

Dancing Flags, 45" x 45"

Pattern Design by Kathy Arroyo

Show off your American spirit with Kathy Arroyo's patriotic *Dancing Flags* quilt. Strip piecing and a touch of simple appliqué make this design quick and easy to sew, and setting the blocks askew lets your flags dance in the breeze! For an easy embellishment option, substitute $\frac{3}{4}$ " buttons for the appliquéd circles on top of the flagpoles.

Materials List

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard dark blue for the flag star field
- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard red and white stripes for flags
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards light blue for the sky
- 1 fat quarter gold for the pole
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard red for narrow inner border
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards medium blue for outer wedge border and binding
- 3 yards for backing
- 49" x 49" batting
- Templar™ or freezer paper
- Spray sizing

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Dancing Flags

Pattern Design by Kathy Arroyo

45" x 45"



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Dancing Flags

MAKING THE QUILT

Finished Size: 45" x 45"

Finished Block Size: 11"

Materials List

- 3/4 yard dark blue for the flag star field
- 3/4 yard red and white stripes for flags
- 2 1/2 yards light blue for the sky
- 1 fat quarter gold for the pole
- 1/4 yard red for narrow inner border
- 1 1/2 yards medium blue for outer wedge border and binding
- 3 yards for backing
- 49" x 49" batting
- Templar™ or freezer paper
- Spray sizing

Cutting

The materials list and cutting instructions are based on cutting strips on the *lengthwise* grain of the fabric, except for the red narrow inner border which should be cut on the *crosswise* grain.

Please note: It is critical to cut the striped fabric on the *lengthwise* grain so the stripes in the flags run the correct direction.

	Row 1 Strip Set	Row 2 Strip Set	Row 3 Strip Set	Row 4 Strip Set	Row 5 Strip Set
Sky	none	1 3/8" x 17"	1" x 12"	1 1/2" x 19"	1" x 17"
Stars	3" x 21"	3" x 17"	3" x 12"	none	none
Stripes	4 1/4" x 21"	4 1/4" x 17"	4 1/4" x 12"	6 3/4" x 19"	6 3/4" x 17"
Sky	2 1/2" x 21"	1 5/8" x 17"	2" x 12"	1 1/2" x 19"	2" x 17"

Sky: *Cut 2 rectangles 5 1/2" x 40" for the E inner wedge quilt border. Note: Cut these first.
 Cut 18 (2 per block) A strips 1 1/2" x 8 1/2".
 Cut 9 C strips 1 1/2" x 9 1/2".
 Cut 18 rectangles 3" x 14" for the D wedges around the blocks.

Pole: Cut 9 B strips 1" x 8 1/2".

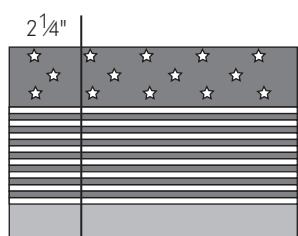
Inner border: Cut 4 strips 1 1/2" x width of fabric for the F narrow inner border.

Outer Wedge border: Cut 2 rectangles 6 1/2" x 49" for the G wedge quilt border.

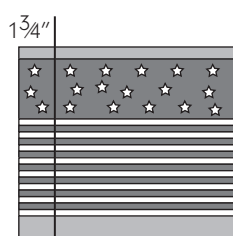
Flag Block Construction

Use 1/4" seam allowance. Press the in direction indicated by arrows.

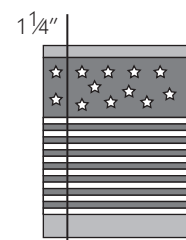
1. Sew strips together into strip sets for each row. Press.
2. Cut each strip set into 9 units as shown.



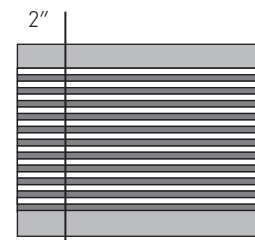
Row 1 Strip Set



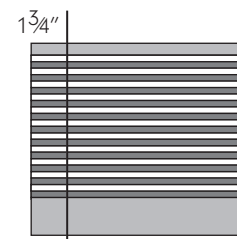
Row 2 Strip Set



Row 3 Strip Set

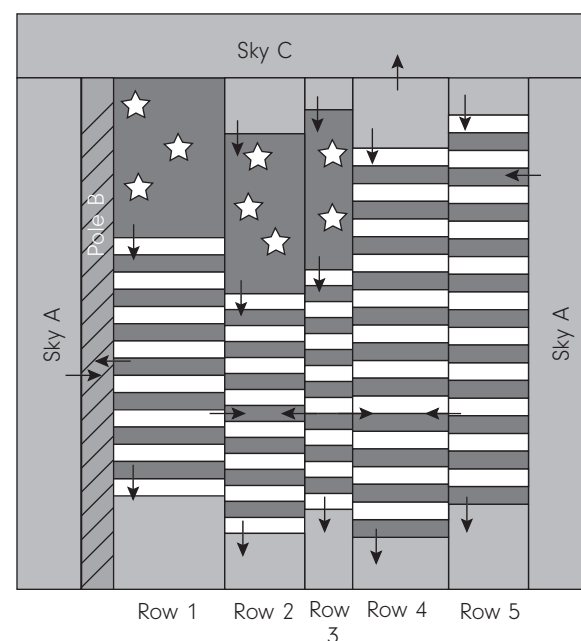


Row 4 Strip Set



Row 5 Strip Set

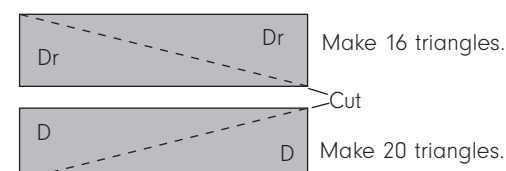
3. Matching the tops of the rows, sew Rows 1-5 together. The bottom edge of the block may be uneven at this point. Press.



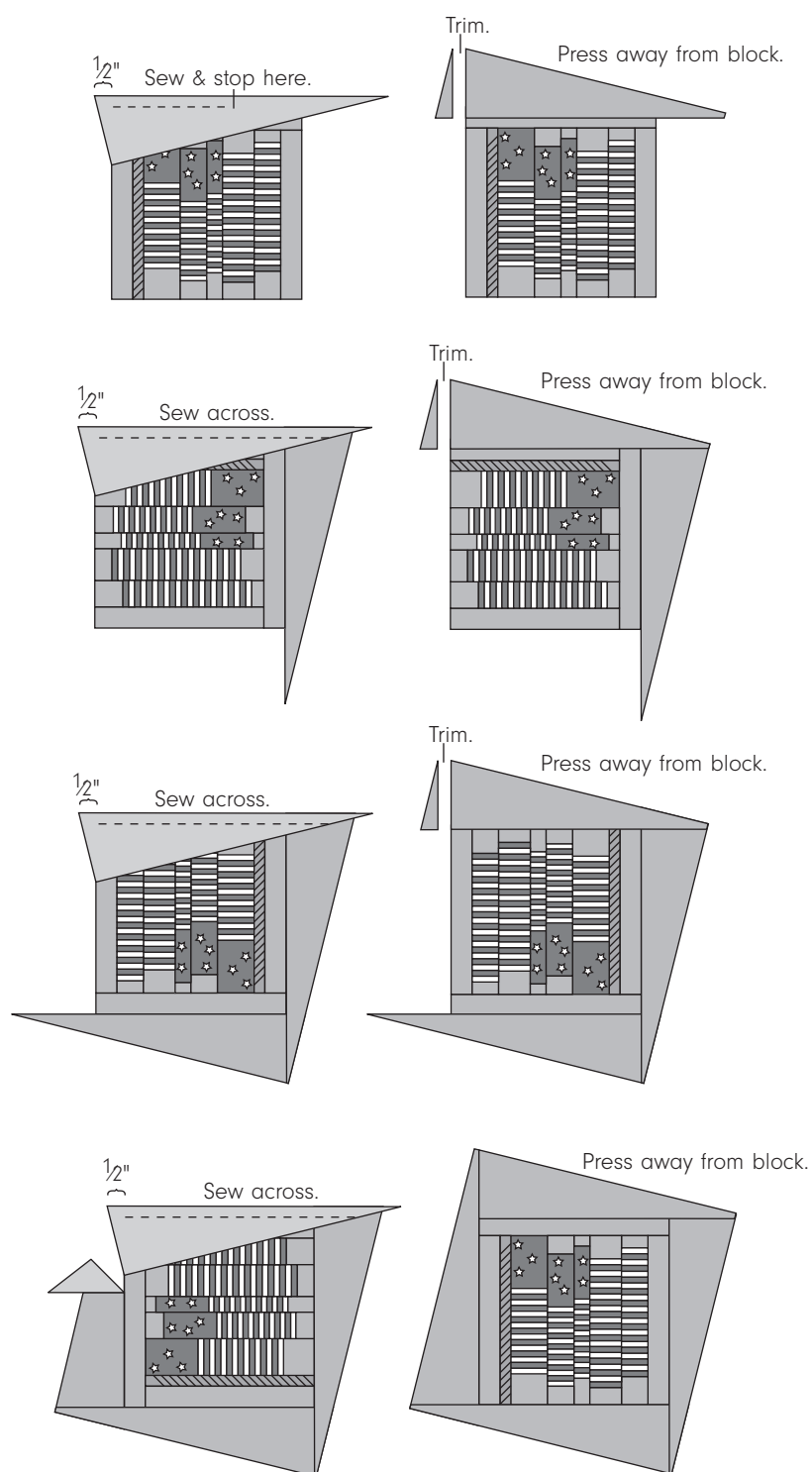
TIP

If fabric becomes too soft, use spray sizing when pressing.

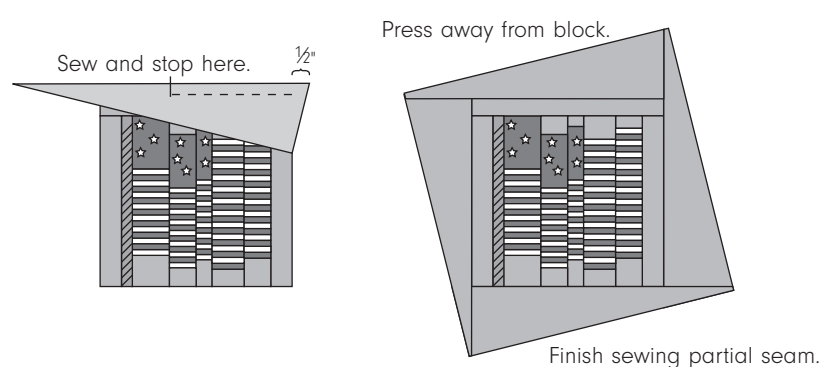
4. Sew one of the sky A strips to the pole B strip. Press.
5. Join the sky/pole unit to the left side of the block. Press.
6. Sew the second sky A to the other side of the block. Press.
7. Sew the sky C strip to the top of the block. Press. Trim the bottom of your blocks so the blocks measure 9 1/2" square.
8. Use spray sizing on both sides of the rectangles to keep the cut bias edges from stretching. Cut the 3" x 14" sky rectangles once on the diagonal into triangular wedges as shown. If cutting multiple layers, make sure to stack them with right side of fabric up.
9. Sew the bias edge of a D triangular wedge to the top of 5 flag blocks. Note that the corner of the wedge extends 1/2" past the edge of the block. The first wedge is sewn with a partial seam.



Press the seam away from the block. Trim the wide end of the wedge even with the side of the block. Rotate the block clockwise. Add the next 3 D triangular wedges in the same manner, rotating the block clockwise each time and sewing entire seam. Press the seams away from the block. Sew the rest of the partial seam to complete the block. Trim blocks to measure $11\frac{1}{2}$ " square.

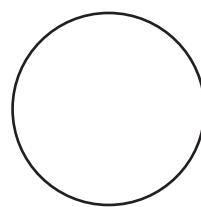


10. Sew the bias edge of a Dr triangular wedge to the top of the remaining 4 flag blocks. Note that the corner of the wedge extends $\frac{1}{2}$ " past the edge of the block. The first wedge is sewn with a partial seam. Press the seam away from the block. Trim the wide end of the wedge even with the side of the block. Rotate the block counter-clockwise. Add the next 3 Dr triangular wedges in the same manner, rotating the block counter-clockwise each time. Press the seams away from the block. Sew the partial seam to complete the block. Trim blocks to measure $11\frac{1}{2}$ " square.

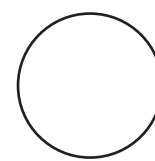


Pole Top Appliqué

1. Baste fabric circles around Templar or freezer paper pattern.



Cut 9 from your pole fabric.



Cut 9 from Templar.

2. Use spray sizing on the fabric circles. Press edges. Remove Templar or freezer paper after circle is dry and cool.

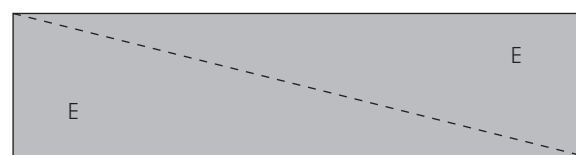
3. Pin and appliqué a pole-top circle to the top of each flagpole. Press gently from the wrong side. You can also wait until all the blocks are sewn together and appliqué all the circles then.

Quilt Construction

1. Alternate the placement of the flag blocks so they dance. See quilt assembly diagram. Sew together into 3 rows of 3 blocks each. Press the seams of each row in an alternate direction.

2. Join the rows together. Press the seams in one direction. Your quilt center should measure $33\frac{1}{2}$ " square.

3. Use spray sizing on both sides of the rectangles before you cut diagonally to keep the cut bias edges from stretching. Individually cut the $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x 40" sky E rectangles once on the diagonal right side up into triangular wedges as shown.



Cut from top left to bottom right, with right side up.

TIP

Use two long rulers placed end to end to cut the rectangles diagonally.

4. Sew the bias edge of an E triangular wedge to the top of the quilt. Note that the corner of the wedge extends $\frac{1}{2}$ " past the edge of the quilt. Press the seam toward the wedge. Trim the wide end of the wedge even with the side of the quilt. The first wedge is sewn with a partial seam. Add the next 3 E triangular wedges in the same manner, rotating the quilt counter-clockwise each time. Press the seams toward the wedges. Sew the partial seam to complete the border. Square up corners of the quilt and trim to measure 38" square.

5. For the red narrow inner border, cut 2 lengths 38" for the side borders and 2 lengths $39\frac{1}{2}$ " for the top and bottom borders.

TIP

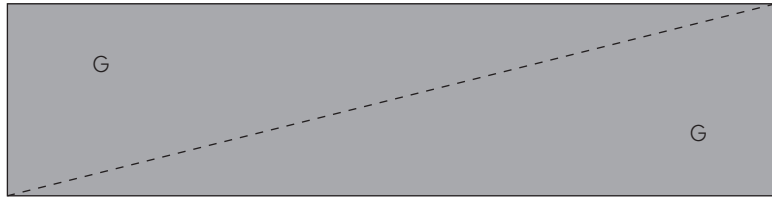
Always measure your quilt and cut the border strips to your quilt's measurements.

6. Sew the narrow side inner borders to the quilt top. Press seams toward the narrow border.

7. Sew the narrow top and bottom inner borders to the quilt top. Press seam toward the narrow border.

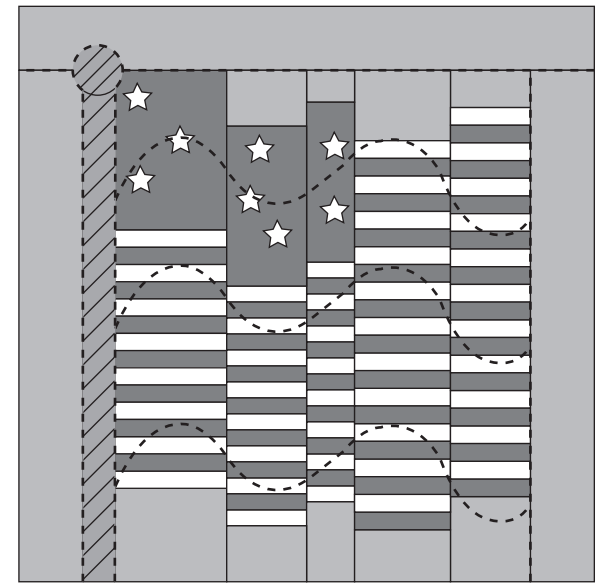
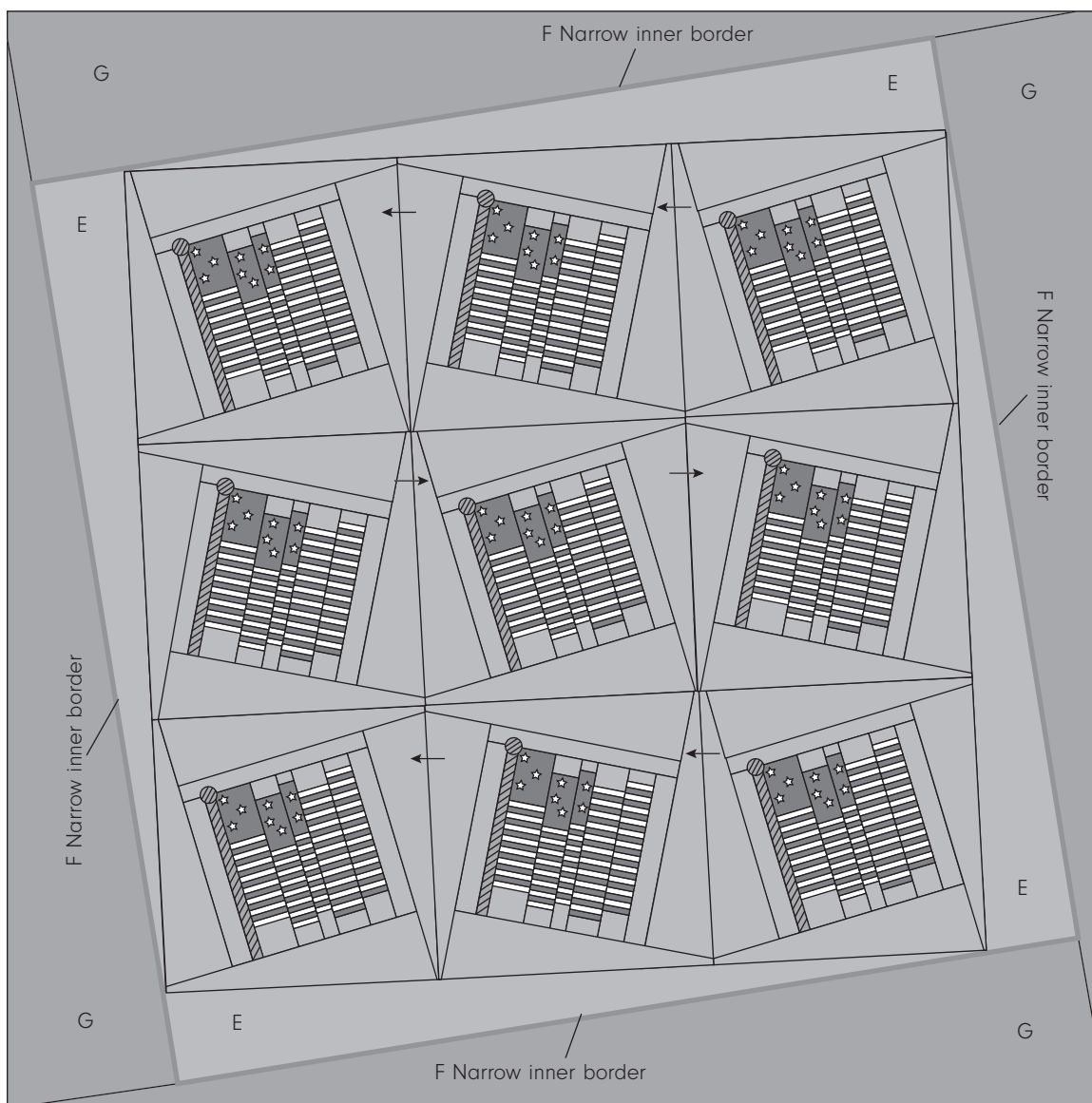
8. It is difficult to achieve a straight, finished narrow border, so the strips for the inner border were cut wider than needed. To trim them to size, place a ruler on the seamline and trim the inner borders to $\frac{3}{4}$ ". This includes the finished border of $\frac{1}{2}$ " and a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

9. Use spray sizing on both sides of the G rectangles before you cut diagonally to keep the cut bias edges from stretching. Individually cut the 6½" x 49" medium-blue G rectangles on the diagonal right sides up into triangular wedges as shown.



Cut from bottom left to top right, with right sides up.

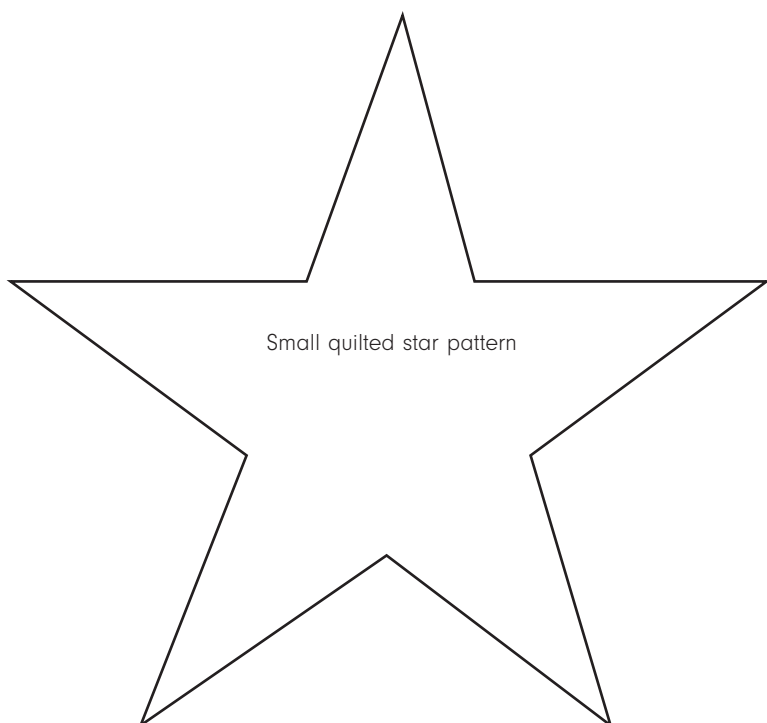
10. Starting at the top of quilt, sew the bias edge of the G triangular wedge to the quilt. Note that the corner of the wedge extends ½" past the edge of the quilt. Press the seam toward the wedge. Trim the wide end of the wedge even with the side of the quilt. The first wedge is sewn with a partial seam. Add the next 3 G triangular wedges in the same manner, rotating the quilt clockwise each time. Press the seams toward the wedge. Sew the partial seam to complete the border. Square up corners of the quilt. The quilt will measure approximately 45" square.



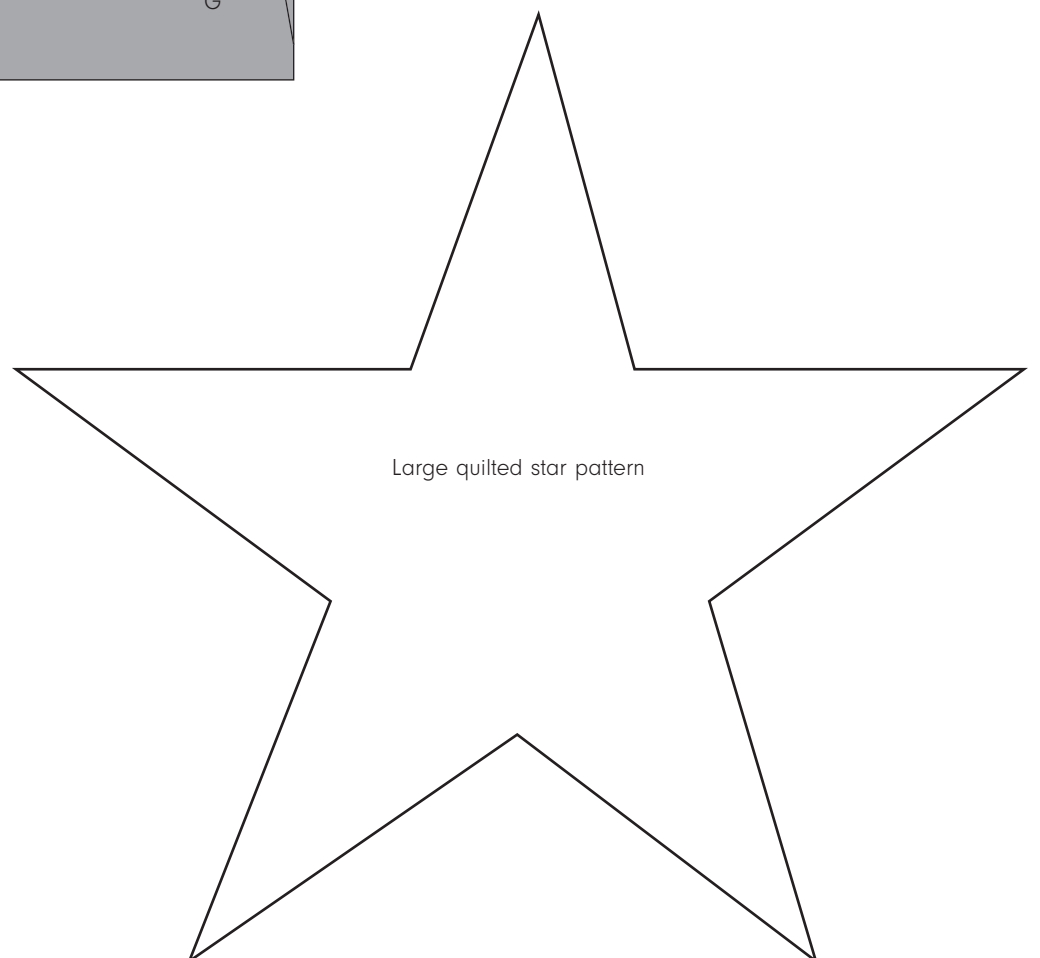
Flag Block Quilting Design

Finishing

1. Layer, baste, and quilt in-the-ditch around the flag pole, and the flag blocks, and between the rows. Quilt 3 wavy lines across each flag. Quilt large stars scattered among the flag blocks. In the outside medium-blue border, quilt large and small stars. Note that some of the star tips are "lost" as if the inner narrow red border has overlapped them.
2. Bind your quilt. Optional: Add a hanging sleeve to your quilt before binding. Cut a strip of fabric 9" x the width of the quilt. Turn the 9" ends under ¼" twice to form a narrow hem and sew in place. Fold the strip in half lengthwise. Match and pin the raw edges of the sleeve to raw edges of the quilt top. Sew the binding, catching in the sleeve at the same time. Sew the bottom edge of the sleeve to the quilt back.



Small quilted star pattern



Large quilted star pattern

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Seam Allowances

Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. It's a good idea to do a test seam before you begin sewing to check that your $\frac{1}{4}$ " is accurate.

Pressing

Press lightly in an up-and-down motion. Avoid using a very hot iron or over-ironing, which can distort shapes and blocks.

Backing

Plan on making the backing a minimum of 2" larger than the quilt top on all sides. Prewash the fabric, and trim the selvages before you piece.

Batting

The type of batting to use is a personal decision; consult your local quilt shop. Cut batting approximately 2" larger on all sides than your quilt top.

Layering

Spread the backing wrong side up and tape the edges down with masking tape. (If you are working on carpet you can use T-pins to secure the backing to the carpet.) Center the batting on top, smoothing out any folds. Place the quilt top right side up on top of the batting and backing, making sure it's centered.

Basting

If you plan to machine quilt, pin-baste the quilt layers together with safety pins placed a minimum of 3"-4" apart. Begin basting in the center and move toward the edges first in vertical, then horizontal rows.

If you plan to hand quilt, baste the layers together with thread using a long needle and light-colored thread. Knot one end of the thread. Using stitches approximately the length of the needle, begin in the center and move out toward the edges.

Quilting

Quilting, whether by hand or machine, enhances the pieced or appliqué design of the quilt. You may choose to quilt in-the-ditch, echo the pieced or appliqué motifs, use patterns from quilting design books and stencils, or do your own free-motion quilting.

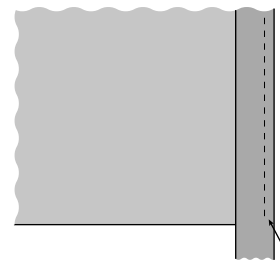
Binding

Double Fold Straight Grain Binding (French Fold)

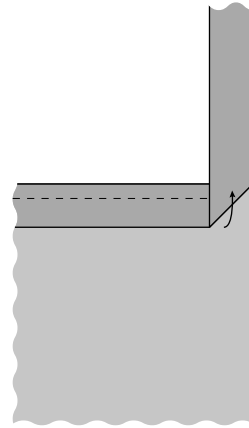
Trim the excess batting and backing from the quilt. If you want a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " finished binding, cut the strips $2\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and piece together with a diagonal seam to make a continuous binding strip.

Press the seams open, then press the entire strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together. With raw edges even, pin the binding to the edge of the quilt a few inches away from the corner, and leave the first few inches of the binding unattached. Start sewing, using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

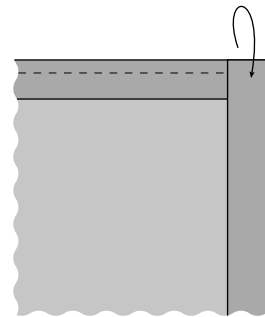
Stop $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the first corner (see Step 1), backstitch one stitch. Lift the presser foot and needle. Rotate the quilt one-quarter turn. Fold the binding at a right angle so it extends straight above the quilt (see Step 2). Then bring the binding strip down even with the edge of the quilt (see Step 3). Begin sewing at the folded edge.



Step 1. Stitch to $\frac{1}{4}$ " from corner.



Step 2. First fold for miter

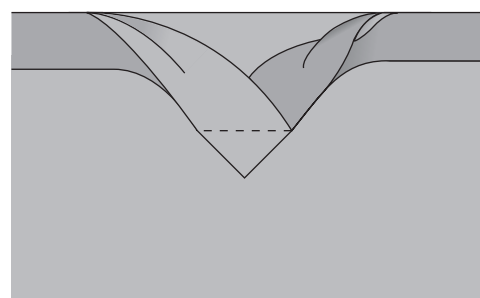


Step 3. Second fold alignment. Repeat in the same manner at all corners.

Finishing the Binding

This is one method of finishing the binding. Fold the ending tail of the binding back on itself where it meets the beginning binding tail. From the fold, measure and mark the cut width of your binding strip. Cut the ending binding tail to this measurement. For example, if your binding is cut $2\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, measure from the fold on the ending tail of the binding $2\frac{1}{4}$ " and cut the binding tail to this length.

Open both tails. Place one tail on top of the other tail at right angles, right sides together. Mark a diagonal line and stitch on the line. Trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Press open. Finish stitching the binding to the quilt. Turn the binding over the edge of the quilt to the back so that the fold covers the stitching line. Hand stitch in place.



Stitch ends of binding diagonally.

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