

## Scrappy Star Block



Hello, I'm Karen (from Cape Town, South Africa), welcome to December and, with all the year-end madness, I do hope you will find time to make a block or two.

This is a traditional block (Sawtooth Star), stitched slightly non-traditionally, using a variety of blue or purple fabrics/scrap. This is an opportunity to use as many fabrics as possible in each block.

The block is 6-inches square finished, and 6½-inches square unfinished. You may make up to 9 for the drawing.

**Fabrics:** A selection of lighter and darker blues, or lighter and darker purples. They may be solids, tone on tone, novelty prints that read in the blue or purple range. Try to get similar tones in each of your lighter and darker fabric selections, but have a good contrast between light and dark. You can repeat fabrics but not more than two in a block, and blocks should all be different. You will see that some of my lighter ones are pale blue on white.

For each block you will need to **cut**:

- Darker: 4 x 2-inch squares
- 4 x 2-inch by 3.5-inch rectangles
- Lighter: 1 x 3.5-inch square
- 8 x 2-inch squares

I like to layout the pieces for each block to get a balance with the variety of pieces:



Start with sewing four small light squares to the four rectangles from the corner to the middle of the rectangle. You may mark a diagonal sewing line, but it is a short seam I just eyeball it!



Using your fingers, fold the triangle open and press with your finger nail.



Carefully open and trim only the middle layer a rough quarter-inch from the seam. Don't trim the rectangle. (I found that pressing with an iron can distort the diagonal seam.)



Repeat with the other light squares on the other ends of the rectangles.



I keep each of the units in their layout places. After making one trial block, I generally have two blocks in production at the same time.



**Sew** two of these units to opposite sides of the 3.5-inch square. Have the pieced unit on top so you can see the seam intersection. Gently press towards the square.

**Sew** a square to each end of the other two pieced units, using the intact rectangle as a guide to align the squares. Gently press towards the squares.



**Sew** sections together, butting the seams. Again, keep the pieced units on top so you can see the seam intersections. Press towards the centre square.



I hope you enjoy making these blocks.



