

Esther's Constellation Cutting Instructions

Well, let's get started. I have revamped the traditional way these blocks would be pieced to eliminate several seams so if these cutting instructions seem odd just bear with me. It works.

Note: The Border. Instructions for cutting these pieces is approximate. The reason? I've made this pattern twice. The first time I needed 17 Square in a Square blocks on each of the four sides. The second time I only needed 16! Measuring and that pesky seam allowance will get you every time! Needle placement too. Moving on. Quilting confessions are good for the soul don't you think?

There is a bit of pre-sewing for this class to make your experience more enjoyable and fulfilling. You'll need 8 envelopes or plastic bags labeled Blocks A – F and Border Block F and Border Block B (They are repeats!)

- Block A –

Sew together 1 dark 2½” strip to 1 light 2½” strip. Make 6 of these.

Now cut them into: 24 – 8½” units. Should measure 4 ½” x 8 ½”.

Cut 3 dark 4 ½” strip into 12 – 8 ½” units.

Place in the Block A bag.

- Block B –

Cut 1 dark 3 3/8” strip into 4 – 3 3/8” squares.

Cut 1 light 3 ¼” strip into 8 - 3 ¼” squares.

Sew together 1 dark 2½” strip to 1 light 2½” strip. Cut this into 16 – 4 ½” units. You can use the remainder of the strip from Block A too.

Sew together 1 dark 2½” strip to 1 light 2½” strip. Make 2. Cut this into 32 – 2 ½” units. Now sew these into 16 Four Patch blocks. Should be 4 ½” square.

Place in the Block B bag.

- Block C –

Using 2 ½” strips, sew together a dark-light-dark strip. Make 4 of these. Cut into 12 - 2 ½” long units. Should measure 2 ½” x 6 ½”.

Next, cut 16 – 8 ½” units from this same strip. Should measure 6 ½” x 8 ½”.

Using 2 ½” strips, sew together a light-dark-light strip. Make 4. Cut into 16 - 2 ½” units. Should measure 2 ½” x 6 ½”.

Next, cut 16 – 4 ½” units from this same strip. Should measure 6 ½” x 4 ½”.

Fill up Block C bag with these units.

- Block D –

Block D is a Nine Patch. Easy. Fun. Using the 2 ½” strips, sew together a dark-light-dark strip and a light-dark-light strip. Now check your previous sewing to see if you can use any of the left over strips from Block C first. Save yourself some time.

Cut 4 – 2 ½” units from the dark-light-dark strip

Cut 8 – 2 ½” units from the light-dark-light strip

Sew together to make 4 Nine Patch blocks with light in the corners.

Should measure 4 ½” square.

Admire them and then place in Bag D!

- Block E -

Cut 5 – 4 ½” squares from the light 4 ½” strip.

Cut 20 – 2½” squares from the light 2 ½” strip.
For this block you will be making 20 – 2”x4” finished - Flying Geese units. I use the BlocLoc ruler and the following measurements are for that ruler. It squares up like nothing else I’ve ever used. However if you have a favorite method and prefer to use that one, now is the time to do it.

Cut 20 – 2 ¾” units from a light 4 ¾” strip.

Cut 40 – 2¾” units from a dark 2 ¾” strip.

Place into Bag E.

- Block F -

Cut 4 – 4 ½” squares from the dark 4 ½” strip.

Cut 16 – 2 ½” squares from the dark 2 ½” strip.

Cut 16 – 2 ¾” units from the dark 4 ¾” strip.

Cut 32 – 2 ¾” squares from the light 2 ¾” strip. Cut 3 strips for this.

Into Bag F these go.

Wow, that was intense!

Hang on ! Do you like this Border or do you want to do something else? Perhaps you will, so wait to cut this Border until after you finish the center. Just a thought!

- The Border ! -

- Border Block F -

Cut 4 – 4 ½” squares from the dark 4 ½” strip.

Cut 16 – 2 ½” squares from the dark 2 ½” strip.

Cut 16 – 2 ¾” units from the dark 4 ¾” strip.

Cut 32 – 2 ¾” squares from the light 2 ¾” strip.

Place these pieces into Border Block F bag.

- Border Block B -

Cut 64 - 3 3/8” squares from a light 3 3/8” strip.

Cut 256 – 3 1/4” squares from a dark 3 1/4” strip.

You will also need 4 or maybe more dark 3” x fabric width strips.

Big bag for these!

You will be cutting a 6” final border and a 4” inner border but I like to wait and see what the exact length is before I cut. You know Norm Abrams from this Old House says to measure twice and cut once. I like that. Of course WE can always sew the ends together. Norm doesn’t have that advantage.

This quilt will measure around 96” x 96” I hope!

I’ll be bringing some flying geese BlocLoc rulers with me if you don’t have one, so don’t worry about that. It’s fun to play with them. They also give you a perfect ¼” around a Square in a Square!

Looking forward to seeing all of you and seeing your finished creations!!!