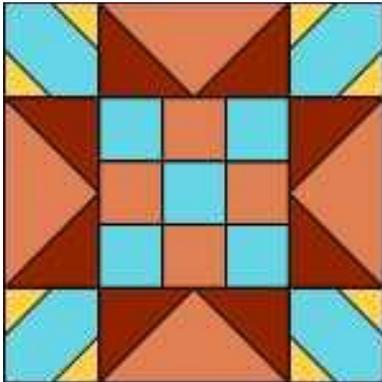


HSV Quilt Guild 2020 BOM – Stars Over Arkansas – Quilt Barn Trail Quilts

Month 12 –Mexican Star



This block is a variation of the traditional Mexican Star block. It appears along the Baxter County quilt trail (#5-4 according to the Baxter County website, but shown as #5-3 in the brochure). The best image of this block can be seen on the Arkansas Quilt Trail Facebook page (July 25, 2019 post). See <https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasQuiltTrails/posts/455548631667509>. More information about the Arkansas Barn Quilt Trails may be found at www.arkansasquilttrails.com.

History: The Mexican Star quilt block has been attributed to a number of different people. According to Barbara Brackman in her book *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns* (number 2937 at page 356), this block may have been created by Ruby Short McKim in the 1920s or 1930s, or by Nancy Cabot under the name “Panama Block,” or by Marguerite Ickis under the name “Mexican Rose.”

Construction: This is a fairly easy block comprised of a nine patch center, four flying geese units, and four corner squares.

Fabric: You will need four colors of fabric.

- Color one (shown as turquoise) – (5) 2.5” squares for the nine patch and (4) 3.5” squares for the corners.
- Color two (shown as light brown) – The fabric required will vary depending on the method you use to make the flying geese (see the tutorial referenced, below).
- Color 3 (shown as dark brown). The fabric required will vary depending on the method you use to make the flying geese ((see the tutorial referenced, below).
- Color 4 (shown as yellow) – (8) 1.75” squares for the covered corners.

First, make the nine patch block using the 2.5” squares of colors one and two. Square this unit up to 6.5”

Next, make the four flying geese units using colors two and three. Your finished unit will measure 3x6” (3.5”x6.5” raw). A good tutorial showing the various ways to make flying geese is here: <https://www.fabric.com/blog/sewing-101-flying-geese-3-ways/>

Finally, make the corner units using the 3.5” squares of color one and the 1.75” squares of color two. These units are made using a “Stitch and flip” or “covered corner” method often used in making snowball blocks. There are many good tutorials for making this unit. Here is one: <https://www.scrapish.com/stitch-and-flip.html>. Square the completed units to 3.5”.

Sew the units into rows, as shown, and the rows into the block. Trim the final block to 12.5", if necessary.

Here is a photo of my finished block:



Final Thoughts:

Wrapping up!! OK, ladies, we have reached the end of the trail! I hope you enjoyed this block of the month program and that you will bring your completed quilt to show and tell. I very much look forward to seeing all of your wonderful creations. Be sure to check in periodically on the barn quilt website. New barn quilts and new trails are being created all the time.