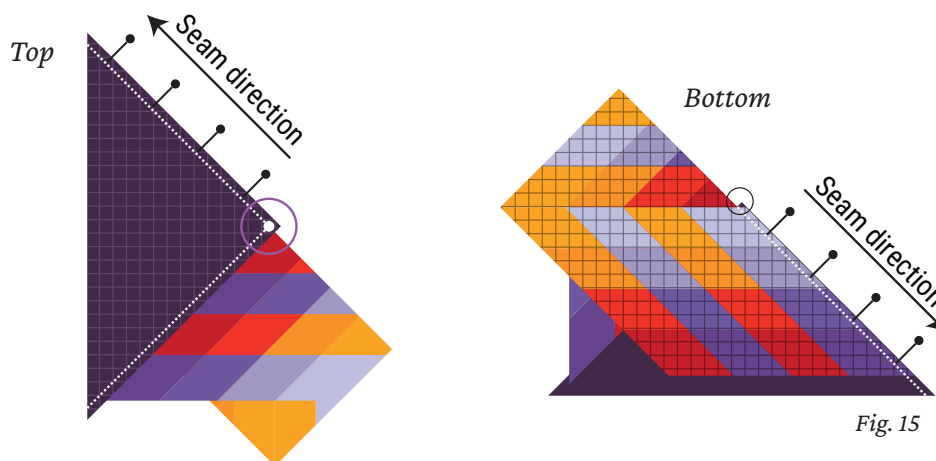
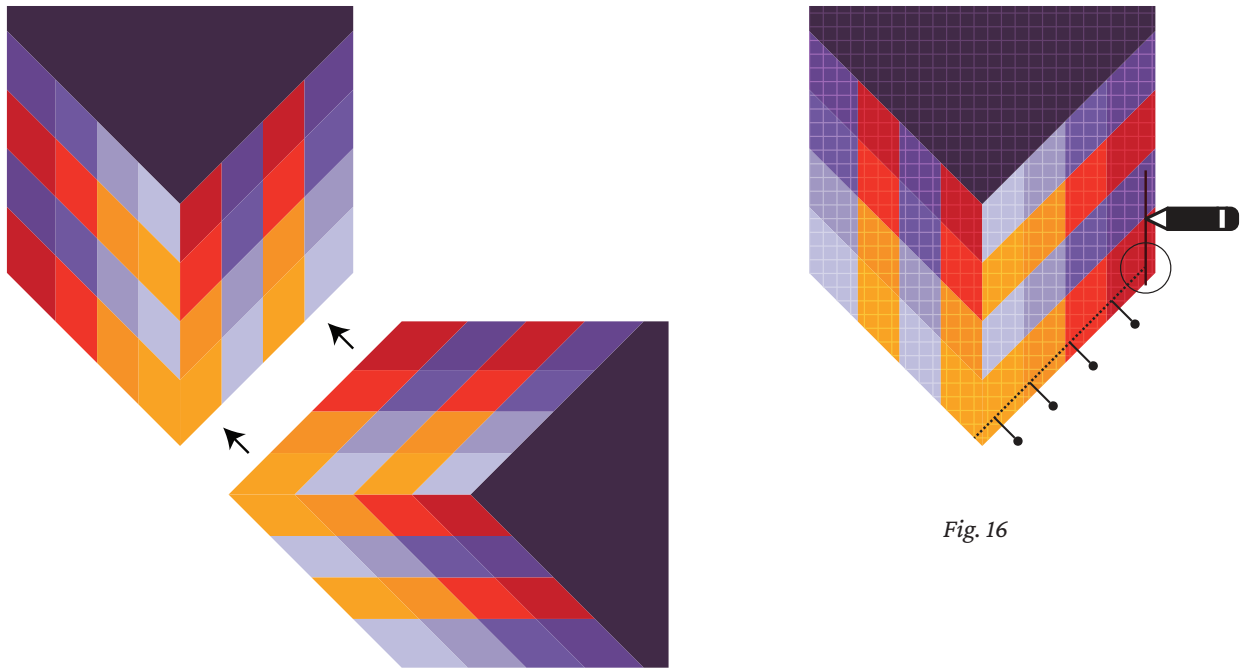


Fig. 15

12. Repeat steps 9-11 for all 4 quadrants of the star. Trim the “dog ears”.

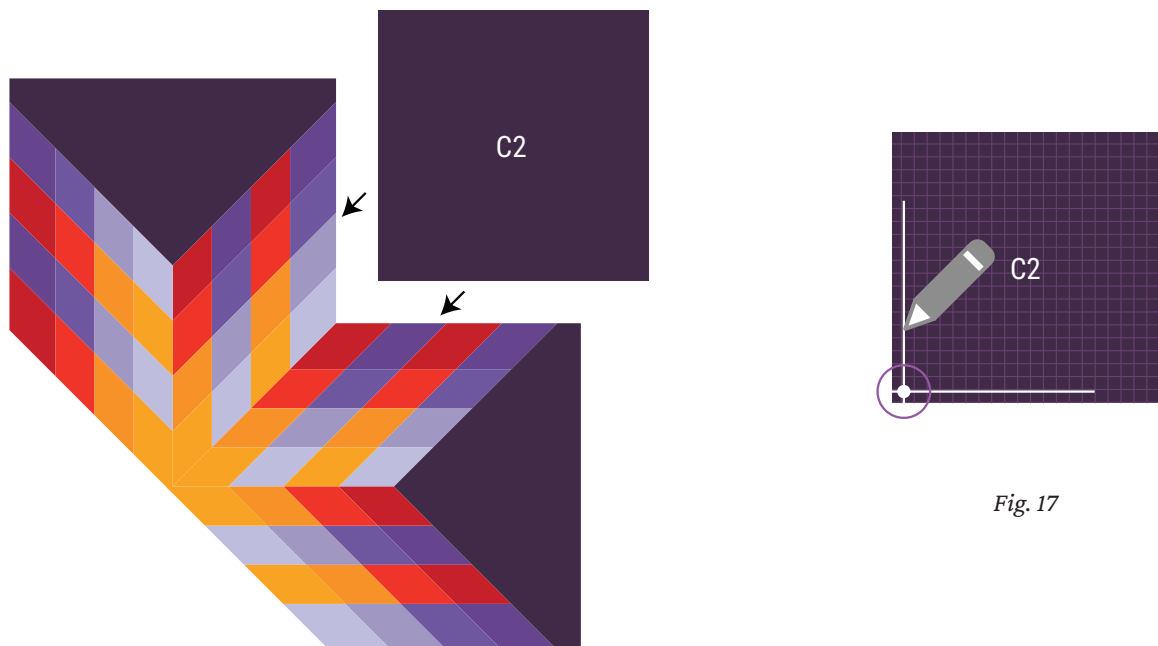
**How’s it going? Not so bad, eh? Y-seams aren’t as hard as they look, and will give you a much more fitted background. I can’t live without them!**

13. Once all triangles are added to the quadrants, join the quadrants together. Begin by aligning the edges of (2) quadrants. Align intersections, pin and sew, starting  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” away from the outer edge towards the center (see the black circle in *Fig. 16*). Press seam open (*Fig. 16*).



*Fig. 16*

14. The quadrant corners will be sewn in a similar manner to how you sewed your triangles, but this time you’ll use the C2 squares. On the wrong side of your square, make two marks  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” from the edges of a corner (Fig. 17).



*Fig. 17*



15. Pass a pin through the point where these marks meet and the point where your bottom diamond seam ends. Align the edges.

Start your seam from the marked point and sew towards the outer edge of the diamond. Secure the starting point with one or two backstitches, but do **not** go beyond the starting point! Press seam open (Fig. 18).

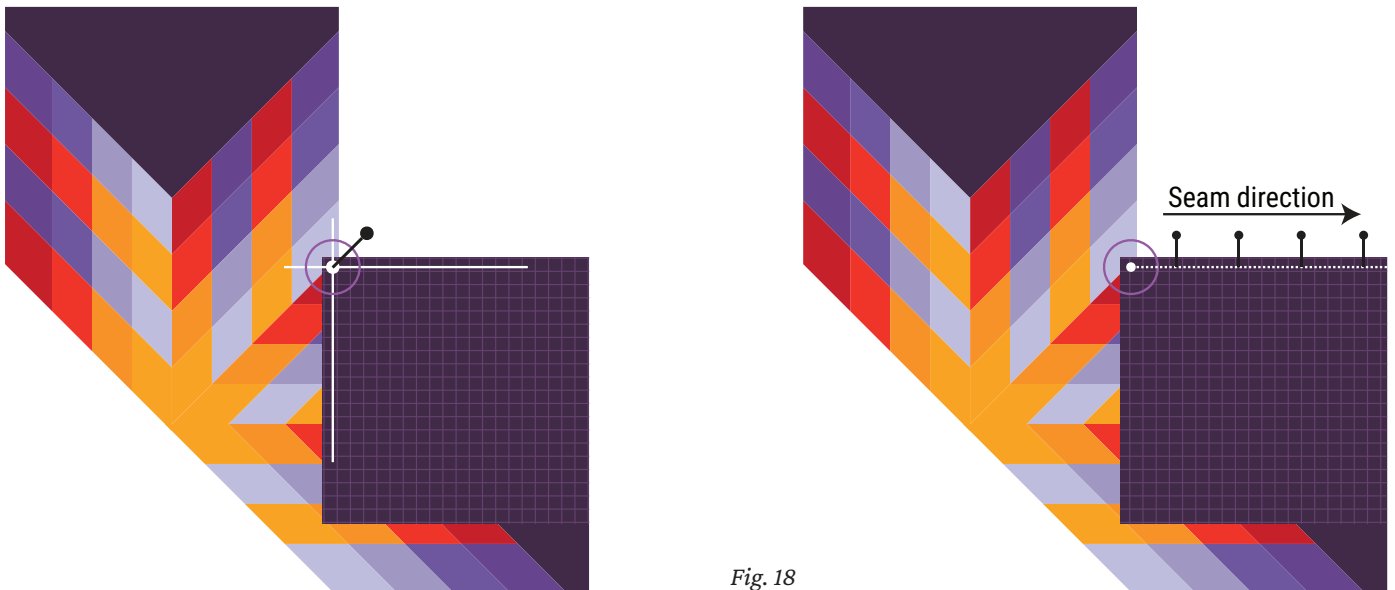


Fig. 18

16. Turn your square so that it's RST with the adjacent diamond row. With the square on the bottom, align the sides, pin and sew from the center to the edge. Press seam open (Fig. 19).

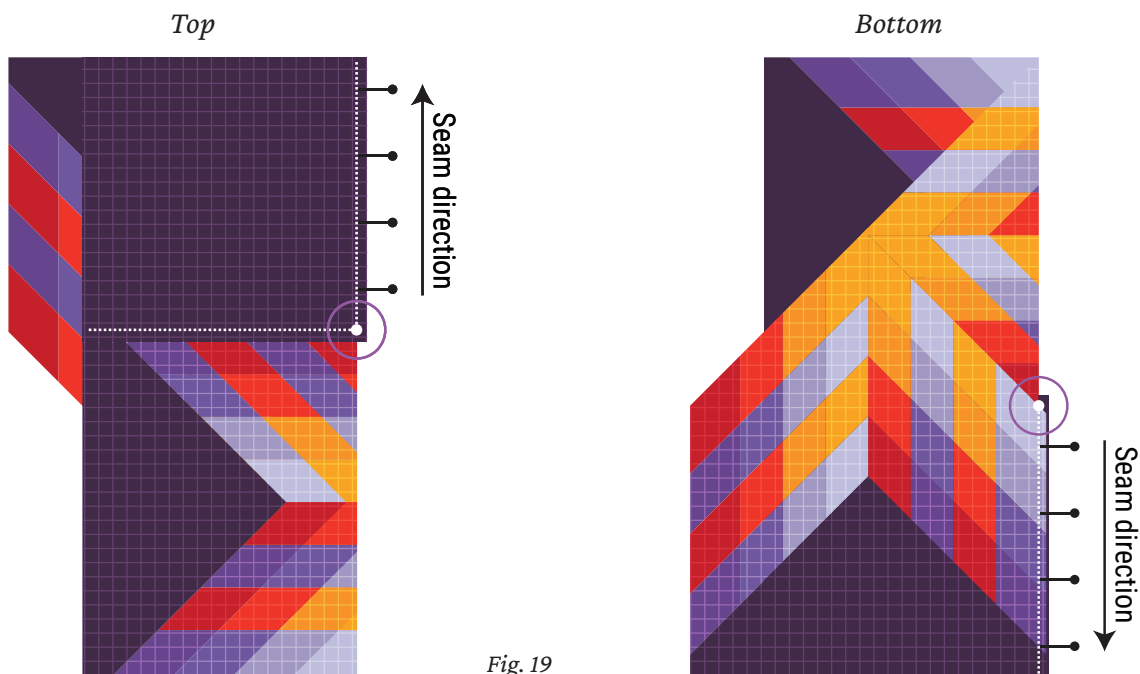
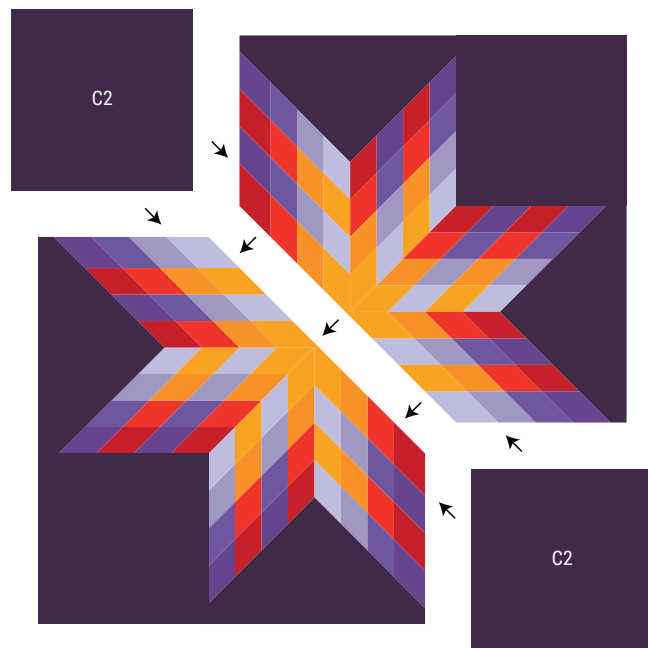


Fig. 19

17. Repeat steps 13-16 to create your second star half.

We're almost there, just a few more seams and your star will be done! Are you as excited as I am?

**18.** Assemble your (2) star halves in the same way you did steps 14 - 16, paying attention to the alignment of the diamond seams throughout, and stopping  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the two outer edges as before. Press seam open. Then join the last two square pieces to the star. Press seams open (*Fig. 20*).



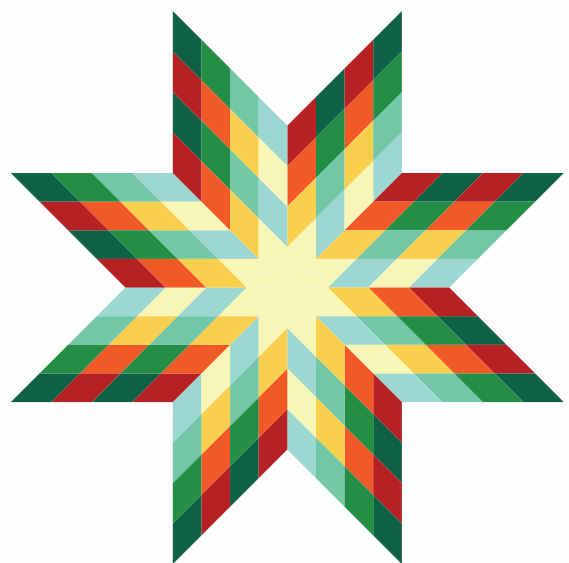
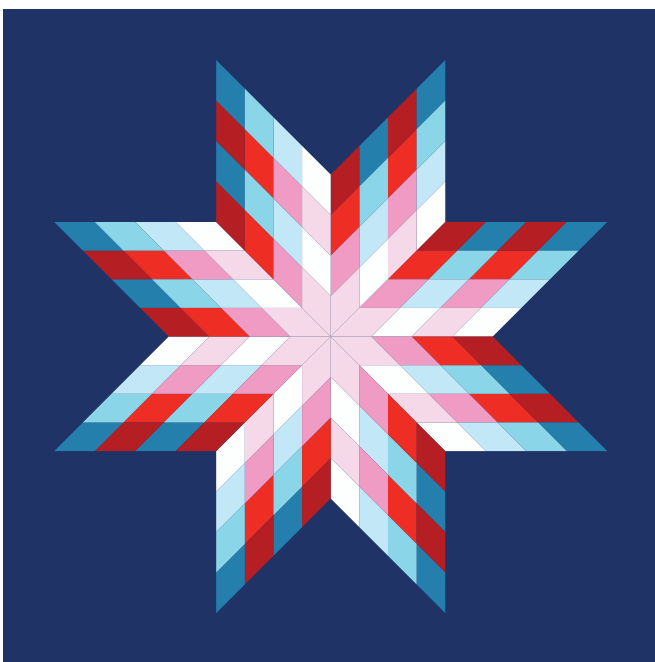
*Fig. 20*

**19.** Square up your block if necessary.

**Bravo my friend, you've done it! I'm proud of you!**

**Not quite satisfied? Look on the bright side, you've done a pretty star and you can do it again as many times as you like for practice. Turn your block into a wall hanging, cushion cover or tote bag. With 4, 9 or 16 stars, you'll be able to create a fabulous, colorful top! I look forward to seeing your creation!**

**Softness, colors and love to y'all!**



*(Color inspiration)*

