

A Real Firecracker

Celebrate with stars and stripes



Sewn by Kim Waite. Fabric: Andover Fabrics plus scraps.

A Real Firecracker is presented as a free bonus pattern from *QUILTMAKER*. Playing with the giant shapes for Happy Holly Days (left) was so much fun—we brainstormed for more ideas. The stars mingle nicely in the version above, which is set off by the bold red and white stripe and beautiful blue border fabrics, all from Andover Fabrics. Complete instructions for Happy Holly Days appear in *QUILTMAKER* Nov/Dec '09 (No. 130). If you cannot find this issue at your local quilt shop, order back issues at quiltmaker.com/shop.



materials

Topper: 70" x 70"
Finished Blocks: 16"

White or Cream Solid

2²/₃ yards for blocks

Assorted Red Prints

1³/₄ yards total for blocks

Assorted Blue Prints

2³/₄ yards total for blocks

Red and White Stripe

³/₄ yard for sashes

Blue Print

⁷/₈ yard for border #1

Blue Tone-on-Tone

2¹/₄ yards for border #2 and binding

Backing 4²/₃ yards

Batting 78" x 78"

Fusible web 6¹/₂ yards

cutting

White or Cream Solid

9 squares (A) 17¹/₂" x 17¹/₂" (trim to 16¹/₂" x 16¹/₂" after applique)

Assorted Red Prints

6 pattern B

4 pattern C

2 pattern D

Assorted Blue Prints

6 pattern B

6 pattern C

3 pattern D

Red and White Stripe

3 strips 3¹/₂" x 40" for sashes

6 rectangles (E) 3¹/₂" x 16¹/₂"

Blue Print

7 strips 3¹/₂" x 40" for border #1

Blue Tone-on-Tone

for border #2

2 strips 5¹/₂" x 63" for sides

2 strips 5¹/₂" x 73" for top/bottom

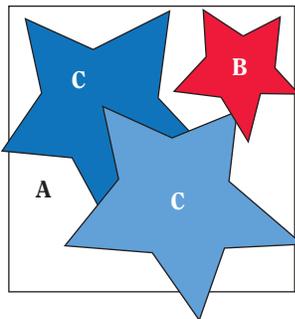
5 strips 2¹/₄" x 61" for binding

1 About This Quilt

Three sizes of red and blue stars are randomly placed on blocks. Portions of the applique are trimmed away, making each block unique. Our pattern will guide you to make a quilt *similar* to the photographed quilt. You may use more or less of each applique pattern.

2 Appliqueing the Blocks

Prepare the stars (B, C and D) for fusible applique. Refer to the block diagram and the photographed quilt to arrange the stars on the A's, overlapping patches and allowing some of the patch edges to extend beyond the edges of the A's as shown.



Block
 Make 9

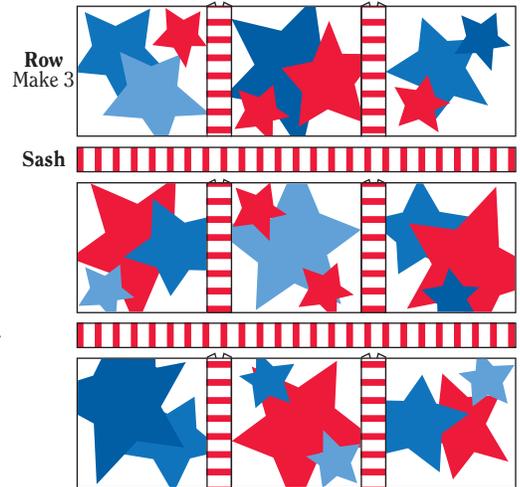
It's helpful to lay all the A's on the floor and work on all of them at the same time for a pleasing arrangement of shapes on each block.

Pin the applique to the A's and carefully trim off the excess beyond the block edges before fusing. Fuse the patches to the A's. Use monofilament or matching thread and a small zigzag to stitch around the patches. After the applique is complete, trim each block to 16¹/₂" x 16¹/₂".

3 Assembling the Quilt Top

Sew the blocks and E's into 3 rows as shown. Join the red and white strips end to end and cut 2

lengths of 57" for the sashes. Sew the rows and sashes together; trim the excess length from the sashes.



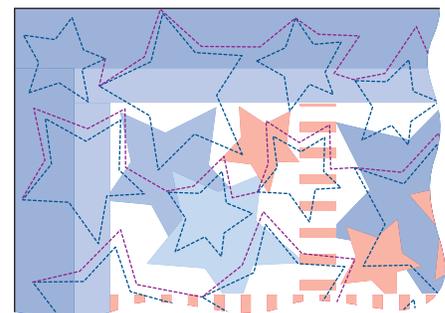
Assembly

Join the border #1 strips end to end and cut 2 lengths of 57" for the sides and 2 lengths of 63" for the top and bottom. Sew the border #1 side strips to the quilt and trim any extra length. Repeat to add the border #1 top and bottom strips. Add border #2 in the same way.

4 Quilting and Finishing

Layer and baste together the backing, batting and quilt top.

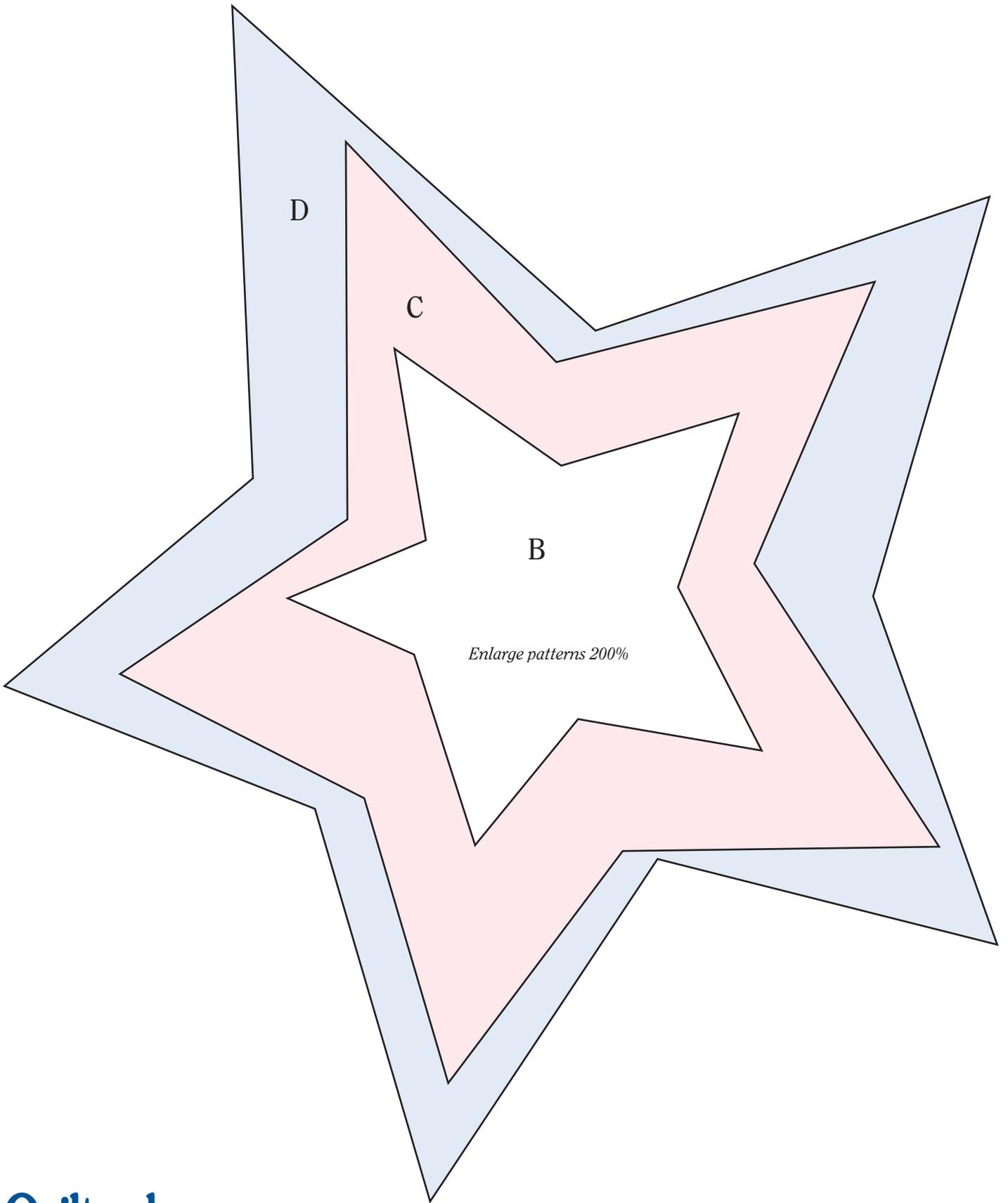
Referring to the quilting diagram, quilt stars randomly over the entire quilt surface, connecting the stars as shown in red. Bind the quilt. ■



Quilting Placement

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