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The Victorians began the tradition of protecting a bed's counterpane with a throw to protect it from wear and tear. It can appear to be stenciled on, which adds dimension.

INSTRUCTIONS
Completing the Blocks
Step 1. Fold and crease the A square to mark the horizontal, vertical and diagonal centers as shown in Figure 1.
Step 4. Fold each corner in half again and press the centers as shown in Figure 2.

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Mexican Star Basket

By Julie Weaver

Turn a square block into a fabric basket to hold a plastic bowl liner which can be used to hold candy, a flower arrangement or sewing supplies.



2. Sandwich batting between completed block and backing piece; pin or baste layers together.

3. Quilt as desired by hand or machine. **Note:** The large muslin areas were machine-quilted in a 1" crosshatch design using red all-purpose thread on the sample shown.

4. When quilting is complete, trim edges even; remove pins or basting. Bind edges with self-made or purchased binding.

5. Place block right side down on a flat surface. Pull the muslin 1 squares in so that the side points of the corner units touch and a V shape is formed as shown in Figure 2; pin to hold. Repeat this process on the three other muslin 1 squares to make a basket shape. Adjust the formed V shapes to make uniform.

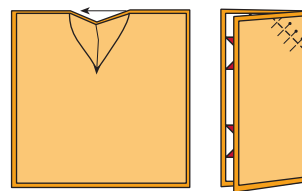


Figure 2

Pull the muslin 1 squares in so that the side points of the corner units touch and a V shape is formed as shown.

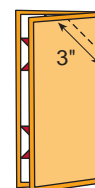
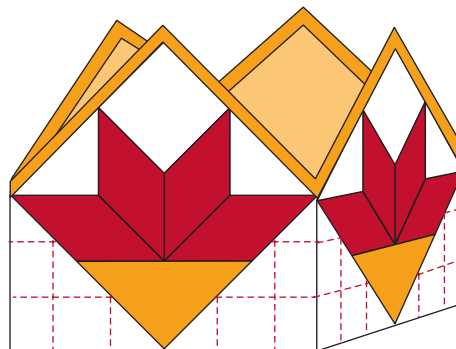


Figure 3

Sew along each pinned V to make a tuck in each side approximately 3" long as shown.

6. Sew along each pinned V to make a tuck in each side approximately 3" long as shown in Figure 3.

7. Hand-stitch each tuck to the inside of the formed basket to finish. Insert plastic liner, if desired. ❖



Mexican Star Basket

Placement Diagram

Approximately 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Project Size: Approximately 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" x 5 1/2"

Block Size: 12" x 12"

Number of Blocks: 1

FABRIC & BATTING

- 1/8 yard red mottled
- 1/4 yard fall print
- 1/4 yard muslin
- Batting 16" x 16"
- Backing 16" x 16"
- 1 1/2 yards self-made or purchased binding

SUPPLIES & TOOLS

- All-purpose thread to match fabrics
- Basic sewing tools and supplies

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare one Mexican Star block referring to Figure 1 for placement of colors in the block.

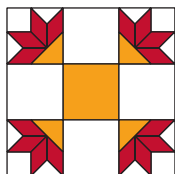


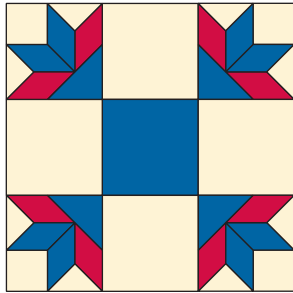
Figure 1

Piece 1 block placing colors as shown.

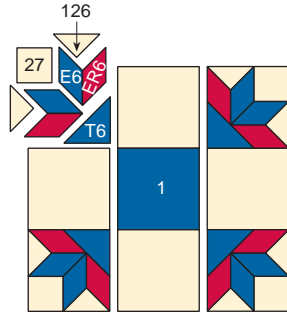
Mexican Star

PIECING INSTRUCTIONS

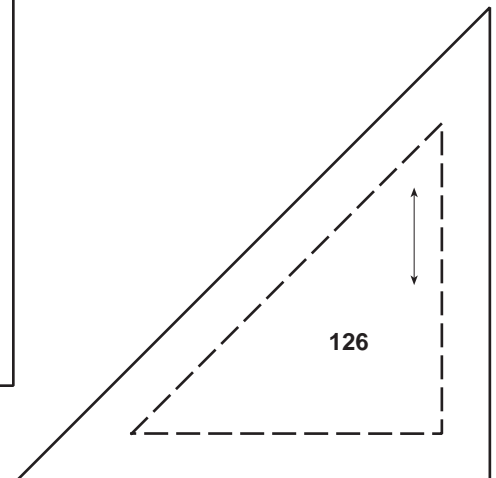
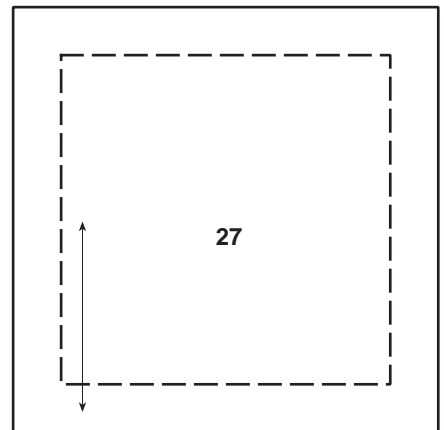
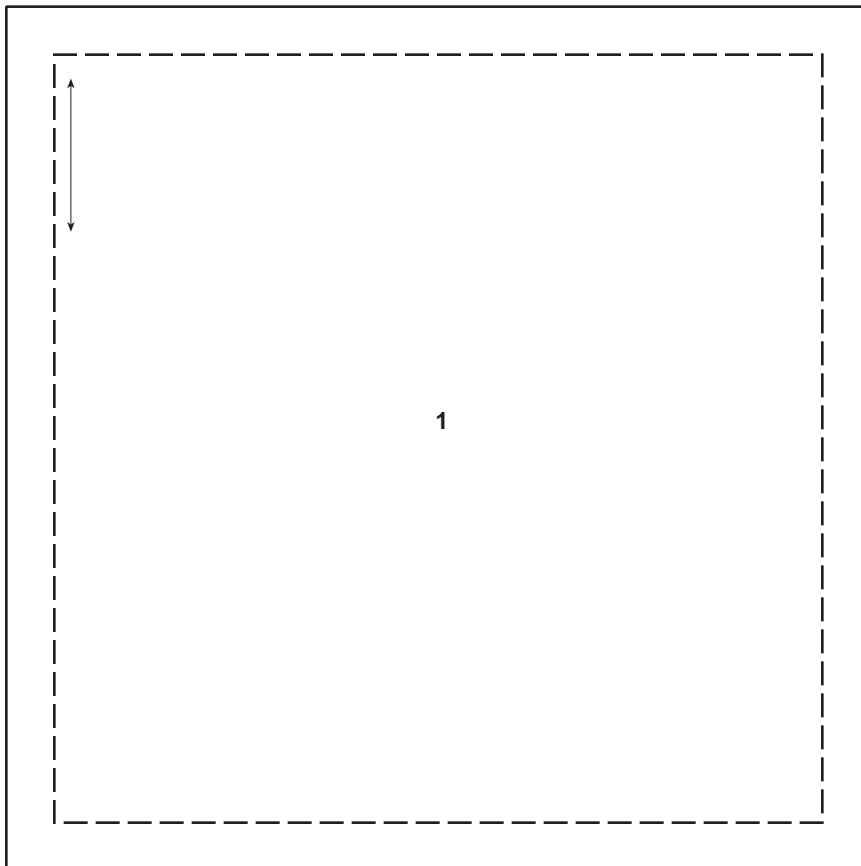
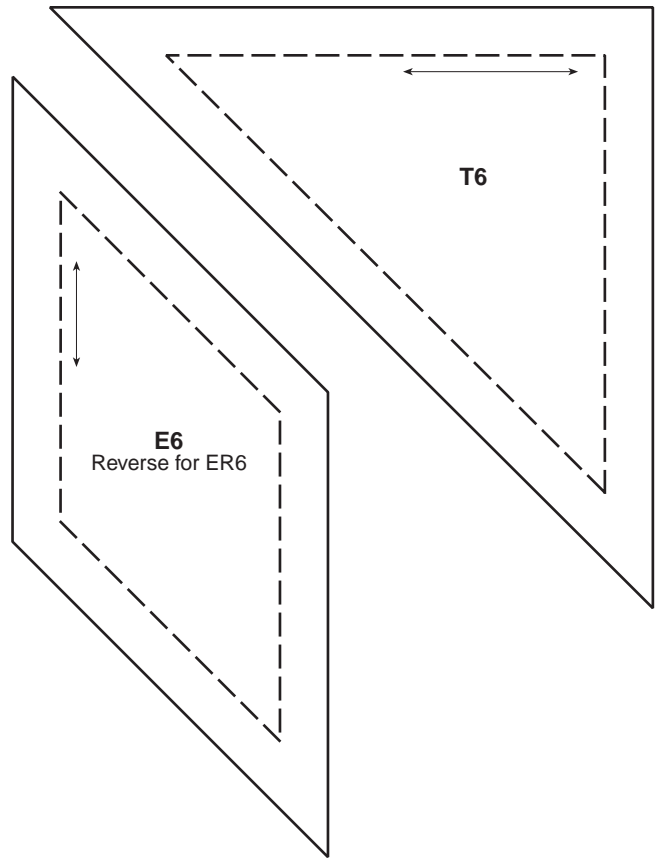
1. Referring to the Piecing Diagram to piece one block, sew a medium E6 to a dark ER6; sew a dark E6 to a medium ER6. Join the two units; set in a light 27 and two light 126 triangles. Add a dark T6 to complete one corner unit; repeat for four corner units.
2. Arrange the units in rows with one dark and four light 1 squares referring to the Piecing Diagram. Join units in rows; join rows to complete one block.



Mexican Star



Templates needed:
1, 27, 126, E6, ER6 & T6



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