

January Thaw Free Quilt Block

By: Elaine Huff

If you're looking for a simple yet striking star block to add to your quilting repertoire, the **January Thaw** quilt block is a great one to try! This delightful block features an elegant eight-pointed star design and is constructed using just three basic units: hourglass blocks, square-in-a-square units, and snowballed corners.



Fabric Requirements for January Thaw Quilt Block:

12" Finished

- Light/White: 1 - 5.5" square, and 4 - 4.5" squares
- Medium 1/Orange: 1 - 5.5" square
- Medium 2/Multi-Color: 1 - 4.5" square, and 4 - 2.5" squares
- Dark/Navy: 2 - 5.5" squares, and 4 - 2.5" squares



Sewing Directions:

Step 1: Corner Units

Easy peasy - just snowball one corner! Using the four Light/White 4.5" squares and the four Medium 2/Multi-color 2.5" squares, snowball one corner of each of the Light/White squares as shown in the picture below.



Step 2: Square in a Square Unit

Using the Medium 2/Multi-color 4.5" square and the 4- Dark/Navy 2.5" squares, sew together a Square in a Square unit. The tutorial for making a Square in a Square quilt block can be found here: <https://fabric406.com/blogs/fabric406-blog/how-to-sew-a-basic-square-in-a-square-block> Trim/square up the units to 4.5" square.



Step 3: Hourglass Units

Now you can make **four** Hourglass units as shown in the picture below by using the two Dark/Navy 5.5" squares, the Light/White 5.5" square, and the Medium 1/Orange 5.5" square. Trim/square up the units to 4.5" square. You can find my tutorial for making an Hourglass quilt block at: <https://fabric406.com/blogs/fabric406-blog/how-to-sew-a-basic-hourglass-or-quarter-square-triangle-block>



Step 4: Putting It All Together

Lay out the Corner units, the Square in a Square unit, and the Hourglass units in a typical [Nine Patch](#) configuration as shown in the picture below.



Step 5:

Sew the units together into three rows as shown in the picture below. Press the seam allowances away from the Hourglass units.



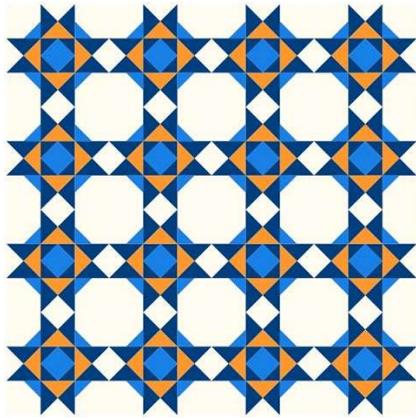
Step 6:

Sew the three rows together to complete the **January Thaw quilt block**! Press the seam allowances toward the center of the block.

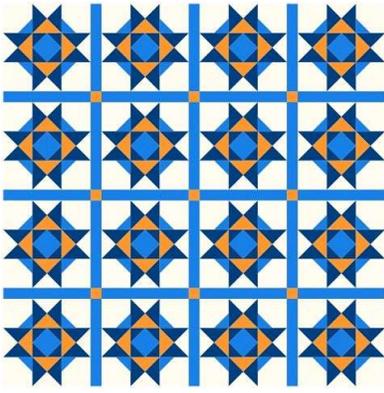


Layout Ideas:

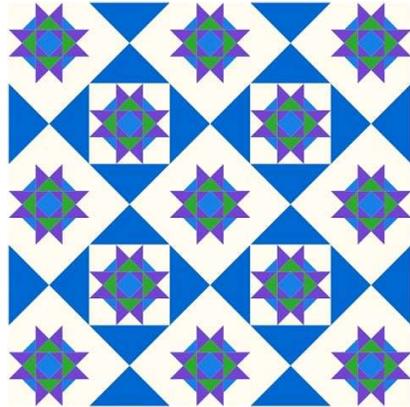
Here's the basic 4 x 4 layout using colors similar to the tutorial. This creates a nice design across the quilt!



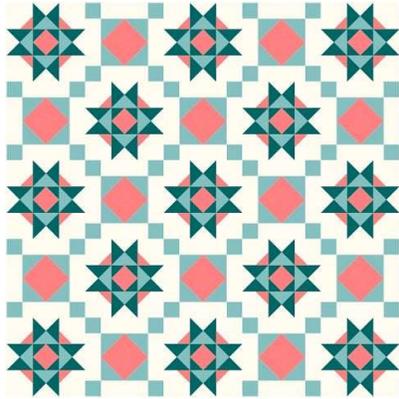
Same layout as above but with the addition of sashing and cornerstones. Sashing is handy to use because you don't have to match up points when sewing the top together.



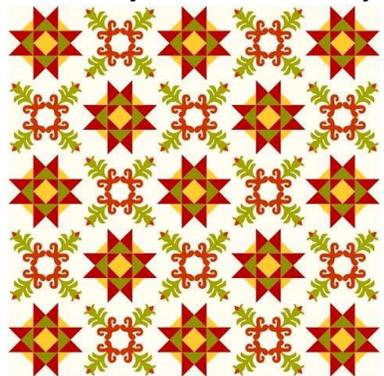
This is an alternating design where every other block is a large Hourglass block.



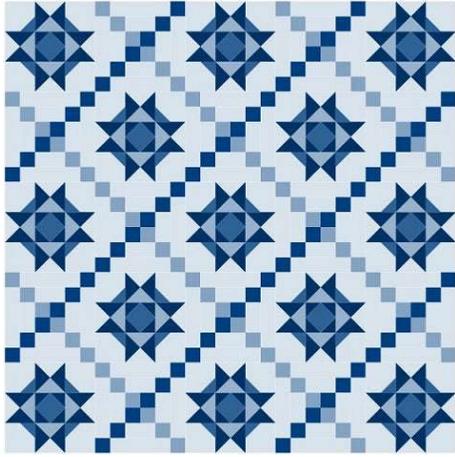
This alternating version uses an easy chain-type block. I'm partial to this layout!



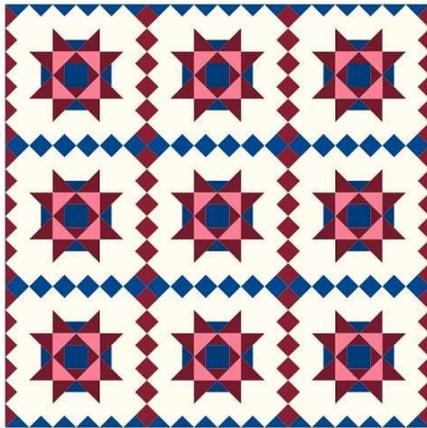
Of course you can make every other block a pretty applique block!



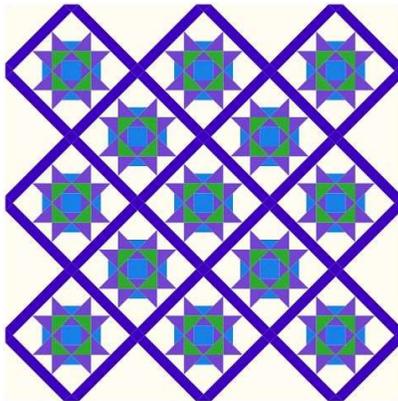
In this monochromatic example a simple chain block is used for an alternating block.



Here's an on-point layout that uses a simple alternating chain block that extends into the setting triangles.



And this on-point layout uses dark coordinating sashing and cornerstones plus plain setting triangles.



Conclusion:

The **January Thaw** quilt block went together fast!! Very cute and easy. If you can sew together an Hourglass block, I encourage you to give this one a go!