

QCNNY Block of the Month November 2010

STAR MOSAIC

(Source: 101 Patchwork Potholders)



Finished block size: 12" x 12"

The five colors of this block serve a double purpose. They are a study in value progression, as they range from light to dark; and they represent the races of humankind (or if you like puns, hue-mankind). Small prints will add some sparkle to this otherwise stark design.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, read instructions thoroughly.

All seams are a **scant** $\frac{1}{4}$ " , i.e., they are stitched a thread's width less than a typical $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

This block uses the **sandwich method** of half-square triangle – HST – unit construction: two contrasting squares of fabric are sewn together diagonally down the center (with scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams) along two parallel stitching guides, and then cut apart between these stitched lines. This creates two identical HST units. Press toward the darker fabric.

Cut 3 white, 4 yellow, 3 red, 2 brown, and 4 black squares, all $3\text{-}\frac{7}{8}$ ". Draw a corner-to-corner diagonal cutting line on the wrong side of one red and all the white and yellow squares. Lightly draw stitching guides $\frac{1}{4}$ " from both sides of this line.

1. Using the sandwich method described above, pair 2 white squares with 2 unmarked red squares to make a total of 4 HST Unit 1.
2. Pair 2 yellow squares with 2 brown squares to make a total of 4 HST Unit 2.
3. Pair 2 yellow squares with 2 black squares to make a total of 4 HST Unit 3.
4. Pair the marked red square with a black square to make a total of 2 HST Unit 4.
5. Pair the remaining white and black squares to make a total of 2 HST Unit 5.
6. Using the photograph as a guide, arrange these 16 HST Units 1-5 into 4 rows. There are red-tipped outer corners, yellow flying geese pointing inward at the center of each side, and a red and white hourglass on point in the center.
7. Sew as a series of 4-patches: the four upper left, the four upper right, the four lower left, and the four lower right. Then, stitch these four components as a 4-patch to complete the block. Press. It should measure $12\ \frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\ \frac{1}{2}$ ".