

## QUILT ALONG – WEEK 5

Remember, we use a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on all quilt blocks.

### Old Maid's Puzzle

Fabric requirements: Background, main color, second color. This block needs a lot of contrast between the main color and the second color. It is made up of HST's (Half Square Triangles) and squares.

From the background cut:

5 –  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

4 – 2" x 2" squares

Main color, cut:

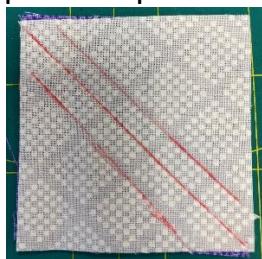
3 –  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " X  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

2 – 2" x 2" squares

Second color, cut:

2 –  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

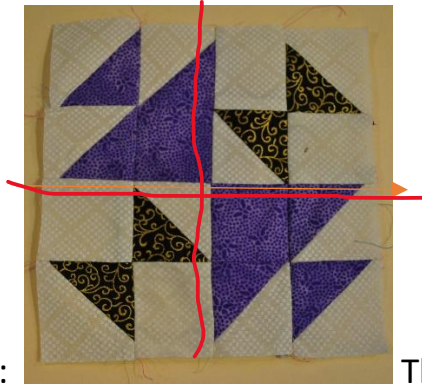
Step 1 – using a background  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square and a main color  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square, layer right sides together, mark a diagonal line, corner to corner, and sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of the line. Cut on the diagonal line, open and press. You have 2 half square triangles. Repeat for



a total of 6 half square triangles.

Step 2 – Repeat Step 1 using the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " background squares and the second color for a total of 4 half square triangles

Now, to assemble the blocks. Pay attention to the orientation of the Half Square Triangles. You will note that the second color HSTs "kiss" in the upper right block and the lower left block.



Step 3 – Assemble the block in quarters: The upper left corner uses a HST (half square triangle) + HST, 2<sup>nd</sup> row HST 2" x 2" Square. Repeat for bottom right quarter.

Upper right corner, 2" x 2" background square + second color HST, Row 2 = Second color HST + 2" x 2" background square. Repeat for lower left quarter.

### MARTHA WASHINGTON'S STAR

There is more than one way to make half square triangles, flying geese and pinwheels.

We are going to follow the original way to construct this block. There are bias edges which need to be handled carefully to prevent stretching.

Careful attention is needed to make sure your pieces are the correct size.

Fabrics: background, color 1 for the center (purple), color 2 for the square in the square (pink) and color 3 for the star points (blue).

From the background cut: 4 - 2" x 2" squares;

1 - 4 1/4" x 4 1/4" square; Cut diagonally twice into 4 small triangles

1 - 2 3/4" x 2 3/4" square; Cut diagonally twice into 4 smallest triangles

From Color 1: 2 3/4" x 2 3/4" square cut diagonally twice into 4 small triangles

Color 2: 2 - 2 3/4" x 2 3/4" square— Cut each square in half diagonally = total of 4 triangles

Color 3: 4 - 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" squares cut in half diagonal = total of 8 triangles.

Step 1 – Using the background smallest triangles and the small triangles of Color 1, sew the



Make 4 sets like this. Join 2 sets together.





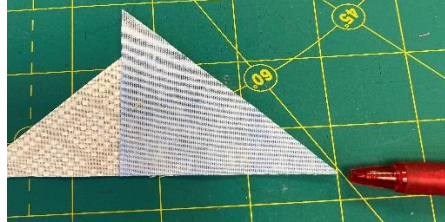
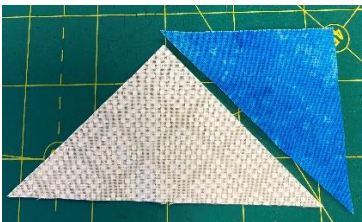
Make 2 more sets and join the two halves together. This is the center of the Martha Washington Star.

Step 2: Add the four outside triangles (pink in the illustration) to make a square in a square.



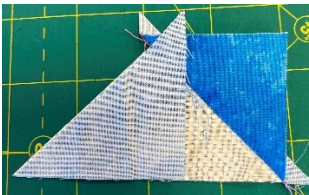
Step 3: Construct the flying geese. Using the large background triangle and 2 Color 3 triangles, Place one of the color triangles on the background triangle. NOTE: We are not centering the color triangle on the background.

Instead, line up the bottoms of the triangles and extra fabric will go to the top of the goose.



You can see by the red pen, that the corners line up. Sew and press open.

Now for the other wing.



Line up the corners and sew, press open. Make 4 flying geese units.

Step 4 Combine the flying geese units to the center square by sewing a goose unit to the top of



the center square and a second unit to the bottom of the center square.

Step 5 – Assemble the remaining sets. Sew a 2" x 2" background block to the short end of one of the geese. Sew another 2" x 2" background block to the other end of the goose. Repeat with the remaining goose.

Sew one goose + 2" x 2" background blocks to the left side center unit, sew the remaining goose + 2" x 2" background squares to the right side of the center unit. Press.



Martha Washington's Star has lots of pieces and you need to measure carefully and sew without stretching any of the bias edges. So, handle carefully and you may find that a starch alternative such as Best Press will help stabilize the bias edges.