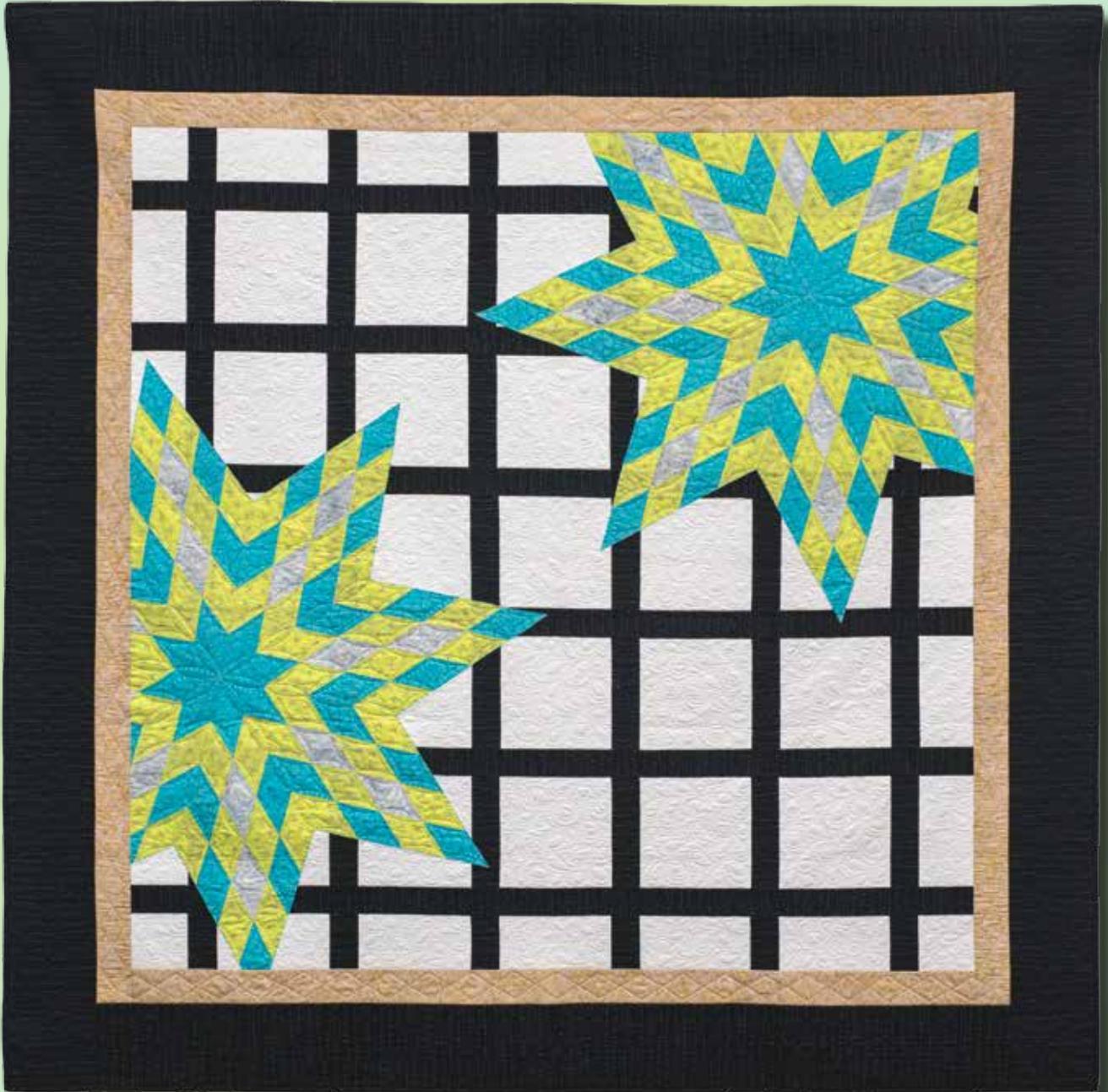


Photobomb

by Stacey Day



Design by Stacey Day. Quilted by Joan Nicholson. Lone Star fabrics by Michael Miller

Skill level: Intermediate • Finished quilt size: 77" x 77"

Photobomb is one of my favorite quilt designs. I love the idea of Star blocks popping into a simple pieced background with borders designed to look like a matted frame. Have fun choosing colors for the two stars for your quilt; you can make them the same or different. Try an inverted background with black blocks and grey sashes, or rainbow stars for a quilt that is sure to please!

Materials

Notes: Requirements are based on 42" usable width of fabric.

White solid for the background blocks – 2½ yards

Black solid for the background blocks, binding, and borders – 3½ yards

Green print for the star points – 1⅜ yards

Teal print for the star points – 1⅛ yards

Grey print for the star points – ½ yard

Tan print for the border – ¾ yard

Backing – 85" x 85"

Batting – 85" x 85"

Spray starch or alternative

Basting spray (optional)

Cutting

Notes: All strips are cut across the width of fabric (WOF) unless stated otherwise.
An extra 2" has been added to border strips to allow for adjustments.

From the white solid: 25 squares 8½" x 8½" (A)
4 squares 4½" x 4½" (B)
20 rectangles 4½" x 8½" (C)

From the black solid: *Note: Border and sashing strips are cut parallel to the selvage.*
5 strips 2½" x 80" for long sashing
2 strips 6½" x 79½" for border #2 top/bottom
2 strips 6½" x 67½" for border #2 sides
8 strips 2¼" x WOF for 318" of continuous binding.
30 rectangles 2½" x 8½" (D)
12 rectangles 2½" x 4½" (E)

From the green print: 16 strips 2¾" x WOF

From the teal print: 12 strips 2¾" x WOF"

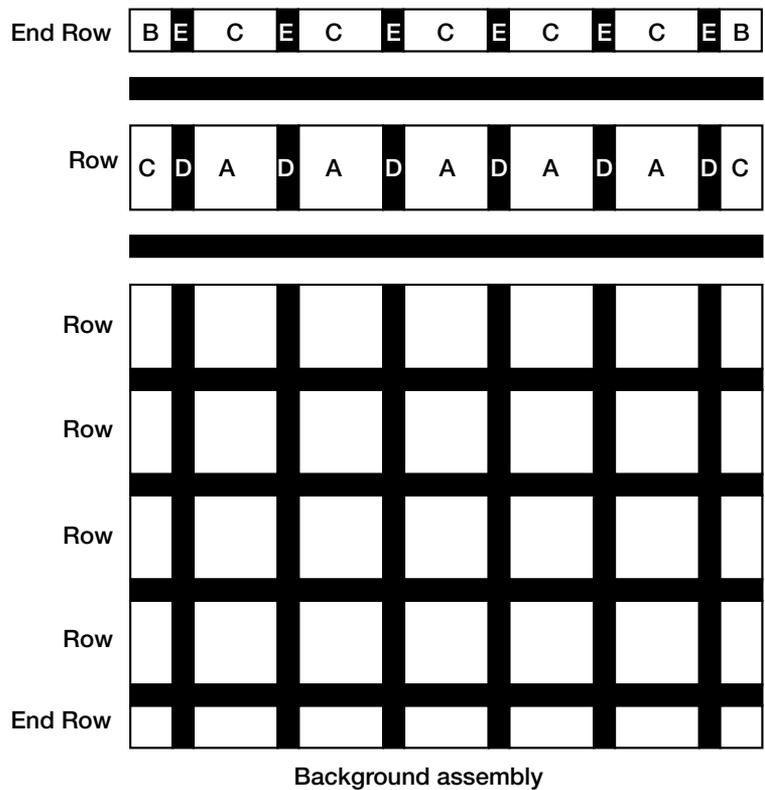
From the grey print: 4 strips 2¾" x WOF"

From the tan print: *Note: These strips must be pieced.*
2 strips 3" x 67½" for border #1 top/bottom
2 strips 3" x 62½" for border #1 sides

Making the background

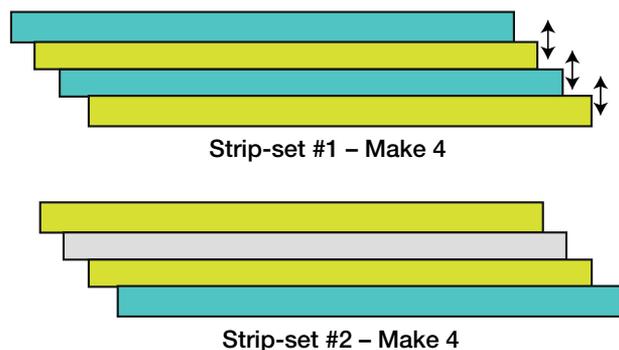
Following the background assembly diagram, lay out a row of 5 A squares, 2 C and 6 D rectangles. Sew together. Press seam allowances toward the D rectangles. Make 5. In the same way, make an end row using 2 B squares, 5 C and 6 E rectangles. Make 2. Lay the rows out as shown in the diagram.

Sew the long sashing strips into 1 long strip. Find the average length of your rows by measuring each of the 7 (including end rows), adding the measurements, then dividing by 7. Cut 6 sashing strips of this length from the long strip. Join the rows and sashing strips alternating sashing with rows, and starting and ending with end rows. Press seam allowances toward the sashing. Press the background well so that it lies flat and smooth.

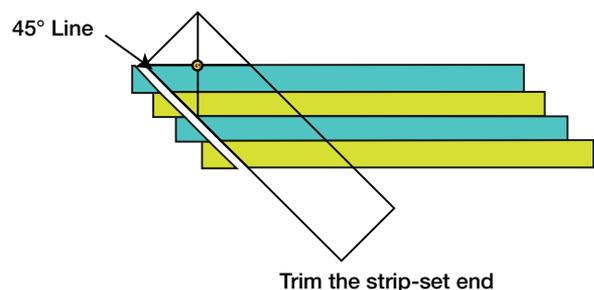


Making the Lone Stars

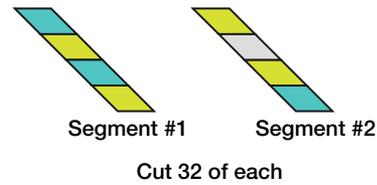
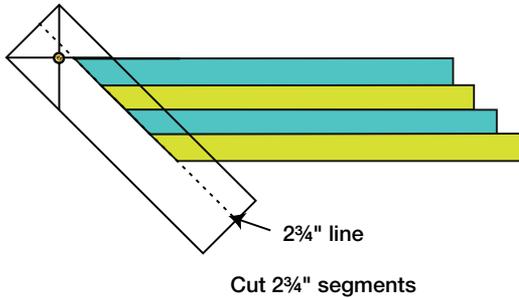
Sew 2 green and 2 teal strips into a staggered strip-set offsetting the ends by about 2". Press the seam allowances open. Repeat to make 4 strip-set #1. In the same way, make 4 staggered strip-set #2 using 2 green, 1 teal and 1 grey strip in each.



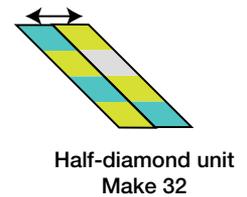
Trim the end of a #1 strip-set at a 45° angle.



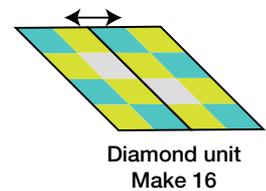
Align the 2¾" line of the ruler with the trimmed end and the 45° line with the top edge of the strip-set, and cut a segment. Cut 32 segments from the #1 strip-sets. As you go make sure that the end of the strip-set is always at a true 45° angle; retrim the end of the strip-set if necessary. In the same manner, cut 32 segments from the #2 strip-sets.



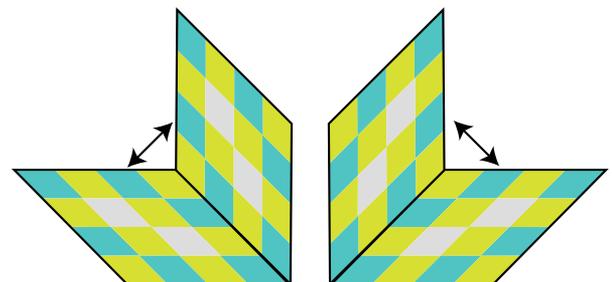
Join a #1 segment and a #2 segment to make a half-diamond unit. Press the seam allowances open carefully to ensure the units do not warp. Make 32.



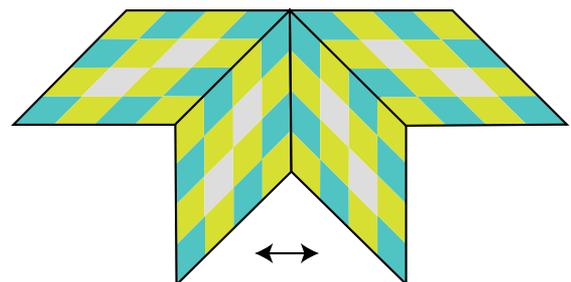
Join 2 half-diamond units to make a diamond. Press seam allowances open. Use a spray starch to help the diamond hold its shape. If warping occurs, use a light misting of water on the diamond, pin it into shape, and then press with a hot iron. Make 16 diamonds.



Join 8 diamond units into pairs. Carefully press all seam allowances open. Join the pairs into half stars. Sew the half stars together to make a Lone Star. The star should lie flat. Make 2.



Each Lone Star will be raw-edge appliquéd to the background, so carefully trim the ¼" seam allowance from the outer edge of the stars.

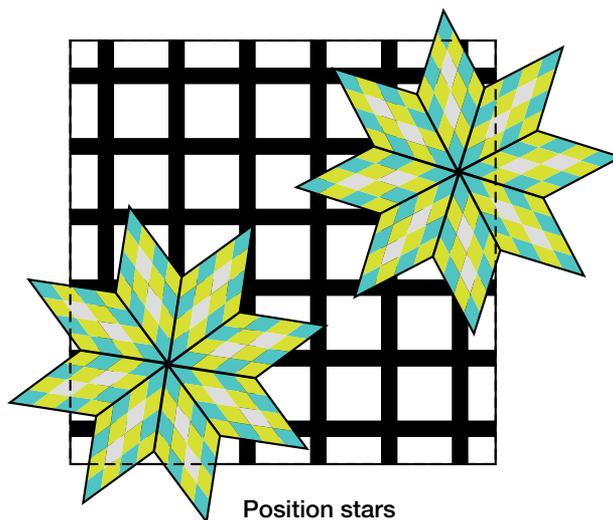


Lone Star assembly

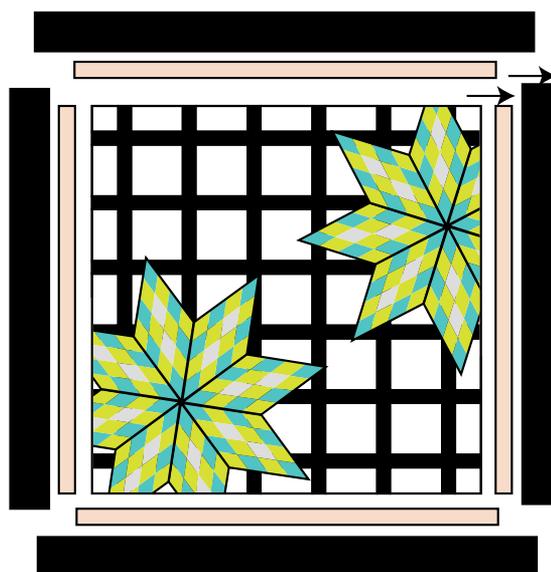
Finishing the Top

Lay the background out flat, right-side up, on the floor or a flat surface. Tape it down, applying slight tension to make sure there are no wrinkles. Lay the stars right-side up on the background. Place them as I have, or however you desire. Notice how my stars are slightly tilted. Pin the stars to the background. *Tip: Use a light basting spray on the back of the stars to help them stick if you like.*

Use a small zigzag stitch in a neutral or coordinating thread to appliqué the stars to the quilt top. Trim the stars even with the background.



Measure the vertical length of the quilt through the center and cut 2 tan border #1 strips to this measurement. Sew them to the sides of the quilt. Press all seam allowances toward the border. Measure the width of the quilt through the center, including the side borders you just added. Cut 2 strips this length and sew them to the top and bottom of the quilt. Measure and sew the black border #2 strips to the quilt in the same manner.



Quilting & finishing

Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Baste to secure. Joan Nicholson quilted a freehand paisley in the white background squares and mimicked the shape of the diamonds in the borders surrounding the quilt. The Lone Star diamonds were quilted with a simple curved echo to help them pop.

Sew the binding strips together for 318" of continuous binding. Finish the edges of your quilt with double-fold binding.

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