

Braced Star Quilt Block

By: Elaine Huff

Today let's sew together a **Braced Star** quilt block! It finishes at 12" and goes together on a diagonal grid. I also have several layout ideas toward the end of the post to help spark your inspiration. Let's get started!



Fabric Requirements for a 12" Finished Braced Star Quilt Block:

- Light/White: 4 – 4.5" squares, 1 – 5.25" square cut in half diagonally twice for a total of 4 triangles, 1 – 3+3/8" square
- Medium/Pink: 2 – 1+7/8" x 6+1/8" rectangle
- Medium/Green: 2 – 5.25" square cut in half diagonally twice for a total of 8 triangles
- Dark/Black: 2 – 1+7/8" x 3+3/8" rectangles

I recommend that you spray starch all the triangle patches to help prevent stretching when sewing them into the quilt block.



Sewing Directions:

Center Unit:

The center unit is basically the beginning of a Courthouse Steps block. You can find my tutorial on the Courthouse Steps block at <https://fabric-406.myshopify.com/blogs/fabric406-blog/how-to-sew-a-courthouse-steps-quilt-block>

Step 1:

First you need to sew the two Dark/Black 1+7/8" x 3+3/8" rectangles to opposite sides of the Light/White 3+3/8" square as shown in the picture below.



Step 2:

And press the seam allowances toward the Dark/Black fabric.



Step 3:

Next you will sew the two Medium/Pink $1\frac{7}{8}$ " x $6\frac{1}{8}$ " rectangles to the long sides of the unit as shown below, and ...



Step 4:

Press the seam allowances toward the Medium/Pink fabric.



Step 5: Five-Sided Unit

The first step in making this unit is to find the center of the long side of the Medium/Green triangles and the Light/White 4.5" squares. Here you can see that I simply folded the patches and finger-pressed a crease at the center. I folded the Medium/Green patch wrong sides together and the Light/White patch right sides together so that when you match them up ...



The creases nest together as shown in the picture below. You can use a pin to keep them centered.



Step 6:

Stitch the two patches together and...



Step 7:

Press the seam allowance toward the Medium/Green triangle.



Step 8:

Using another Medium/Green triangle, you're going to match up the center of it with the center of an adjacent side of the Light/White square.



Step 9:

Stitch the Medium/Green triangle to the Light/White square as shown below and...



Step 10:

Press the seam allowance toward the Medium/Green triangle. **Repeat to make a total of 4 Five-Sided units.**



Step 11: Triangle Unit

Next you will need to sew two Light/White triangles to the Five-Sided unit as shown in the picture below.



Step 12:

Press the seam allowance toward the Light/White triangle as shown below. **Repeat to make a total of 2 Triangle units.**



Step 13: Putting It All Together

Sew two of the Five-Sided units to opposite sides of the Center unit as shown in the picture below.



Step 14:

Press the seam allowances toward the Center unit as shown below.



Step 15:

Almost there! Now you can lay out the unit you just made and the two Triangle units in diagonal rows as shown in the picture below.



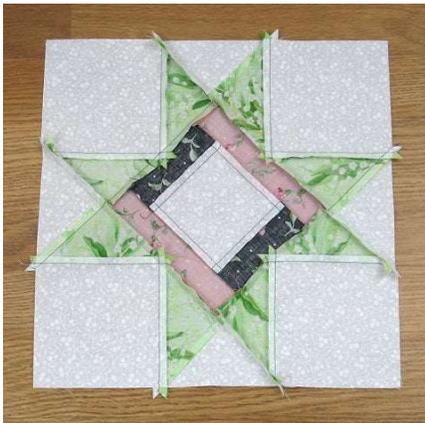
Step 16:

Match up the seams – they should nest together nicely – and sew the rows together. I had to do a little bit of easing on one of the seams to get it to match up but it isn't noticeable at all.



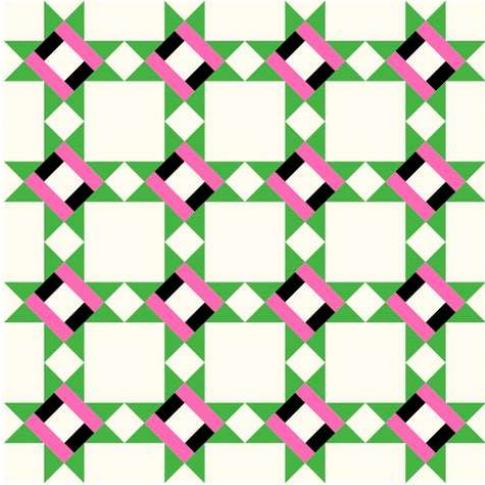
Step 17:

Press the seam allowances toward the center of the block as shown in the picture below. **All Done!**

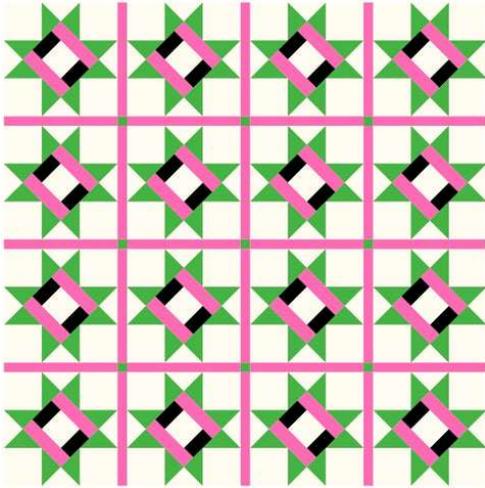


Layout Ideas:

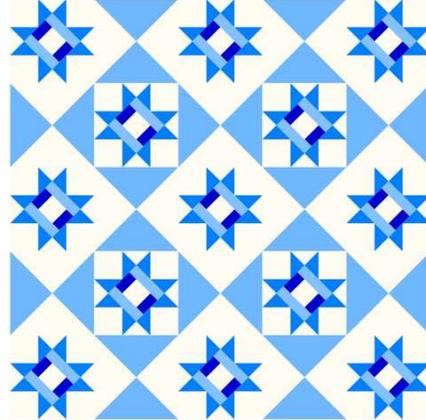
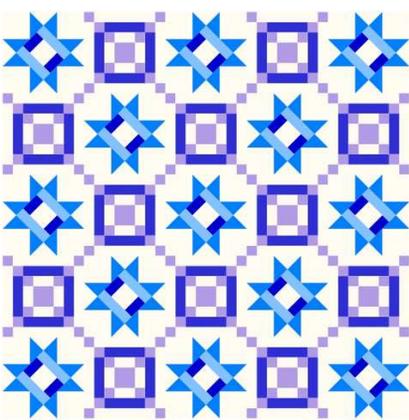
Here's the typical 4 x 4 layout using colors similar to the ones I used in my block. You could do some fancy quilting in the large background square or maybe embroidery/applique.

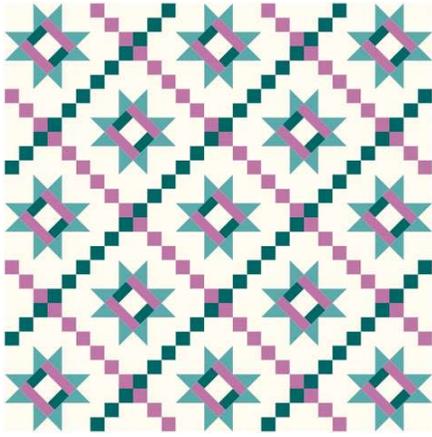


This version has sashing and cornerstones added:

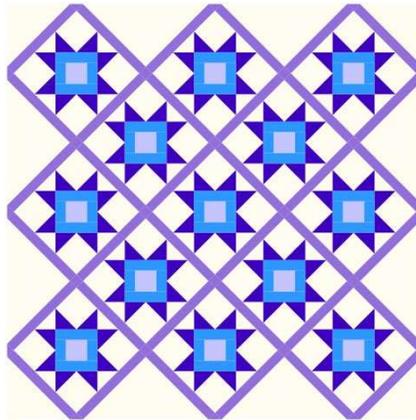
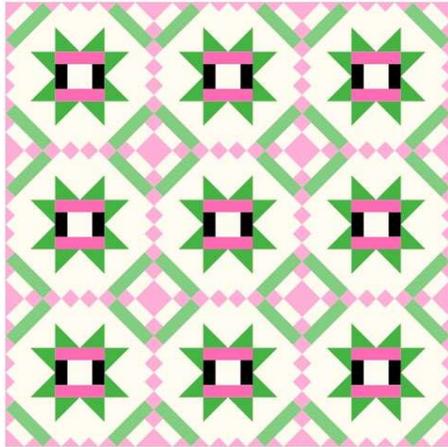


Here are some ideas for using an alternating block.





And here are some examples of on-point layout possibilities:



In Conclusion:

This was a fun block to put together. Because it is set on the diagonal, you have to deal with bias edges and funky-sized patches. But it went together easily and I'm happy with how it turned out.