
Lucky Star Quilt Along with Keaton Quilts with Justin of Keaton Quilts

Chapter 1 - Lucky Star Quilt Along with Keaton Quilts

Overview

(happy music) - I love quilting. There's just something so special about it. (happy music) When you're having a bad day, you can wrap it around, and it's just so rare that you can make art that you can actually get comfort from and cuddle with. My name is Justin, from Keaton Quilts. I'm based in New York City, where there's such a great hustle and bustle about it. Quilting allows me to slow down, and create a quilt that just brings me so much tranquility. In this class, we'll be using basic materials like a rotary cutter and a quilting ruler in order to put together a really fun sampler quilt. I've named it Lucky Star, and there's a bunch of beautiful stars in it that'll just shine and bring you a little joy. This class is designed for intermediate quilters, but if you're a beginner, I know you can do it. I've chosen a rainbow of colors for this, but feel free to choose whatever you like to make it your own. Come quilt with me, and we'll make 12 beautiful star blocks that'll all come together to make our Lucky Star quilt top. (happy music)

Block 1: Spinning Pinwheel

- The first block of our Lucky Star Quilt is the spinning pinwheel. It's a pretty simple one to get you warmed up. And I can't wait to get started. For our background fabric, I chose a nice white crisp linen that'll help give our quilt a little bit of texture. And then I used a rainbow selection of quilting cottons. I really love all the little prints, and I feel like the nice crisp white pairs really nicely with the rainbow of color. And it helps calm it down and just gives it a nice framing. We'll be using your everyday quilting tools like a rotary cutter, a cutting mat, a marking tool, some pins or clips, some neutral thread, some scissors, and of course your sewing machine with a 1/4-inch quilting foot. I've already cut and prepped all of my fabric. You'll need nine 4 1/2-inch squares from your background fabric. And then you'll need one each of eight different colors of a 4 1/2-inch square. The first step will be to select eight of your background fabric squares. And you're gonna draw a line using a marking tool diagonally across from point to point. Once you have your squares marked, you're gonna pair one square of your background fabric up with each of the eight colors. Once your pairs are all made, all you're gonna do is clip them together. I'm gonna sew directly on that line we drew earlier. So I'm just gonna be chain piecing all of these together, and back stitching is up to you. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine whirring) And I'm just gonna cut apart my pieces. Once you have all your pieces cut apart, you're simply going to measure 1/4-inch away from that line that you've just sewn on. And you're gonna trim off that excess fabric you don't need. You're gonna repeat this step for all eight pairs. We're gonna iron all of our seams toward the darker fabric, and we're gonna do this for all eight of our half-square triangle units. Now we're ironing our fabric towards the dark side so that it doesn't show through the lighter fabric on the front. Once we have all our pieces ironed, we're gonna lay out our block. Now I laid out our squares in the pinwheel pattern, and I also went in rainbow order. Usually quilt blocks are assembled in rows. So you're taking them and you're sewing strips. And then you sew the strips together. Now I don't like to do that because I find by the time I reach the end of the line, that my seams don't match up very well. So I'm gonna break it down into chunks. It'll be much easier to make sure all our points are nice and crisp at the end. So I'm taking this top square, folding it down to the bottom. I'm gonna clip my two pieces together. And I'm gonna sew along that top edge. As always, you want to use a quarter inch

seam allowance. And whether you backstitch or not is up to you. (sewing machine whirring) Gonna grab my next pair. Gonna fold the top square over the lower one. Gonna clip them together. And sew along that top edge. (sewing machine whirring) Let me grab my next pair. Flip the top square again over the bottom square, clip them together, and again, sew along that top edge. (sewing machine whirring) For the next set, I'm gonna take the leftmost square. And again, I'll flip it over the middle square. Clip the pieces together. And I'll be sewing along that edge that I flipped the square over on. (sewing machine whirring) Then just gonna cut apart my units. And bring them over to the iron. Again, I'll just be pressing towards the darker fabric. We want to make sure that our dark fabrics don't show through that lighter background fabric. Now that my pieces are ironed, I'm just gonna lay them out again. And I just have one more lone square to sew to this pair. Gonna flip my piece over onto the larger piece. And this is the seam I'll be sewing. (sewing machine whirring) Ironing towards the darker fabric. And we're getting closer to finishing our block. We've got one, two, three more seams to go. The next seam I'm gonna sew is this one right here. Gonna flip the side square over the center. And this will be the seam I sew. I'm gonna clip my pieces together, but I want to make sure that my seams line up. So here's where my fork pins come in. I don't know if you've used a fork pin, but if you haven't before, I'm gonna show you how they work. Now, you really only want to use them where all of your seams intersect to get nice points. What you're going to do is you're gonna take this two-pronged pin, and you're gonna put it into your fabric a quarter inch down from the edge. Now that's where your seam will be, so that's the point you want to make sure lines up perfectly. So you'll stick the pin into the fabric with the seam going through the center. And then you're gonna flip it over to make sure the seam's going through the center on the other side. Now, as you can see here, not quite, so I'm gonna pull out the pin and then just trial by error, zhuzh that into the perfect spot so I end up with a nice crisp point. All right, now that back seam line's going through the center, so I'll stick the pin into the fabric. And I'll sew this seam. And I just want to make sure that you pull out your pin before you reach it with your needle. You don't want to accidentally hit the needle with that pin and do some damage. So be extra careful. (sewing machine whirring) Now, I'm just making sure to stop right before I hit that pin. Put my needle down, lift up my presser foot, pull out the fork pin, and then I'll continue to the end of my seam. (sewing machine whirring) I like to trim my threads as I go along. As you can see there, the fork pin gave us a perfect point. Gonna lay those squares next to the others. And the next seam I'll be sewing is this one right here. So I'm gonna flip this right-most unit over onto the center. Clip the ends together. And I can use a fork pin just to line up my seams again. Just a reminder, I'm sticking the pin so the seam goes straight through the center of the two prongs. I'm flipping it over just to check the seam goes through the center on the back, which it does. And then I'll just push it into the fabric. I'll be sewing all the way to the edge, but again, don't forget to stop and pull out your fork pin before you reach it with your presser foot. (sewing machine whirring) Just putting my needle down, lifting the foot, pulling out the pin and continuing to the end of my seam. (sewing machine whirring) Again, pretty good point. We'll head over to our iron. We'll be ironing towards the darker fabrics again. Give these two seams a good pressing. All right, now we're ready for our last seam. Now here, I'll be using two fork pins to line up those center points. All right, and we're ready to sew our remaining seam. (sewing machine whirring) Just remembering the stop a second time since this seam has two fork pins. (sewing machine whirring) All right, let's remove our clips. Trim any loose threads we've got. Now this seam is a little tricky because there's a dark side there and there's two dark sides here. So what I'm gonna do is I'm choosing to iron it towards these two since that one's a little lighter. I'm just gonna give the whole block a little pressing. I'm sure everything lays nice and flat. And now

we've got our first finished block. We'll be squaring up all our blocks, so don't worry if your edges don't line up perfectly, Just like that, we've finished our spinning pinwheel block.

Block 2: Crystal Star

- Our next block is a pretty traditional looking block. It's called the crystal star. Now, this block's a little more difficult than our first, but I'll do my best to get you to the finish line. From your background fabric, you'll need a six and a half inch square, you'll need four three and a half inch squares, and four three and a half by six and a half inch rectangles. Then from your focal prints, you'll need 12 three and a half inch squares. Where we're gonna start is with our center part of our block. What we'll be doing is we're taking our four bridge squares. These are colors that split two of our original eight colors. So if you have a lime green and a yellow, you'll try to find a fabric with green and a little bit of yellow in the middle. For this square here, this'll be bridging the blue and the teal. So we've got little specks of blue and some teal in there. This one will be splitting the difference between the red and the orange. So we've got some light reddish pink in there along with some oranges. And then our final split square will be bridging the pink and the purple, so we've got some pinks and purples in this one. So we're taking those four bridge squares as I call them along with my six and a half inch background square. And those are what I'll be working with first. Step one will be to draw a diagonal line on the back of your bridge squares. You wanna make sure your lines go right from corner to corner. It's easy for the ruler to shift when you're drawing your lines, so be sure to keep it extra steady. Once you've done that, grab your first square, place it in the corner of your six and a half inch square, and you're gonna clip it in place. We're gonna head over to our machine and we're gonna be sewing right on that line that we just drew. All right. Just gonna make sure I trim my threads as I go along. I find they get pretty wild if I don't. Now, the next square we're gonna do is the one opposite the purple, which is the square that splits the green and the yellow. Clip it in place. And again, just sew right on that line we drew. And we're gonna trim off one quarter inch away from our seam line. You're gonna wanna do that for both. So we'll get this pink and purple piece next. Just ironing towards those darker fabrics. Then we'll grab our next piece. We'll grab the teal, place that in the left-hand corner there, clip it in place, and we'll be sewing right on that line we drew. Then grab our final bridge square, lay it down in our last corner. Just like before, we're trimming off those extra little triangle bits that we don't need. Again, quarter inch away from our seam line. All right. Give it another quick iron. And we've got the center part of our crystal star block complete. The outside portion of our block is made up of flying geese and we've got four of them total. I already went ahead and sewed these three, and now I'm gonna show you how to do it by sewing this last one. I'm gonna flip over this red square and now I just wanna make sure that my diagonal line is facing the right way. You want the center diagonal there to point to the center of your block there, so the red ends up, once you sew it, looking like that. So I'm gonna move the pink square aside for now and I'm going to sew this, clipping my square into place, and just sewing right on that diagonal line that we drew earlier. Trim the threads quick. Trim off that excess a quarter inch away from my seam line. Once that's trimmed, go over to the iron. And I'm gonna iron towards the focal print. All right, now we're ready to sew on our pink square. And you just wanna, again, make sure that diagonal line you drew is facing the center. So once you sew your seam, that's how your flying geese unit will look. So let's pin that down and sew it up. Now iron towards that colored square. Just like that, there's our flying geese unit. So I went ahead and did that already for the other three. And our next step is gonna be to add our corner squares in. So we're gonna sew our corner squares onto the edges of our side flying geese units, so I'm just folding these squares over.

That's the seam we'll be sewing. That's the seam. So we'll sell those two up, clip my squares into place. I'm just gonna sew along the other side now. Remove my clips. Then I'm just gonna iron towards the colored print. I always like to flip over my fabric to the front and give it a quick press. I just find that my finished piece ends up that much more crisp. Now I'm just gonna do the same steps over on the other side. The next step is to flip this flying geese unit over the top of our center square. And we're gonna do the same thing with the bottom. And we're just gonna sew this seam here and the same seam along the bottom. One quick thing to know if you're sewing and you find that your seam starts to bunch up as the foot presses into it, just put your needle in the down position, lift up your presser foot, and just use a scissor or a pen or something to swipe that seam till it's flat again, and then continue sewing. All right. And we're gonna press these two seams towards the outer edge of your block. Okay, so then we have two seams remaining. We have this seam here and that seam there. Now here is where our fork pins come into play again. Two fork pins just to make sure my outer seams line up nicely. And then just a pin or a clip on each end. Now, don't forget to stop before you reach your pin, pull it out, and then continue sewing. Stop that second time, pull out your pin, and sew to the end. And this time, I'll be ironing inward away from the outer edge. Now we're gonna repeat those same steps for our final seam. And after a good press, we've completed our crystal star block.

Block 3: Walking Star

- For the third block in our Lucky Star Quilt, we'll be doing the walking star. You'll need a 3 1/2-inch by 6 1/2-inch rectangle from eight of your colored fabrics and also 16 3 1/2-inch squares from your background fabric. All of the piecing will be the same for all eight rectangles. You'll need two squares and one rectangle for each unit, and I'll show you the first one, but it will be the same for the other seven. So on your two background squares, you're just gonna draw your diagonal line from corner to corner. And we're gonna place our squares over our colored rectangle. You always want your line to start in the left-hand corner and then meet the rectangle in the center on the right. And I'm not gonna sew this one yet, but I just wanna lay it down to show you ahead of time that when you place your second square, you're gonna have it run parallel to the other line. So on your second square, it's gonna start on the left and then go down to the lower right-hand corner. So I'm gonna remove that square and sew this one first. (machine whirring) Once you sew that square, you're just gonna trim off this excess, trimming 1/4 inch away from that seam line. Gonna give this a quick press. And take my second square and lay it on top. And I'm just making sure that it runs parallel to that top seam. (machine whirring) And press toward the colored fabric. Then I'm gonna repeat this for the other seven rectangles. Now that we have all our pieces together, let's lay them out, start with the purple, pink, the red, and orange, in comes yellow, green, blue, and our teal. We're gonna sew each of these four parts. We're gonna join the pairs together. So when you're sewing these units together, you wanna pay close attention that once you sew them, that your seams will meet right in the middle there. So your two colors will just kiss each other ever so slightly. Fold that down. Clip my parts together and I'm gonna sew that seam. (machine whirring) Now when we unfold our sewn part, you can see, just like that, they just ever so slightly touch in the center. Give 'em a quick iron. Now on these blocks, I find that there tends to be a lotta bulk, so I'm gonna iron this seam open, just to distribute some of that bulk a little more evenly along the seam. And really, this is the only time that you wanna do that, iron those seams open, is when there's a lot of bulk. That's our first set. Now we're gonna do the other three in exactly the same way. Just like that, we've got our four units sewn together now. All that's left is to sew these two together, sew these

two together, and then that one long seam. Three seams to go. I'm gonna take this piece and I'm gonna flip it over that left guy there. And that's the seam I'll be sewing. (machine whirring) Gonna do the same thing here and iron my seam open. And then gonna join these two square units. (machine whirring) And flip that top part over the bottom. And I'm just gonna use a fork pin right in the center here, just to make sure that center seam lines up nicely. (machine whirring) Just remember to stop before you reach that fork pin and then pull it out. (machine whirring) Carefully iron that final seam open. And now we've finished our walking star.

Block 4: Tulip Star

- This block is named after one of my favorite flowers, the tulip. It's the tulip block. (laughing) Now you'll recognize a bunch of the parts of this block. There's a star in there and there's also a bunch of flying geese, only much smaller than we've done before. For your background fabrics, you'll need four 6 1/2 by two-inch pieces, 12 two-inch squares, eight two by 3 1/2-inch rectangles, and five 3 1/2-inch squares. From your focal prints, you'll need a total of 24 two-inch squares, and if you're doing eight fabrics, you'll need three of each. The first part we're gonna put together is the center star portion of our block. We'll use one of our big squares and then four of our short rectangles, four of our two-inch squares, and then one of each of our colors. So now I've got my center square parts all laid out. I'm gonna start the construction of the flying geese. Now I'm gonna draw diagonal lines from corner to corner on the back of my two colored squares, lay them out as they'll be. And just like it was in our crystal star, our points will be meeting in the center. So we just wanna make sure both lines head towards the center. So I'm gonna take off this second square and that'll be the first seam I sew. There's something so fun about sewing tiny pieces. I'm a big fan of little sewing. I don't know what it is. I think it's just that it's cuter. (laughing) Smaller things are cuter. (machine whirring) Just as before, I'm trimming 1/4-inch away from my sew line. We're gonna iron towards our colored fabric. And we're gonna take our teal square, just make sure that we have our line pointing to the center. Clip it in place and then sew right on that line we drew. (machine whirring) Trimming, again, 1/4-inch away from our sew line. Just be careful, watch your fingers. When the pieces get smaller and smaller, it gets a little harder to avoid those fingers with the iron. (laughing) All right, and that's our first flying geese unit for our center star part of our block complete. We're gonna repeat this process for the other three units. The flying geese are done now, so I'm just putting them in the positions they'll be in once we sew our center star together. We're gonna sew these together just like we did for the crystal star block. Now I just wanna build my outside portion for you quickly to show you what that will look like. You're just echoing out the colors all the way to the edges here. So you're gonna go ahead and you're gonna join the center star just like you did with our second block, the crystal star. And I'll show you how this side piece comes together. So I'm gonna sew a flying geese unit right here that mirrors the same flying geese unit there. Line that we have drawn on our square starts in the left-hand corner and then ends in the middle of the square. Now you're gonna repeat those same steps right here. All right. The next process is to sew these squares onto the corners of our flying geese. (machine whirring) Then you give this a quick press towards the colored fabrics. And the next step is just to flip this over the lower piece and sew along that seam. Now, I'm going to join the pieces of my center star and the other three segments that I have remaining that match this one that we just did. Just like that, we have all our individual units together, so now we're gonna join these pieces. So I'm just gonna show you quickly the order I'm gonna sew them and then get to it. So the first thing I'll do is I'm gonna fold over this top row and I'll sew those three seams. Once those three seams are sewn, I'll give these a good press. These will be

joined together and then I'll be sewing these parts together. So imagine this is one piece here. You flip that over that side, sew that seam. Again, this is one piece. And I'll sew that seam. Once I do that, this will all be one piece here, this group, and then we'll have these down here. So I'll sew these corner squares on the end of this row and press, and once I do that, then I have one more seam here. And so I'll fold that over onto there and I'll sew along that seam. And that's the construction. (machine whirring) Woohoo, it's finished. Gosh, I told you all those little pieces, I love how they come together and they look like this super intricate, well they are super intricate. (laughing) I just love the design of it. It looks great.

Block 5: Kansas Star

- We'll be working on the Kansas Star, and it's made up of nine different pieces. Now of those nine pieces, there are two types, and I'll be showing you how to make those two types today. For the first type, you'll wanna cut five four-and-a-half inch squares along with 20 two-and-a-half inch squares. For the second type of block, you'll wanna cut four three-and-three quarter squares from your background fabric and four three-and-three quarter squares from your focal fabric. All we need to do is flip over our four focal fabrics, and we're gonna draw a diagonal line through each of the corners. Once you've done that, you can take your first square. You're gonna lay it over your background square in one of the corners, and you're gonna clip it in place. Now you wanna make sure your diagonal line goes from the center of the background fabric to the center. So the wrong way to put it would be having your diagonal line go right to the corner. Then you're gonna take your opposing fabric and you're gonna put it in the other corner. In the same method with the diagonal line heading towards the center of that white background square we have. Now we're ready to sew. So we'll be sewing on both of these lines directly on the lines we drew. (sewing machine humming) And once you sew your first seam you don't need to snip the thread, you can just pull a little bit of the length, flip your block around, and get right to sewing that seam right there on that line that we drew earlier. (sewing machine humming) Now we're gonna remove our clips, head over to our cutting mat, and we're just gonna trim a quarter inch away from the seams we just sewed. Just gonna clip my threads as I go along so they don't get too wild. Give this a quick pressing, and I'm gonna iron towards my focal fabrics. It's time for the other opposing squares. Placing the next square in the lower corner and the final square. And again, the opposite of that corner we just placed. So that's what it'll look like. I'm gonna clip those into place. Just a reminder, you want your lines to go to the center of that background square. You don't want them to be in the direction that face the corners. You can see here on the red a little better. (sewing machine humming) I'm just giving that thread a tug so I don't have to snip it. And just sewing directly on that line I drew. (sewing machine humming) Trim these little wings off again, quarter inch away from that seam. Press these open. All right, so that is the first of our two types of units we'll be making for our block. Now you'll need to make four more of these. These will each be one whole focal fabric color. So you won't be mixing them like you did on that initial square. And now for the second unit that will make up our blocks. So remember, you'll be cutting those squares diagonally. Like that. And then we're gonna join those together. All right, so this is how we'll be laying out our triangles. And that's pretty much what it'll look like once we're sewn. So what you wanna do is you wanna fold over your triangles. And those are the seams you'll be sewing, so I'm just gonna put some clips there, keep them together. (sewing machine humming) We're gonna iron our seams towards the focal prints. Once we've got those, I like to use a fork pin to line up these points here at this step. Just that extra assurance that those seams all line up nicely the first time. (sewing machine humming) We're gonna

iron this seam open just to minimize some of that bulk. All right, now we're just gonna trim this square up here. I have a four and a half inch ruler handy. If you don't have the exact size, no worries, a regular ruler will do. It'll just take a little bit longer to square it up. All right. And that is the other unit that'll make up our block. You're gonna be making four of these. Now, I've gone ahead and made the other three already. So you'll have your total of four. Let's arrange our block. You wanna place the color in the corner that echoes that center square, just like that. See how the teal goes with the teal, purple with purple, and so on. Then we're gonna grab our other type of block and we're gonna bridge those colors together. What I mean by that is the color between the yellow and the red will be orange, between the teal and the yellow will be the green, between that teal and the purple will be blue, and the final one is that pink which lands right in the middle of that red and purple. Once you've got your block all laid out, then we're gonna join our squares together. So I'm gonna do it in the same method that I've done previously. I'm gonna flip over the top row down to that middle row, and I'll be sewing these three seams. And then the other seam I'm gonna sew at this step is I'm gonna flip the bottom square over onto the middle one, and I'll be sewing that seam. Now, once you've sewn that first set of seams, the second set will be like this. So these will be joined together and you'll be flipping over this right one onto that guy, creating one whole piece there. So, once you've got these units sewn together, you picture these are whole right now, you'll be sewing this unit to that one. So, flipping this one onto that, sewing along that seam, flipping this unit onto there. Sewing along that seam. You're gonna press and then your final seam will be joining this piece to these that are already joined together. So I'm gonna go ahead and do that. And our block is complete. I really love this one, there's something visually just stunning about it. I love how the colors all meld into each other, rotates around the rainbow. It's also got a lot of points, so this is where your fork pin will really come in handy and help you get those nice crisp points.

Block 6: Martha Washington Star

- We're working on a classic block called the Martha Washington block. It's composed of a pinwheel on point in the center and some flying geese along the edge. The first part of the block you'll be making is the flying geese that go along the border. You'll be making four flying geese. Each one is comprised of a 3 1/2 by 6 1/2-inch rectangle, along with two focal prints in 3 1/2-inch squares. So you're gonna need eight total focal print squares at 3 1/2 and four rectangles of your background fabric. If you need a reminder how to make these flying geese, you can refer back to our crystal star construction. For the center windmill block, you'll need four 3 1/2-inch squares of your focal fabrics and also 12 3 1/2-inch squares from your background fabric, four of which will go to your border. So to start out, you're gonna take your four focal prints and you're gonna draw a line on the back diagonally from corner to corner. Once you go ahead and do that, you're gonna pair each one with a background fabric. And then you'll be sewing along that center line that we drew, right on it. Clip these together so they stay nice and paired up. All right, let's get these four sewn up. (machine whirring) Now that we've got these sewn up, we're just gonna trim 1/4-inch from that line we just sewn. And I'm gonna iron towards the focal print. Now the next step, you'll just be grabbing one of your 3 1/2-inch background squares, placing your half square triangle unit right on top. You're gonna draw a line from point to point. Now you wanna make sure you go from focal fabric to the background fabric. You don't wanna draw the line matching your seam. Just clipping my pieces in place. And now we're gonna sew directly on that line we just drew. (machine whirring) You're gonna go ahead and do that same step for the other three half square triangle units you made. All right, now that we have all of our units sewn, we wanna trim these down. Before you trim them down, you

need to make sure that it makes a windmill design. If you fold it the wrong way and trim on the wrong side, you'll end up with your windmill point facing in the wrong direction. So we just wanna be extra careful here. This one, we'll be folding out that way. This one, folding in that direction, and this one will go like that. So you'll see you've got your windmill right there. So we wanna go ahead and trim under the side that we folded. So for this first one here, I'll be trimming off this edge. Just wanna be very careful to trim the right edge. Definitely in the past, there's been times where I've made a mistake and sliced off the wrong part and had to do it over. I really like to keep these squares laid out in their design while I do the cutting, just so I can be extra careful. At this point, we're just gonna give 'em a quick press and then we're gonna sew these guys together. So you'll sew these two first and then you'll just sew that pair together. Now that our center windmill's complete, we're gonna go ahead and join all these pieces together. So this is our flying geese that we made earlier. Now, I'm going in rainbow order, but you can feel free to do these color orders in any way you like. Even as simple as just using one focal fabric and one background fabric. This is how our block's laid out. And just like the previous ones, we're gonna join our top parts first. So we'll be flipping those down over the middle parts. We'll be sewing along those seams. Then, we're gonna sew our bottom square to our middle bottom flying geese unit and then also, the right bottom square to that unit. So at this point, we're down to four pieces. The next seams will be these, so we'll be sewing this guy onto this side, this one onto that side. And then at the end, just one more seam right there and we'll have it all pieced together. Once your pieces are all together, you've made the Martha Washington star.

Block 7: Missouri Star

- Let's continue our Lucky Star quilt top with the Missouri block. Now, this block is made up of a lotta familiar elements we've seen already, but there's a little twist this time. The flying geese have an extra little addition to them. So what we're gonna do is we're gonna create one of these special flying geese, and I'm just gonna tell you about these other parts. Now, this center part, this was done previously in our Kansas block. So if you need a little reminder of how it went, refer back to that. It's created using a 6 1/2-inch background square and four 3 1/2-inch colored squares. Now, this flying geese portion that we'll be putting together, it's made out of a 6 1/2 by 3 1/2-inch rectangle and just to be clear, for the whole block, you'll need to cut eight 3 7/8-inch squares of your focal fabrics. So the first step will be to place these triangles right sides together. And then we're gonna sew along that long edge. (machine whirring) Now we're gonna press our seams, just towards the darker side. I'm just gonna take a second and snip off these little dog ears is what they're called. They're the part that protrudes once you've sewn your half square triangle unit. Now that we've got our units sewn, we're going to create our flying geese unit just like we did before. You just wanna pay extra attention that you put your pieces in the right spot. What I'm referring to is you wanna match your colors. So if you have a color over here, you wanna make sure it's on that side. And if you're doing this multicolor rainbow effect that I've chosen to do, you just wanna make sure that the color matches that side. Now it's easy if you don't refer back to sew them onto the opposing sides, so you just wanna be extra careful. So I'm gonna unfold that first one now that I know it's in the right position. And I'll be sewing right on that diagonal line. (machine whirring) Once I've sewn my seam, just gonna take it back over, take a look, looks good. And so this is the side I'll be trimming off. Give that a quick press. And repeat what you just did on the other side. (machine whirring) Now that this is complete, we're just gonna sew it all together like our previous blocks. The Missouri star block.

Block 8: Ribbon Star

- The ribbon star's constructed a little bit differently than the blocks that we've already worked on. This one is done in quadrants instead of having a center section and then doing the sides, so I'm gonna show you how to do the first quadrant and then you'll end up doing the other three just like we did the first. The pieces you'll need from the background fabric are two $6 \frac{7}{8}$ -inch squares cut diagonally, four $3 \frac{1}{2}$ -inch squares, and four three-inch squares cut diagonally. From your focal fabrics, you'll need four $4 \frac{7}{8}$ -inch squares and then four three-inch squares cut diagonally. Let's do this first quadrant together. The first thing you're gonna do is you're gonna grab your colored square and you're gonna draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. Then we'll take the colored square and lay it right on top of that triangle. We'll be sewing directly on that line we drew. (machine whirring) And then we'll trim off $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch away from our sew line. Now when you're working with a bunch of different colors of fabric, it's always good to double check that you have the right color in the right spot. So that's how the pieces will eventually come together, so I'm gonna fold over my first one, sew along that line. (machine whirring) Fold over the second and sew right on the line. (machine whirring) Then we'll just take our snips and trim off that little dog ear. Next thing we're gonna do is sew this triangle piece onto the edge of that square, and we'll be sewing right down that side. (machine whirring) Then we'll sew the remaining triangle piece along the lower edge of the square. (machine whirring) Then I wanna trim off those two little dog ears. And then the last step of our construction for this quadrant of our block is to sew along that seam. (machine whirring) Then trim off those little dog ears at our ends. Now repeat that same process for the other three. Here's our four quadrants completed. We're just gonna sew them together now into two pairs and then one long seam down the center. Look how great it looks once all these quadrants are together. I love how striking it is, the way the white runs through it almost like a ribbon overlapping a star.

Block 9: Starburst

- I love the Starburst block, not only is it named after my favorite candy, but it's also got a Y seam, so I've got something fun to teach you today. You'll need one 4.5" square for the center, 28 2.5" squares of the background fabric and 16 2.5 x 4.5" of the colored fabrics. We'll be using all of these pieces to create two types of units that will make up the block that surround that center square. We're gonna start with this unit right here. It's comprised of two of those colored rectangles and four of those 2.5" background squares. So you're gonna wanna make sure you draw a line on each background square from corner to corner. Once you've got that all ready, you're gonna take a look at your layout to make sure you've got your colors in the right position if you're doing a rainbow version like me. You're gonna place your first square on top, and your second square. You'll notice for this piece, they don't face in the same direction. These are gonna mirror each other this time, like this finished example up here. So these are the first two seams we're gonna sew. Now, I always find it's easier to start the seam mid-square instead of at the edge, it's less likely to get pulled down into your sewing machine that way. (sewing machine whirring) Then I'll just chain piece this other guy here, (sewing machine whirring) trim off this excess, 0.25" away from your sew line. (blade slicing) Iron those seams flat. Now these aren't meeting like flying geese do. Instead, eventually once we sew the seam, the pieces run parallel to each other, creating that little V-shape, as you can see in our finished one. So again, same process, we're gonna sew on the marked line for both of these pieces. (sewing machine whirring) (blade slicing) Sew these two pieces together, so I'm gonna fold them over each other, and at this point, I like to use a fork pin just to make sure my seams line up

really nicely on that little V shape. (sewing machine whirring) (sewing machine whirring) We'll iron that seam open and then we'll move on to our next part. Alright, here's the new skill you'll be learning, the often-dreaded Y-seam. Now I don't think you should dread it. As long as you know what you're doing, it goes pretty smoothly. So as I'm getting ready to assemble this, I just like to make sure that all my pieces are in the right spot, just because it's easy to mix these up. So I'm gonna take a look, at how my final block will be just to make sure I've got my pieces in the right spot. So that's pretty much how it'll be once we sew it, and that looks good. So I'm gonna unfold those, and then I'll sew these two squares down, trim them and iron them, just like I did in the previous part. (sewing machine whirring) (blade slicing) Your pieces should look like this now. At this point, we're gonna fold these over each other, use a ruler to measure 2.5" from our colored edge, and make a little dot there. Then, draw a line from that dot to the opposing corner. So I will now be sewing along this seam, but I'm gonna make sure that I start 0.25" inward. So I'm not starting at the edge, like I have for every other piece we've done so far, I'm starting 0.25" inward, and that's part of the secret of the Y-seam. I also like to do a little backstitch here, 'cause I find that it can come out pretty easy at this point. (sewing machine whirring) Now, I'm gonna trim off 0.25" from that sew line. Now this one, I'm going to press open. Now comes the Y-seam. So, essentially what we'll be doing is we'll be setting that little square in there, to get the final portion of our block all set. So we'll lay our square over the top, gonna flip it over. I'm gonna clip my square into place. Now this time, we'll be sewing along this edge here, and we're gonna stop right at the point where these fabrics meet. I'll use this little scissor to show you, right there. Since we'll be sewing 0.25" inward, that's where we're gonna stop. You want to make extra sure not to go into the other colored fabric and just stick along this blue one here. Avoid that teal at all costs. (sewing machine whirring) Then I'm gonna do another backstitch just to make sure my seam doesn't pull out. That's what it looks like so far. So we have this final edge to sew, this partial seam. So yeah, what you're doing is you're finagling the fabric, so that the upper edge of the square now meets your half square triangle, like that. So you should see all background fabric along that top edge on the front and back. Now, we'll be sewing along this seam, right up until the teal fabric ends. So you wanna make extra sure not to go into that blue. (sewing machine whirring) I recommend sewing slowly as you get close to the end there, and then again, do a backstitch. So once we unfold it, press the square flat, so it folds over those other seams we had done previously, and there's our completed Y-seam. See, it wasn't that hard. Now, we're gonna put all the parts of our block together. You wanna make sure you make four of each unit, so four corner units and four of these center units. Now we're just gonna sew them together, like we've done before. We'll be sewing these pairs. We'll then join those together. We'll sew these pairs together, and then finally, we'll sew along that seam line all the way through. Our Starburst block is complete. I really love this one. There's just something about this burst of color that really hits home. So I'm gonna run out and grab some Starbursts now.

Block 10: Mother's Star

- This block in our Lucky Star quilt is called Mother Star. Now, this block is made up of two different types of units, along with that blank center square. For your flying geese units, you'll need eight 2 1/2-inch by 4 1/2-inch rectangles of your background fabric and then you'll also need 16 2 1/2-inch squares from your colored fabric. For these other parts, you'll need five 4 1/2-inch squares cut of your background fabric, four 2 1/2-inch squares of your background fabric, and then four 4 1/2-inch squares from your focal fabrics. Let's start with our flying geese units, since I'm sure you recognize those. We're just gonna sew these two parts together. (machine whirring) Now, I find they start to

get pretty bulky at this point, so you wanna iron this seam open. Be careful to watch for your fingers when doing that. It's easy to graze them with the iron as you pry apart those seams. That completes our flying geese units. Now let's work on these corner squares. We're gonna stack our colored 4 1/2-inch square over the background and then we're gonna draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. And we'll be sewing right on that line. (machine whirring) Trim 1/4-inch away from that sew line and give that a good pressing. At this point, we've got a half square triangle, so we're gonna take our 2 1/2-inch square, we're gonna lay it over the colored portion, and we're gonna draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. We'll be sewing right on that drawn line again. (machine whirring) Sew these parts together and your Mother Star is complete. And here we go.

Block 11: Diamond Star

- In this next block, you're gonna see a lot of familiar components. This one's called the diamond star. I really love how you can take bits and pieces from the different blocks and combine them together and really get creative and make your own designs. You might recognize this bow tie block. We've seen the center before, we haven't seen this one so I'm gonna show you how to do this guy. If you need a reminder, these bow tie blocks can be found in our Kansas star tutorial and the center block can be found in our crystal star tutorial. To make these pieces, you'll need to cut six, four and a half inch background squares, four three and three quarter inch diagonally cut color squares, eight two and a half inch colored squares, and you'll need four, three and three quarter inch diagonally cut background squares. Go ahead and make those four bow tie blocks and also that center square. I'm gonna show you how to make this new unit we have using this four and a half inch background square and this two and a half inch colored square. Now, the first thing you're gonna do is you're gonna draw a line diagonally from corner to corner on that two and a half inch square. You're gonna place it in one of the corners of your four and a half inch background square, and then you're gonna sew right on that seam and then give it a good press when you finish. Just like that, we have all the parts we need to make our block. We're gonna sew it together and then I'll show you how to square it up at the end. Squaring is when you trim your block down to the perfect size if there happens to be a little part that juts out a little bit, and it just makes your quilt top go together that much smoother when you're in those final steps. So let's take a look and see if this one needs any. Just a little edge right here that needs it. You just wanna make sure that your block is lined up nicely with the ruler. And to go ahead and trim this piece along the bottom here. There's a few strings up here at the top. If you don't have a ruler that's exactly the size of your block, don't worry, you can use any ruler. You just wanna make sure that you line it up with the edge. The way you do that is you'd take your general ruler, you'd line it up along the edge and if you saw part that jutted out, you would just trim along it and then you do that same thing for each edge. Trim up each edge, just like that. And now our diamond block is all squared up and ready to go into the quilt.

Block 12: Rising Star

- For the grand finale, the star with an a star, the rising star block. This block has a lot of different sized pieces in it, but you should be comfortable with all of these parts by now. I'm sure you recognize all of these flying geese we've got going and the general construction of it. For these outer geese you're gonna need four six and a half by three and a half inch background rectangles, eight three and a half inch squares of the colors. For the smaller geese you're gonna need four three and a half inch by two inch background fabrics and eight two inch colored squares. For the rest of the pieces you're gonna need five three and a half inch background squares, also four two inch

background squares. Take your time. I know you got this. Layout all of your squares so you can make sure they're in the right spot as you sew them together and I'm sure you'll be fine. I'm so excited to sew up these last three seams we've got here. At the end we'll have all 12 of our blocks and we'll be ready to sew them all together. This rising star is ready to rise up into that quilt top.

Final Day: Assembling Your Quilt Top

- It's assembly day, we made it. We're gonna be putting together all of our blocks, and guess what? I've got a bonus star for you. It's called tiny star, and it'll be the cornerstone block of our sashing, and it'll make your quilt sparkle. To make this block, you'll need to cut four one and a half inch background squares, one two and a half inch center square, four one and a half inch by two and a half inch rectangles in the background fabric, and eight one and a half inch squares of your focal fabrics, and we'll be making 13 of these. Now this is a super simple star. We've done it many times before, and it's comprised of elements you've all seen. So it's got four flying geese, and then just our basic other parts. So the main thing you'll be doing here is constructing those tiny geese, and I just have a couple tips for you that are specific to the tiny piecing aspect. The first one is chain piecing. I highly recommend using chain piecing to put it together. It'll help keep those pieces from getting stuck in your machine. The next tip I have is to iron all of your seams open. When you start sewing this small, everything can get really bulky really fast, because those seam allowances are pretty close to the size of the squares themselves. And finally, refer to your design if you're gonna shimmer the colors that echo the larger blocks, because it's very easy to mix them up as you put this together. (man sews) Here's our completed tiny star. You're gonna want to make 12 more, and then gather all your blocks. Assembling your quilt top will take a little bit of time, so don't rush. You put so much effort into making these blocks individually, you definitely want to put at least that same amount of effort into joining them together. Now I chose a rainbow layout for this quilt, but I really love how you're able to really do so many things with this design. You could do a red and white quilt with just two fabrics. You could pick your favorite fabrics. You could fussy cut fun little designs within the fabric. If you have a cute collection of kitty prints, this would be perfect, because the pieces are big enough where you could highlight individual parts, and it would just shine so nicely. You could go super simple. You could do a simple four by three layout of just three blocks across, four down. I felt when I was doing the rainbow, I thought that these blocks, really each one was so special, and I wanted to give them all a chance to breathe, so I thought having that extra space in there really helped give each one a nice little framing, and allowed your eye to kind of dance across the quilt, and check out each one on their own. I thought it was really a fun choice to put these blocks on point, just because it makes them just a little more exotic looking. When you look at them directly on, they're very recognizable blocks for what they are, but by simply putting them on point, there's this almost newness and this freshness that it adds to it. Now in this wild version, we have these cornerstones, and when I initially designed it, they were all the same. It was just going through the rainbow, so it went, you know, in the same way the blocks do, and I loved it, but I thought more about it, and I kind of started turning the blocks, and twisting them, and I realized that the colors kind of faded nicely together at the corners, where the greens would touch the greens, and the reds would touch the reds, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to echo those colors in those cornerstones. So when you stand back, you almost have a greenish yellow section, you know, a bluish section, and I really liked how my eye danced all over the quilt top. Instead of focusing just on one spot, or the piece as a whole, it really had this visual interest that I fell in love with. You'll have 36 12 1/2 by four and a half inch background rectangles that radiate out from these tiny star blocks

we made. Then you have six 12 7/8 inch background fabric, cut diagonally to frame the quilt, so it's able to be on point. You'll need two and three five eighth inch pieces, cut diagonally, in order to make these four corner parts. And then finally, you'll need two six and seven eighth inch square pieces, cut diagonally, in order to have these triangles right here that frame around your edges. Once you've settled on your layout, it's time to dive into the piecing. I chose to sew this together in chunks instead of rows. Now a lot of the time in quilting, the classic way to assemble your quilt top is to sew all the rows together first, and then sew all those parts together, and I always found that once I reached the end of the seam, things wouldn't quite line up very nicely. By assembling it in chunks, you're able to distribute all that unevenness throughout the whole quilt, rather than having it just show up right on those last few pieces, and I find it just gives it a much more polished look if you choose to do it in chunks. I chose to start by joining these two together, and creating this corner. Once I had that corner all joined, I decided the easiest way to go about it would be to break up the middle part into two chunks. So these four blocks, and those four blocks. So I assembled those two parts individually of each other, and then I joined those two together. That way, instead of having a bunch of long seams, I had shorter seams, and by having shorter seams, they were able to be much more precise. Let me show you how I assembled it on the actual quilt. I assembled the quilt top in five different parts. I chose to break it up into the corner parts, which each had two stars, and then I chose to join together those four center squares. Once I did that, I added onto those center squares, the lower left-hand corner, and I left that top right-hand corner unfinished, so I could give you a few tips to keep in mind when you're assembling yours. It's beneficial to break it up into chunks like this, because classically quilts were always put together in the same way. They were done by sewing the rows altogether, and then eventually once the rows were all sewn, you would just simply join all those rows. The problem with that is once you reach the end of your seam on each row, a lot of your seams don't end up lining up, and so this way it splits all those little uneven parts across the whole quilt. You end up with a really nice polished look. Let's take this last corner over to the machine. The things to consider are first, I want to make sure that when you're assembling the quilt, and you're using triangles, that you don't get uncomfortable when you see pieces hanging off the edge. When you're sewing triangles, the pieces don't really line up like they do when you're sewing squares. Generally there's a little dog ear hanging off each edge, and I find a lot people will get worried, and think that they did something wrong. Don't fret, it's okay. The key is, when you sew the seam, in order to have enough fabric to cover the entire seam, you really need to have that little bit of extra, and I'll show you why. If you were to take a triangle, and sew it directly on, the triangle gets smaller as it goes up in size, and so what you would end up with is little ends of the other square sticking out, without enough coverage. So what you do with a triangle, is you have a little bit of extra on each side. And what that does is that gives you enough for your seam allowance, where if you sewed the seam, gonna go here, pretend that we sewed it, you end up with little dog ears, but your triangle reaches the edges, and you just trim that little guy off. So again, having little pieces hanging off the edge, you've done nothing wrong. That's how it's supposed to go. Another thing that I want to talk about, again to reiterate, it's always great to have shorter seams. That way, if your seam allowances aren't exactly perfect, it will distribute those uneven parts throughout the whole quilt. Instead of having a point or a seam that doesn't line up drastically, you'll just end up with one that's ever so slightly off, and it gives a much better visual impact. When choosing which parts to join together, let's make educated decisions here, so we can have the shortest seams possible. Just like we did when joining our blocks, you want to think of your quilt top as a giant block, and so the same principles apply. So for example, if I was gonna choose to join this

together, in my mind there's two ways to go about it. You could take this center portion, and join all of these parts. Join this and this. And then have this long seam here. Now in my mind, that's not the way to go, because odds are, at these points, instead of your seams lining up perfectly, they're gonna be pretty off, most likely. So instead, what I think the better decision would be is to take this lower portion, join these together, then join this upper portion's parts. That way, that long seam that you have is much shorter than that one would have been if you had joined that entire midsection first. The other big tip that I can offer you is to use those same fork pins that we use to join our blocks together. They're almost a little insurance policy that your seams will line up perfectly in the end. Think of all the things we learned while constructing our blocks, and apply it to the quilt top. All right, let's get sewing. (light upbeat music) Here's my finished lucky star quilt. There's so many options for where you can go from here. I would say you could frame it, you could hang it on a wall. You could quilt it yourself. Jeez, that would be an undertaking on a home machine, a quilt this size, but you can definitely do it. You could have a longarm put some fun designs on here. If I was gonna have this longarmed, what I would do is, I would have them trace around all the colored shapes, but not quilting them, and then get some really dense quilting in all this white area. That way when you washed it, all these shapes would poof up, and they would look almost 3D, and this white would fade a little bit into the background. I think that would be really beautiful. Whatever y'all end up doing, I would love to see. Please share them with me, I'm on Instagram @KeatonQuilts, and use the hashtags #KeatonQuilts and #CreativeBug. (light music)