
Double Star Quilt with Fancy Tiger

Chapter 1 - Double Star Quilt

Introduction

(light lively music) - Hi, I'm Jamie. - And I'm Amber, (together) and we're from Fancy Tiger. - Fancy Tiger Crafts is a shop in Denver, Colorado that sells supplies and teaches classes for sewing, knitting, quilting, crochet, embroidery, felting and spinning. - We're also known for some of our patterns that we've published. We're known for our garment patterns but we also love making quilts. The quilt that I'm going to teach is a double-star quilt, which is something that started as a personal project but I'm going to teach you how to make it yourself. The fabric choice is really important because what makes this motif pop is the high-contrast, so I'm going to walk you through how to choose the perfect fabric for your quilt. - This simple quilt top is a great beginner project and it's built using half-square triangles, which is a traditional quilting motif. - We're going to make a small quilt but you can easily make a larger queen-sized quilt by adding more borders. - You can make this quilt your own by using the selection of prints from your favorite designer or try it out in solids. The simplicity of this quilt makes it great to play with contrasts. (light lively music)

Materials

- To make the throw size, slash baby size, quilt, you will need four fat quarters of a dark fabric, and 10 third of a yard of a light fabric, and you want a really high contrast here, and you can see how this is very dark, and this is very light. It's gonna make a really nice start motif. For your queen size quilt, you'll need nine cuts of light fabrics, a yard each. We're gonna use a quarter inch foot on our machine. We have quarter inch seam allowance on our quilt, so this is gonna help up line it up really nicely. I have thread snips, and thread here, as well as a rotary cutter, which I'm gonna use on my mat with two rulers. I have a square ruler that's 12 and a half inches. You'll need one about this big, at least 11 and a half inches for the size squares that we're cutting, and this one has a nice diagonal line that's gonna help us make our half square triangle squares really neat. I also have a six by 24 inch ruler, and that's gonna help me cut my longer border pieces. You can use your square ruler for that, but the six by 24 inch ruler is a really versatile ruler that I like to use a lot. Pins are optional. A lot of folks like to use them to make sure that their pieces are together, but if you're comfortable sewing without pins, you don't need that. I also have my sewing machine, and I'll need an iron and an ironing board. You can find these materials on fancytigercrafts.com. Follow the link on the classes page to find them.

Make Star Motif

Cutting out fabric

- I'm gonna start by cutting the squares for my half square triangles. I'm first gonna cut four of my dark fabrics into 11 and 1/2 inch squares, and then cut them on the diagonal. First, cut my edges straight. This one looked pretty straight but you just wanna make sure that you have a nice 90 degree corner to start with. So, I'm going to use my long ruler. Line it up with the straight edge that you just cut, and that's gonna give you a 90 degree line here to make one corner of your square. Using my square ruler, we'll cut an 11 and 1/2 inch square. This is lined up with the 11 and 1/2 inch line

on both edges of the fabric. Trim along the edge of the ruler (cutting) to make this a nice, neat 11 and 1/2 inch square. Using my long ruler, I'm going to cut from one point to the other, creating 2 half-square triangles. From your remaining 3 dark fat quarters you'll want to cut the exact same thing, as well as from a mix of 4 of your light fabrics. Now we're gonna cut the smaller half-square triangles, which are 6 and 1/2 inch squares. So, this corner of the fabric should already be a 90 degree angle. Place that right at the 6 and 1/2 inch line. (cutting) That 6 and 1/2 inch square is gonna be cut on the diagonal just like the larger one. Continue by cutting the 3 remaining dark fat quarters into your 6 and 1/2 inch half-square triangles, and then you'll wanna use a mix of your light fabrics to cut 4 more sets of half-square triangles. It's important to use a mix of the light fabrics because that's gonna give you that nice patchworky look. Now that I've cut all of my squares for the half-square triangles, I'm going to cut squares that are going to be solid squares. And these are all gonna be out of the lighter fabrics, you wanna use a mix of your lighter fabrics again. I'm gonna go ahead and square up the edge of this fabric. And I'm starting by cutting 10 and 1/2 inch squares. I'm gonna cut this at 90 degrees again to make the corner of my square. I'm gonna use my square ruler to cut this at 10 and 1/2 inches. (sliding) And I wanna cut 5 total of these 10 and 1/2 inch squares, from a mix of my light fabrics. Once I have those cut, I'll cut some smaller solid squares at 5 and 1/2 inches. There's gonna be 4 total of the smaller 5 and 1/2 inch squares. (cutting) The remaining light fabric is going to be used for your border, so you'll have a different amount depending on the size that you're making. You wanna set that aside and we'll cut that once we get our motif finished, but right now we're ready to start with our patchwork.

Assembling half-square triangles

- To assemble our half square triangles, we're going to take the light and dark half squares that we've made, put them right sides together. You just want to mix them up and be kind of random with the way that you place them together. Always a light with a dark, but mix it up which ones go with which. Seam along the long side of the triangle at a quarter inch, right sides together. And this is the bias of the fabric, so don't stretch as you sew. I'm using my quarter inch foot to give me a nice, even quarter inch seam. (machine whirring) I don't use pins, but if you would like to use pins, this would be a great place to use them. (machine whirring) Continue sewing your large half square triangles into eight blocks. When you finish those, you'll want to do your small half square triangles, which are made the same way. You're gonna join your light and your dark small triangles along the long edge of the triangle. Again, you're doing right sides together and a quarter inch seam. (machine whirring) Once you've sewn all your half square triangle blocks, you should have eight large and eight small. I'm gonna press the seams to one side. And I always like to press it to the dark side because that way the seam allowance won't show through on the lighter fabric. Press all your half square triangles like that. I'm going to trim my half square triangles to square them up and also to make them match the size of my solid squares. So this one is going to be 10 and half inches now. I'm going to line up the edge of it. My first cut, I'm gonna give a little extra room so that I can cut both sides of it so it's nice and square on all sides. I want to make sure this diagonal line is lined up right with my seam in my half square triangle. So I'll trim the right and the top of it. And then I'm going to turn my square around. And now I'm going to trim it to size. So that fresh cut that I've made, I'm gonna line it right up to the 10 and a half inch line while making sure that that diagonal is right on the seam. You'll wanna do that with all of your half square triangles. The smaller ones are going to be trimmed to 5 and a half inches just like the smaller solid squares.

Assembling inner star

- I like to lay down my blocks to make sure I like the look of my motif. It's a patchworky look, so I've laid them down randomly. But I noticed that these three prints are all the same and they're next to each other. So you might want to switch a few things around. You're going for a patchworky look, but sometimes you want to adjust a little bit. So that gives you the opportunity to do that before you start sewing everything together. I really like the way this looks, so I'm going to go ahead and get started. And I'm going to start with my inner block, my inner star. And I'm going to start with this top row here. So I'm going to sew these together into a row. I'm going to sew these blocks together along this seam. So I'll put 'em right side together. And using my quarter inch seam allowance, sew that seam. Now I'll attach the third block in the row. And the fourth block to complete the top row of the star. I'm going to press those seams again to the dark side, so that seam allowance doesn't show on the front of my quilt. For my second row I'm going to need to join these two blocks as well as these two blocks before I can just this all into a row. So I'll start here. Right sides together. Press these two side blocks. And then we're going to join this all into a row. I'm going to put this right sides together and seam along this line here. Now you'll join this block to the other side. Press those seams. Seam the bottom row just like you did the top row. And then we'll seam all three rows into one large block. This is a good time to use your pins. I'm going to put it right side together. And right at these points here, the corner of the center block is where you're going to want to pin these seams together. That's going to give you the most precise looking patchwork. And this one here. Now I'll seam all along this line. I'm going to join the bottom row to the center in just the same way, and pin the seams at the corner again. Press your inner block. And notice how your inner block is a square that fits the same way into the outer patchwork that this block fits into here. Which means you're going to assemble your outer block in the same exact way. Start with the top row, and join it just like we did the smaller row. And then join these two squares and these two squares to make your middle row. And then you're going to join your bottom row. Once you have that done, you're going to join your three rows together, just like we finished our inner block. And then your motif is finished.

Finishing

Adding borders

- We're ready to start on our border and from here on out we're just using the light fabrics. I'm gonna cut eight inch wide strips for my light fabrics in all different lengths because we're going for a really patchwork-y look in the background. So I wanna straighten up the edge of my fabric. And then I'm gonna use the grid on my cutting mat to get to eight inches. My ruler's not quite eight inches wide so I can use this grid in the background to line up my eight inch line. If your ruler doesn't reach quite across the fabric, a trick is to use your second ruler to figure out where that line is headed. And then I'll just move that aside once I get it in place and I can start my cut. Once I get halfway across I'm gonna slide my ruler to match up with that eight inch line and finish my cut. I have an eight inch wide strip now, but I want to make sure the ends of it are at a 90 degree angle. So I'm gonna use my ruler again, lining up one of the lines in the ruler and coming right to the edge to trim that line straight. That way I'll have a nice 90 degree corner here. I'll trim the other side. This piece is ready, it seems really long I'm gonna leave it like this cause I want a mix of lengths to give that nice patchwork in the background. So, I have some pieces cut already in different sizes. You

can see they're a random assortment of lengths, but they're all eight inches wide. I'm gonna start piecing these together and I want it as wide as my motif is. So I'm going for 42 inches to fit the edge of my square block. I'm seaming these right sides together at a quarter of an inch. (sewing machine) Keep seaming these eight inch wide pieces together until you have about 42 inches or more in length. (sewing machine) The border pieces will be 42 inches on the top and bottom and 58 inches on each side. Now I'm gonna seam it. And there's no need to use pins here, just line it up as you go and seam at a quarter inch. There's a lot of fabric in your lap right now, but it's okay. (sewing machine) I've sewn just to the edge of my center motif and now I'm going to trim the edge of this border off straight with the other side of my center block. Now I'm ready to add my second border side. Which will be at the opposite side of the motif. So your second border piece which is about 42 inches long, you'll join on here. You're gonna go ahead and attach your second short border. Press those both and then you'll attach a third longer border to the other side of the quilt. I've already done that and now I'm ready to attach my final fourth long border. I'm going to line it up with the edge of the short border and go ahead and sew that seam. Right sides together. (sewing machine) I've sewn just to the edge of the central motif and now I'm gonna trim it. I'll press these final two seams and trim any threads that are coming through and I then I have a quilt top.