

## “Constellation” Quilt Pattern

Look up and see the stars....! Grab a layer cake of 10 inch squares and some contrasting yardage and get ready to make your very own constellation quilt. These easy to make faux cathedral window blocks are a great way to show off some stunning fabrics, and we added a touch of super simple embroidery to really make these blocks shine.



This quilt measures 72 x 72 inches.

### You Will Need:

1 layer cake (set of 42, 10 x 10 inch squares).

We used the stunning new “Heirloom” range by Alexia Marcelle Abegg for Ruby Star Society. You can find this fabric from the Fat Quarter Shop [here](#).



5 ¼ yards / 5 metres of plain fabric to contrast with the layer cake fabrics, for the blocks and binding. We used a junior navy blue fabric. **\*\*NOTE** – If you're going to use up your scraps from this layer cake project on our set of companion projects, you may like to add another 1¼ yards of this plain fabric to use on these projects as well.

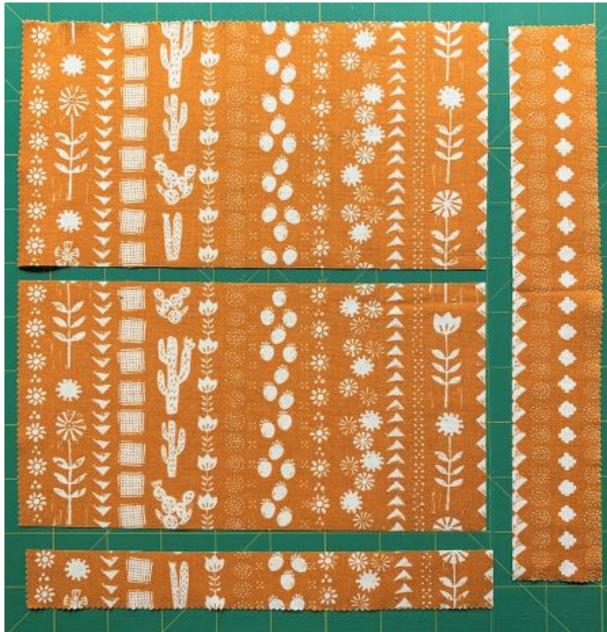
Batting measuring at least 80 x 80 inches

Backing Fabric measuring at least 80 x 80 inches

White Perle thread for hand embroidering some simple embellishments to the blocks. This is optional.

Fabric marking pencil – we used a Sewline white ceramic marker

**Cut:**



You need a total of 36, 10 inch (layer cake) squares for this quilt.

We took out 6 squares from our set of 42 – the dark blue ones and a couple of duplicates, so all colours would contrast well with our background fabric.

Cut each square as follows, and in the same order.

Cut a 1½ inch strip off the right side of the square.

Then cut a 1 inch strip from the bottom edge.

Cut your remaining piece in half horizontally, so you have two even rectangles measuring 8½ x 4½ inches.

**NOTE** – you can stack several layer cake squares and cut them at the one time. Just keep the rectangles in their pairs.

From your blue background fabric cut:

- \* 144 squares measuring 4¾ x 4¾ inches
- \* 28 squares measuring 8¾ x 8¾ inches

**Blocks:**



We used a well-known technique for making quick flying geese units, and played around with it a little to make these faux cathedral window blocks.

You will need one  $8\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$  rectangle and 2 of the  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inch contrast squares.



Fold your rectangle in half, with wrong sides together.



Place the folded rectangle on the right side of one of your squares as shown, with the fold at the top, and the left and bottom edges aligned.



Place the second square on top, right side down, again making sure to line up all the raw edges.



Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam down the left hand side, through all layers.



The unit when you open it out.

Press the seam.



Now open out the folded rectangle as shown. Use your finger to make a little crease at the top outer edge of the fold, then bring that crease down to line up with the bottom edge of the seam line.



Flatten out (re-fold) the fabric to make a triangle as pictured. The bottom edges should all line up fairly evenly.

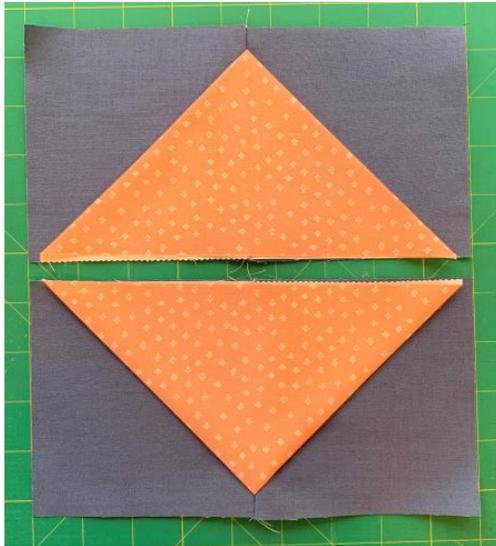


Finally press, to finish your flying geese unit.



Repeat with a second set of squares and the remaining matching rectangle to make two flying geese units.

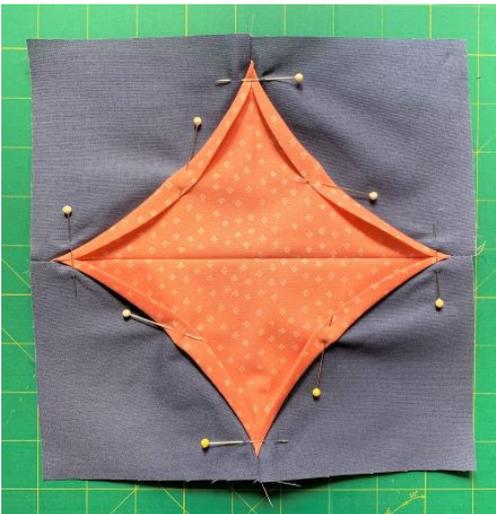
Tip – press both units the same way, and the seams will nest together neatly in the next step.



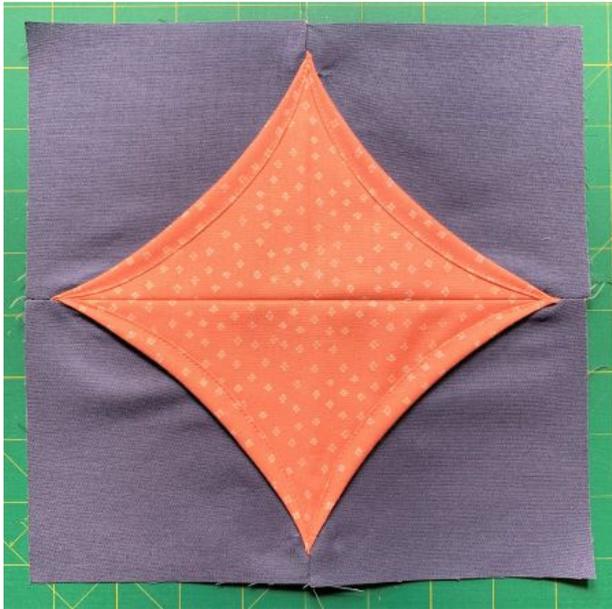
Arrange your units as shown.



Sew together, taking care to match the centre seams and the outer points.



As the fabric triangles are doubled over, and now on the bias, it is easy to fold over the centre of each side and pin, to give that great curved cathedral window block effect.



Use a neutral colour thread, and topstitch from point to point around the curves to finish the block and secure the fabric.

Make a total of 36 of these blocks.

#### Embroidery:



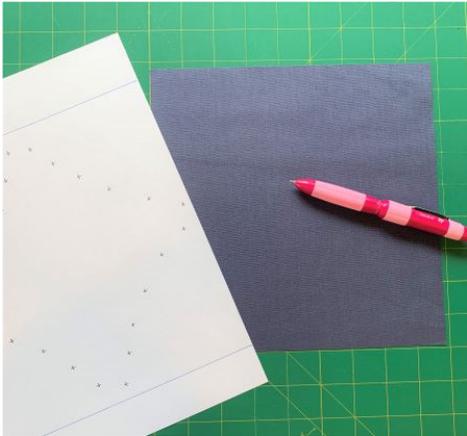
We added some very simple cross stitches around the outside of each of our shapes, as shown. It echoes the cross print in a few of these fabrics, and also highlights the starry night sky effect for this quilt. This is optional, but does look lovely on the finished quilt.

Use a single strand of perle thread to stitch 6 crosses on each of the four sides, as pictured.

Use the template provided to help you with the cross spacing if required.



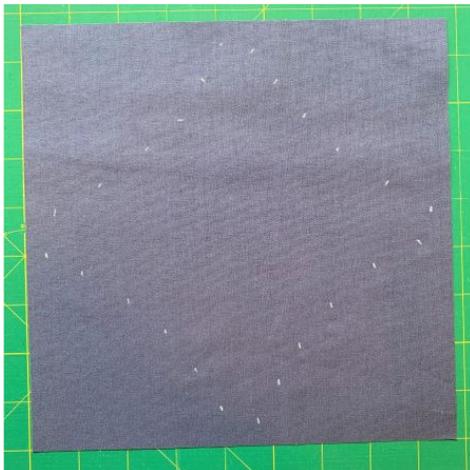
Detail of the crosses and topstitched points and curves in the blocks.



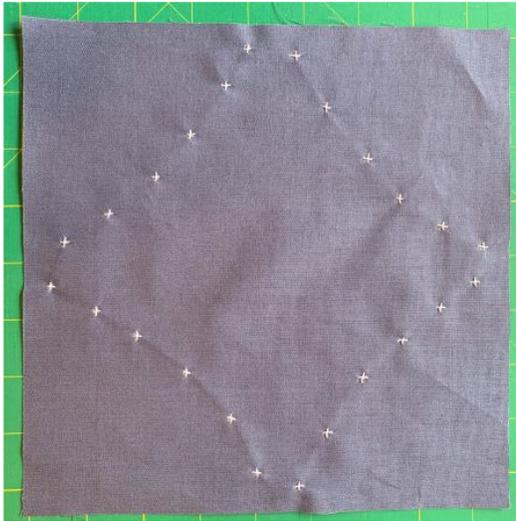
You will also need to add little crosses to the 28 larger squares that you cut from the blue fabric.

Use the template to help you mark them on each block. Print it off, and trim on the top and bottom lines to square up your template. Use a pencil and poke through the centre of each marked cross.

Lay the template on a blue fabric square and use your fabric marking pencil to make a dot where each cross should go.



Mark each of the 28 squares in this way, then stitch them with small crosses in exactly the same way as you did for the other blocks.



Your finished square.

### Assembly:



Refer to the pictures as a guide, and lay out your blocks in an 8 x 8 grid.

The centre is filled with pieced blocks, and the 'gaps' are around the edges, with a set of three pieced blocks running diagonally across each corner.

When you are happy with the layout, sew together in rows and press seams in opposite directions between rows.

Finally join the rows together and press well.

### Border:

We added a simple border to our quilt. Measure your quilt to double check, and cut your borders 3½ inches wide. You will need to join fabric to reach the required length for each side.

We cut two strips 3½ inches wide x 66 inches for the sides. Join them to the quilt top and press well.

Measure again. We cut two more strips 3½ inches wide x 72½ inches and added them to top and bottom.

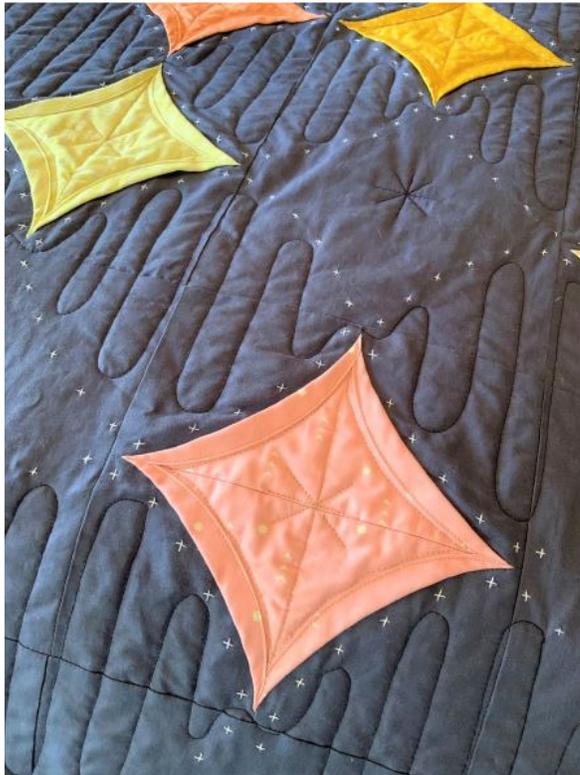
### Quilting:



Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top.

Put your quilt top on top of that, centred and smoothed flat. Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting.

We quilted simple stars in the centre of each of the cathedral window blocks. (You can join them with vertical lines and stitch a whole row in one go.)



We added a vertical up and down filler in the circle spaces between the blocks, and also added stars to the centre of the plain (cross stitched only) blocks as shown.

We continued these stars around the border.

Quilt yours as you like.

**Finishing:**

From your (blue) binding fabric, cut sufficient 2¼ inch width lengths for your binding and join together with 45 degree seams. You will need 8 width-of-fabric strips joined together.

Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press.

Join the binding to the right side of the quilt edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go.

Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding to finish.



Hang onto your scraps, and see what else you can make!

---

If you haven't yet, do check out our Online Quilt Magazine at  
[www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com](http://www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com) .

There's a Free Monthly Magazine, or upgrade to our Premium Magazine for even more Patterns and Hints and Tips.

And don't forget, if you haven't already, visit [www.3DollarQuiltBOM.com](http://www.3DollarQuiltBOM.com) again and select your next quilt project so you can get started right away!

# "Constellation" Quilt – Crosses Template

