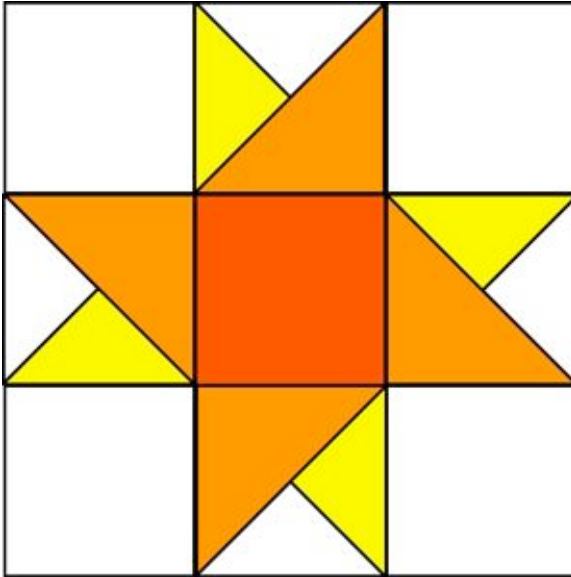


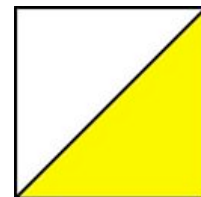
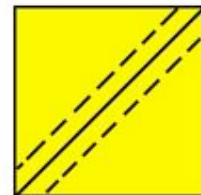
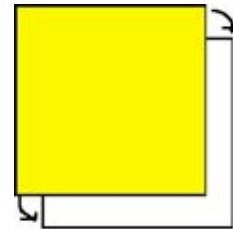
## Swirling Star Block

This is a “non-traditional” take on a traditional block. It allows you to piece half-square triangles (HST) and quarter-square triangles (QST) without handling biases. You end up making two blocks with the same colors, “swirling” in opposite directions.



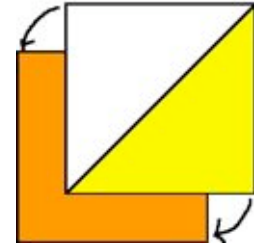
- 2 – 3½” squares for center
- 8 – 3½” squares (background fabric) for corners
- 4 – 3 7/8” squares for large star points
- 2 – 4 ¼” squares for small star points
- 2 – 4 ¼” squares (background fabric) to complete small star points

1. Place a 4 ¼” square block for the small star points and a 4 ¼” square block for background for the small star points right sides facing each other.
2. Mark a line from corner to corner. (*Shown as a solid link in the illustration*)
3. Sew ¼” on either side of the marked line. (*Shown as a broken link in the illustration*)
4. Cut along marked line.  
*You will have two half-square triangle blocks.*
5. Press towards the small star point side.
6. Trim the unit to 3 7/8” square.
7. Repeat steps 1 through 6 with the other two 4 ¼” squares.

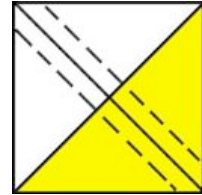


8. Place the  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " (large star points) square facing up.

9. Lay a HST unit (from steps 1 through 6) on top, facing down.



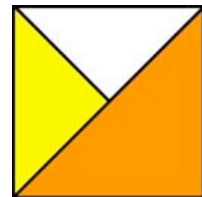
10. Draw a line from corner to corner (be sure it is a RIGHT angle to the HST seam!)



11. Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of the marked line.

12. Cut along the marked lines.

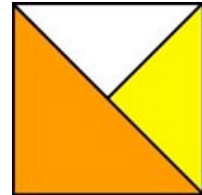
*You will have two triangle-unit blocks with the large and small star point triangles, and a background fabric triangle.*



13. Press towards the large point side.

14. Trim the unit to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".

15. Repeat steps 7 through 14 with the other  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares and HST units.

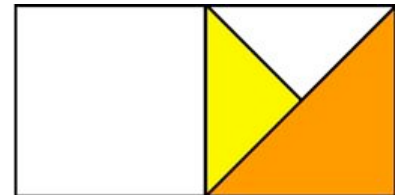


You will end up with 8 of these units (i.e. two sets), half facing the direction of the top illustration, half going in the opposite direction, as in the bottom illustration.

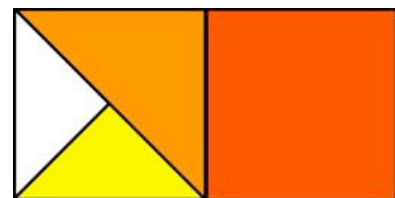
I suggest you divide your blocks at this point into two groups, each with the matching four  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square units made up of the triangles, four  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares of corner/background fabric, and a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square of center fabric and sew each 9-patch separately to avoid confusion.

### ***Nine Patch Directions***

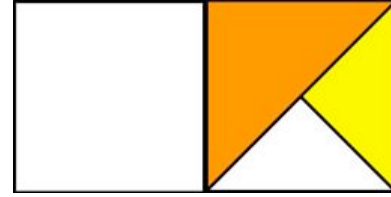
16. Sew one corner square to the left side of a triangle-unit block, facing together, keeping the background fabric in the triangle-unit block to the *top*.



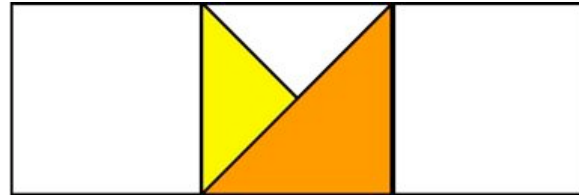
17. Sew the bottom of one triangle-unit block to the center square, facing together.



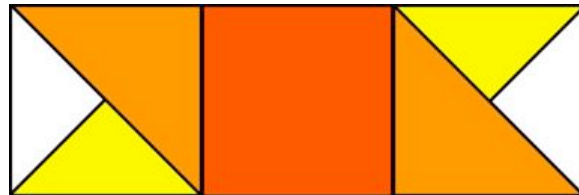
18. Sew another corner square to the left side of a triangle-unit, facing together, keeping the background fabric in the triangle-unit to the *bottom*.



19. Sew one corner square to the right side of the triangle-unit block/corner square unit produced in step 16.  
*You will end up with a unit of corner-square, triangle-unit block, corner square.*

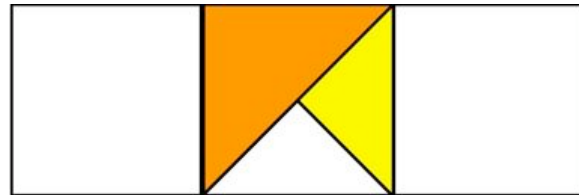


20. Sew one triangle-unit block to the other side of the center square in the triangle-unit block/center square unit produced in step 17. Be sure the blocks are facing together, and the “bottom” of the triangle-unit block is towards the center square.

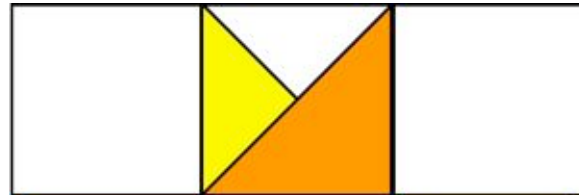


*You will end up with a unit of triangle-unit square, center square, triangle-unit square, with the background fabric in the triangle unit squares on the outside, large triangles toward the center.*

21. Sew the last corner square to the right side of the triangle-unit block/corner square unit produced in step 18.  
*You will end up with a unit of corner-square, triangle-unit block, corner square that is the “flipped” version of the one you produced in step 19.*



22. Sew the long unit produced in step 19, to the long unit produced in step 20, units facing each other, bottom of triangle-unit towards the center square.



23. Sew the unit produced in the last step to the long unit produced in step 21, units facing each other, bottom of triangle-unit towards the center square.



24. Repeat from step 16 with the remaining blocks to form the “opposite” swirling star.