

Final block for Mystery² Quilt 2019-20.

September Newsletter

The center medallion. 28" finished. On point.

If you are not doing either of the feathered stars, this is the time to look at your fabric, page through your quilt books, do an on line search, and come up with your center medallion. If you fall in love with something less than a 28-inch block, you will need to add borders to make it 28 ½ inch unfinished. Remember, also that this block will be on point.

Feathered star directions. Making the 8 outside star points.

NOTE: 1. I was wrong. You must trim the on-grain feathers down. They will be too big otherwise. (In this case, "on grain" means the strips of feathers that run parallel to the outside edges of the block). McCloskey makes her feather strips from feathers that are that are 1 ½" unfinished. These strips are attached to a bias-cut piece of fabric. The on-grain or smaller feathers are 1 7/16" unfinished; and those strips are sewn to the straight of grain edges of the fabric pieces. Sue makes her on-grain feathers at 1 ½" unfinished, and the larger/ bias feathers at 1 5/8". The whole point is to have your feather strips be exactly as long as the piece that they will be sewn to. Adjust the size and/or seam allowances to make them fit. You don't want to cut a feather in half.

Sewing the star points and corner squares- in other words, the outside borders of the star.

From Background fabric, cut one square 15 3/8 inches. Cross cut it diagonally both directions. And then cut 4 squares at 7 1/2 inches each.

From C2-#1, cut 4 squares 6" each. Cross cut them once diagonally.

For each set of 2 points, you need one quarter of the 15 3/8" square, 2 of the C2-#1 triangles, and 26 of the C2-#1 Half square triangle feathers plus 2 unsewn dark triangles and 4 light triangles that are the same size as the triangles in your feathers. 10 of these feathers will be the smaller, on-grain HST's.

Note 2. The first feathers are sewn to the background triangles that you cut from the 15 3/8" square. It's counterintuitive, but it makes sewing them together much easier



Note 3. The end feather points of each feathered star point alternate between light and dark. It's not a mistake.

Sew 3 strips of feathers, with the dark fabric in the lower left corner. 2 strips have 8 feathers, and one strip has 5 **on grain (smaller)** feathers. Add a light triangle to the left side of the **8 feather strips** and a dark triangle to the right side of those strips.

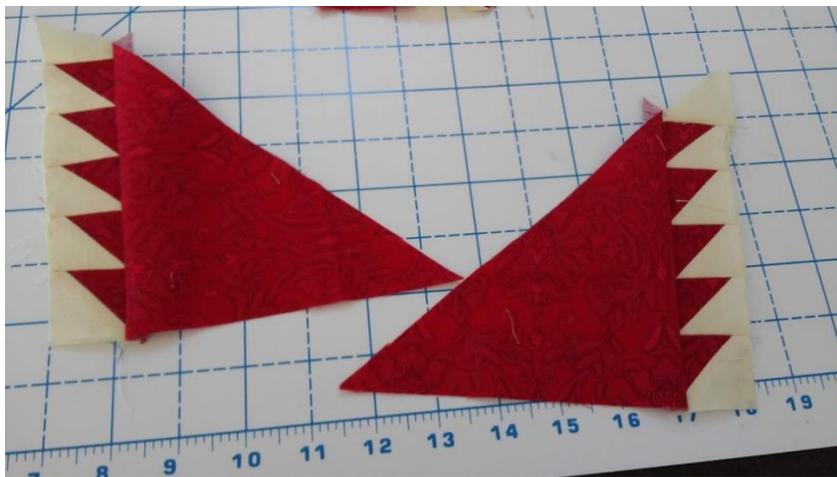
Once you have your 8 feather strips made, put them on the diagonal cuts of your triangle.



Add a light triangle to the LEFT side of the 5-feather strip. Then sew the last 5 **on grain** HST's with the dark fabric in the lower left corner. Add the last light triangle to the RIGHT side of this last strip.



Now place the two star points with the diagonally cut sides facing each other. Then sew your 5 feather strips to the left side of the left one, and the right side of the right one. Be sure you put the odd strip (dark fabric in lower right corner) on the left point. The half square white triangle goes on the top. Sew them together as shown.



Then complete the two star points by sewing all three pieces together as shown. Now, make three more. Take two of these pieces and sew a 7 ½" background square to either end, making the top and bottom borders of your star. The other two pieces will go on the two sides of the centerpiece, a square in a square in a square. **Top and bottom pieces are 28 ½ " by 7 ½ "** **Side pieces are 14 1/2" by 7 ½" unfinished.**



Building from the center out.

Our smallest center square is 5 5/8" cut from C1-#2. You will need 24 feathers cut from C1-#2 and your lightest light. Place 5 of your on-grain C1-#2 feathers on each side of the square, and 7 feathers on the top and bottom. Place all your dark triangles in the lower left-hand corner of each feather. EXCEPT: the last feather in BOTH strips of 7 (the last on the right) needs to have the dark in the upper left



corner. **This piece is 7 1/2" square, unfinished.**

First triangles, to put the center square on point:

Cut 2 squares from C2-#2 at 3 3/4". Cross cut them diagonally once. Put the 28 C2-#2 feathers (larger- bias) together in this order: You will sew 4 strips of 3 feathers with the dark corner in the lower left of the feathers. Place a light unsewn triangle on the left side of each strip. Then sew 4 strips of 4 feathers with the dark corner in the lower right with an unsewn light triangle on the right end. Place the C2-#2 triangle with the diagonally cut side towards you, and place the first strip of 3 feathers on the left side of the 90-degree angle. Then sew the 4-feather block strip so that the first square has the light on top, and the dark facing the 90-degree angle. **Note:** To be sure that everything fits, sew one 3-feather strip together, and make sure it fits. Then sew the 4-feather strip and finish one triangle before you sew the other 8 strips to finish the other three triangles.



Next, sew a triangle to each side of your center square, putting it on point.



This piece measures 10 ½" square, unfinished.

We are going to add one more set of triangles to place the original center square back to its original orientation. Take color C1- # 1 and cut 2-6" squares, cut them once diagonally; giving you your 4 triangles. Your 44 C1-#2 feathers (larger, -bias) are applied exactly like the last 4, but you need 5 feathers on the left side, color in lower left. And a 6-feather strip (color in lower right) for the right side of the triangle.





This square measures 14 ½” unfinished.

To finish your feathered star, pick up your feathered star points from your C2-#1 and background fabrics. Put the two short pieces on opposite sides, and the two pieces with the background squares on top and bottom.

This finished feathered star should be 28 ½” square.

Next month we will take the 4 Garden of Eden blocks and make them the center square in a square. These four blocks will be our four outside corners of the border. We will also make the 4 triangles that will set the center medallion on point. This is the easiest month and you will have your top done with time to get it quilted and bound before you need to register it in January for the quilt show under the **2019 Mystery² Category**.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank **Leslie Stapleton**. Without her help and wonderful photographs of her mystery quilt pieces, I wouldn't have been able to attend a family wedding, with reunion in Montana and have the chance to take the long way home through Banff, Canada. Thank you so much Leslie!