

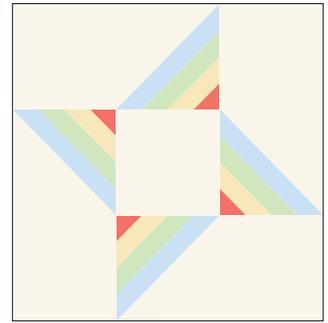
*I didn't grow up quilting – quilting was something I chose as a hobby not long after I went from being a workaholic to being a stay-at-home mom. I needed that feeling of accomplishment that I missed from working, and I found it in making pretty things. Over the years, I've made more quilts than I can count and one of the styles of quilts that I always find that I'm drawn to are scrappy quilts. Quilts with lots of pieces, quilts with lots of story. I always feel like scrappy quilts are like a fabric scrapbook for a quilter, with each fabric harkening back to some previous project, so the block I designed for the Splendid Sampler evokes that very idea. Using some simple strings and a familiar star shape, you can create your very own little fabric scrapbook of sorts in this block.*

## Heartstring Star

for the Splendid Sampler™

Elizabeth Dackson

Finished Block Size 6" x 6"



### Block Instructions

You'll need:

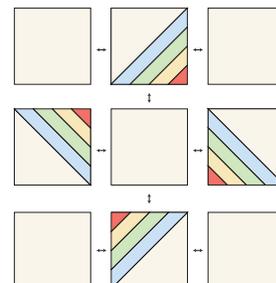
- Background fabric – (2) 3 1/4" squares cut in half diagonally  
(4) 2 1/2" squares
- Center focal fabric - (1) 2 1/2" square
- Assorted strings - (4) 1" x 4 1/2"  
(4) 1" x 4"  
(4) 1" x 3 1/2"  
(4) 1" x 2 1/2"

This block uses a simple method of foundation paper piecing to accomplish the string sections. The paper foundation provides the ability to use skinny strings without fear of warp or stretch.

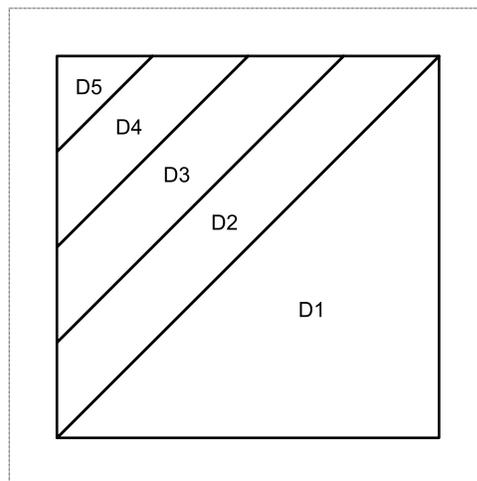
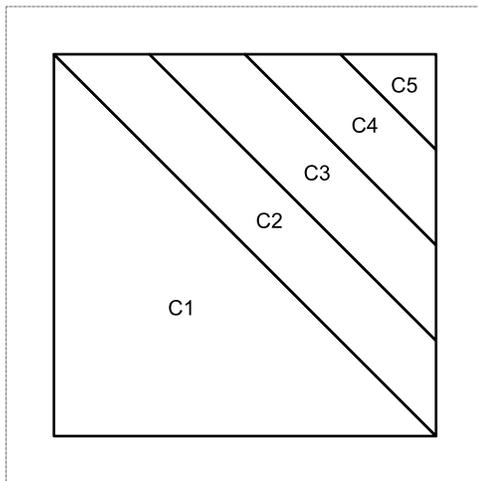
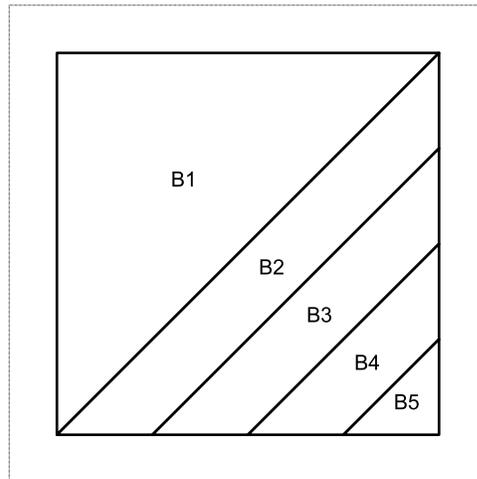
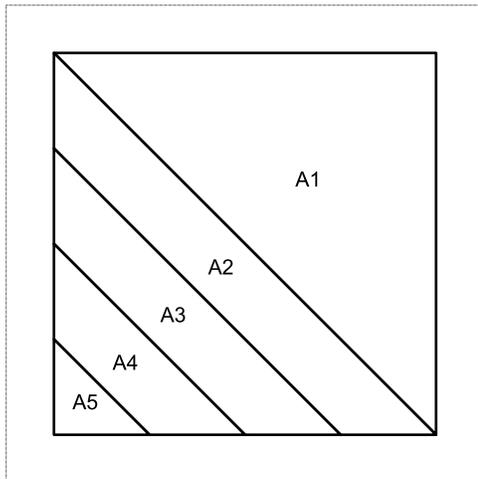
### Paper Piecing

1. Prepare four paper templates. Trim about an extra 1/4" around the outside of each template. Shorten your sewing machine stitch length to an approximate 1.5" mm. Next, take one of the background fabric triangles and place it on the unprinted side of the template in such a way that it covers the entire A1 section of the template. The triangle will be slightly too large, and this is perfectly okay. Make sure to cover all of the A1 section as well as into the seam allowance around the A1 section, and about 1/4" over the line where A1 and A2 meet. Take a moment to ensure that the fabric is right side out, and use a dab of school glue on the wrong side of the fabric to hold it to the template.
2. Take one of your longest strings, the 1" x 4 1/2" size, and place it right sides together with your A1 fabric, with a bit of excess fabric hanging off both sides of the seam allowance. Align this fabric in such a way that just about 1/4" of it is hanging over into the A2 section. In paper piecing, always place your fabric where you've just been, not where you want the fabric to end up after you've placed the first fabric on a template!

3. Sew this long string, A2, in place using that shortened stitch length we set up in step 1, sewing all the way through the seam allowance at both ends and backstitching. Open up your A2 fabric and press well. Trim any excess fabric in the seam allowance down to an approximate 1/4".
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with your next string, for A3, which will be 1" x 4".
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with your next string, for A4, which will be 1" x 3 1/2".
6. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with your next and final string, for A5, which will be 1" x 2 1/2".
7. Repeat steps 1-6 for your three remaining templates.
8. Bring one template at a time to your cutting mat. Place the template with the printed side (not fabric side) up facing you. Align a clear quilting ruler with the dark edges around the template and trim away the excess paper and fabric from all four sides of the template. Repeat for all four sides of each template.
9. Arrange your four paper templates, four background squares, and center focal square as shown. Sew units together into rows, then sew rows together to complete block. Press seams open as you go, and remove the paper from the templates once block is complete. To remove paper, simply fold paper back to the nearest seam line and perforate using a fingernail, hand presser, or side of a pencil, then tug gently to remove.



# Paper Piecing Template

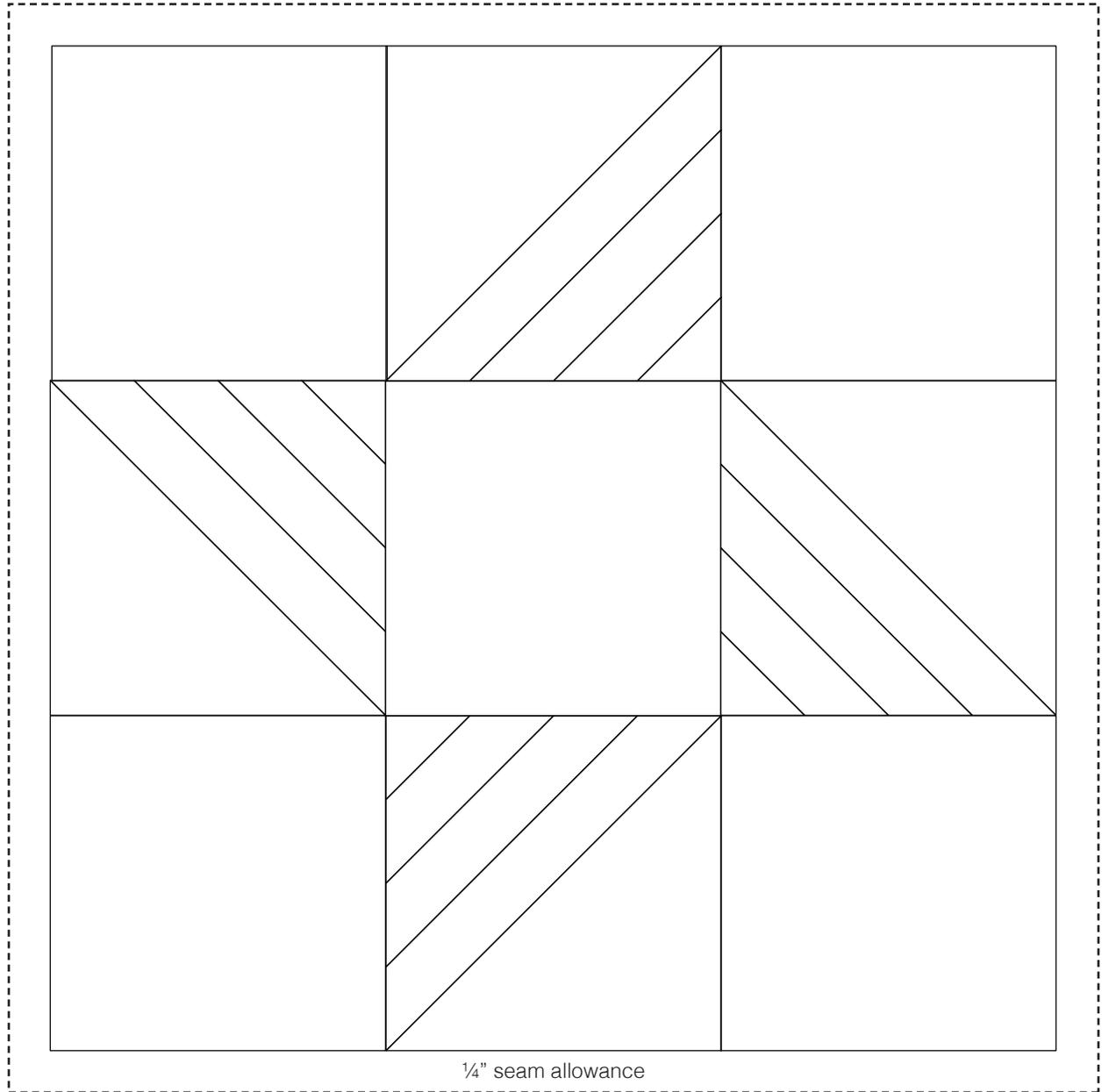


Template in reverse

Do not 'fit to page' or scale

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1 inch



Do not 'fit to page' or scale

1 inch

#TheSplendidSampler

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