

Hidden Star Quilt Block

By: Elaine Huff

The **Hidden Star** block is a beautiful 12" traditional design that's simple to piece but makes a striking impact. Perfect for beginners or anyone wanting a quick, satisfying project, this block comes together using just [Half Square Triangles](#) (HSTs), [Square-in-a-Square](#) units, and a center square. Whether you're adding it to a sampler quilt or making a full quilt of stars, the **Hidden Star** is a timeless favorite that shines with any fabric style. Let's dive in!



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

- Light/Ivory: 2 - 5" squares, 1 - 4.5" square, and 8 - 2.5" squares
- Medium/Tan: 8 - 2.5" squares
- Dark/Purple: 2 - 5" squares, and 4 - 4.5" squares



Sewing Directions:

Step 1: Half Square Triangle Units

Using the Light/Ivory 5" squares and Dark/Purple 5" squares, sew together four Half Square Triangle (HST) units as shown in the picture below. Trim/square up the units to 4.5" square. You can find the tutorial for making a basic Half Square Triangle block at <https://fabric406.com/blogs/fabric406-blog/how-to-sew-a-basic-half-square-triangle-block>



Step 2: Square in a Square Units

Piece together four Square in a Square units like the ones in the picture below using the four Dark/Purple 4.5" squares, the eight Light/Ivory 2.5" squares, and the eight Medium/Tan 2.5" squares.

You will find my tutorial for making a basic Square in a Square block

at <https://fabric406.com/blogs/fabric406-blog/how-to-sew-a-basic-square-in-a-square-block>

Be sure to put the Light/Ivory squares adjacent to each other (and the same for the Medium/Tan squares).



Step 3: Putting It All Together

Lay out the Half Square Triangle units, the Square in a Square units, and the Light/Ivory 4.5" square as shown in the picture below.



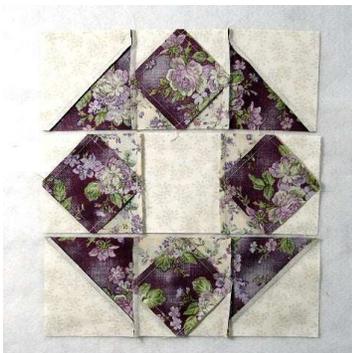
Step 4:

From here the block goes together just like a [Nine Patch](#) block. First you sew the units in three rows.



Step 5:

Press the seam allowances away from the Square in a Square units as shown below.



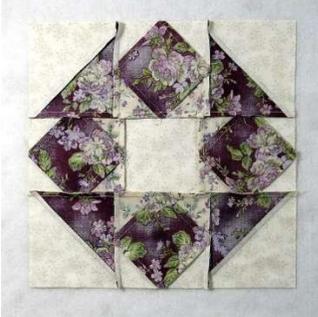
Step 6:

All that's left is to sew the three rows together.



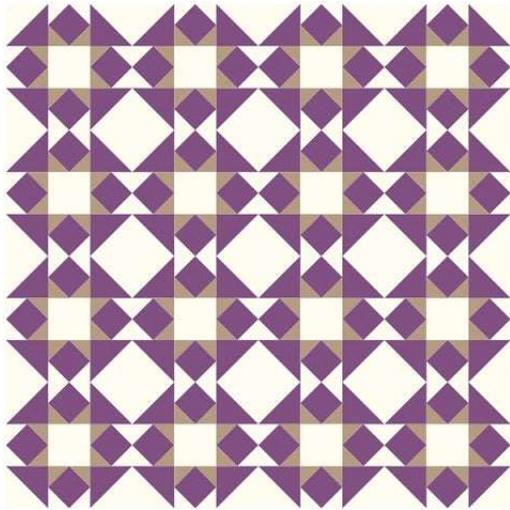
Step 7:

And press the seam allowances toward the center of the block. You're done!

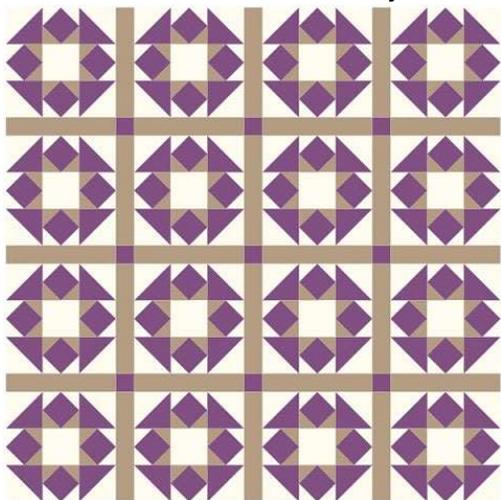


Quilt Layout Ideas:

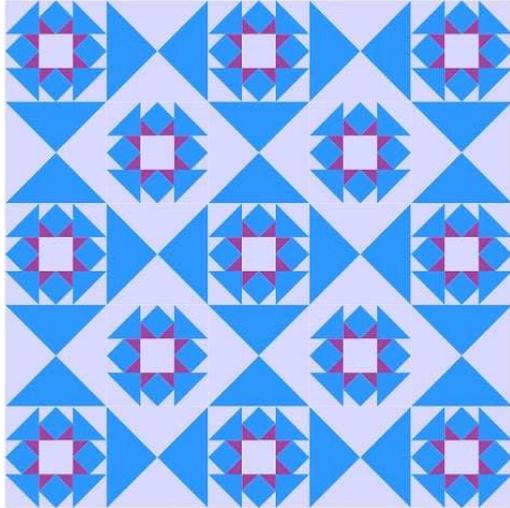
Here's the basic 4 x 4 layout using colors similar to the tutorial.



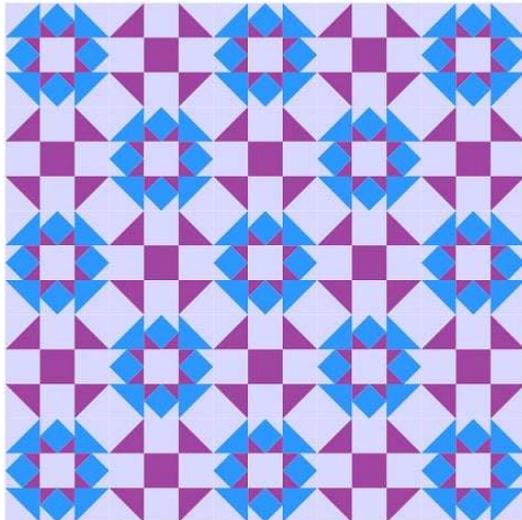
This version of the basic 4 x 4 layout had sashing and cornerstones.



For this example: I used a large Hourglass block for an alternating block.



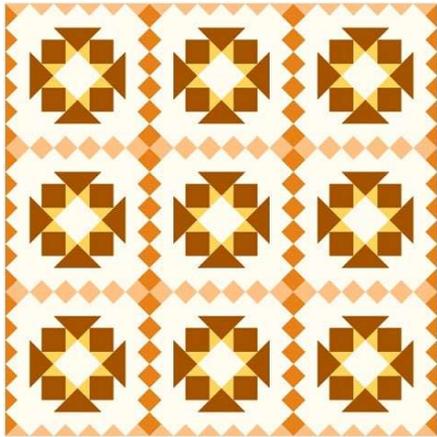
This alternating example uses a simple Shoo Fly block for the alternating block.



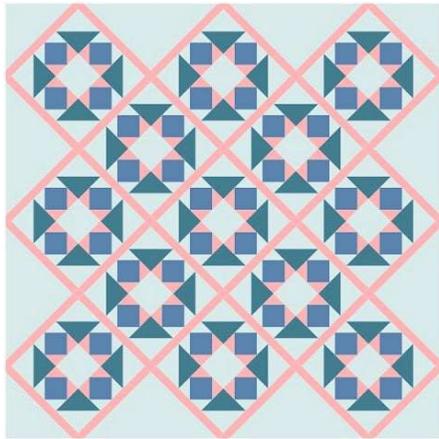
Here's a monochromatic coloring with a simple alternating chain block. I also changed the center square to the same color as the star points so that the star isn't so "hidden".



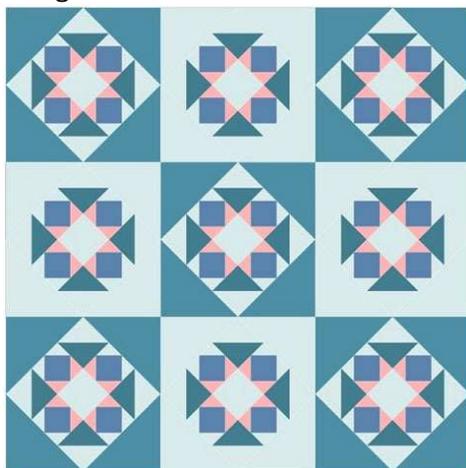
This is an on-point layout with a chain block used as an alternating block and for the setting triangles.



This example of an on-point layout has narrow sashing and cornerstones and the light green background fabric used in the setting triangles. I also added in an additional color.



Another on-point layout using the Hourglass block for the alternating block and for the setting triangles.



Conclusion:

The **Hidden Star** block was really quick to sew together. With only HST and Square in a Square units and a square, it makes for a great block for beginners. You could play with different color combinations like switching the placement of light and dark fabrics, or substituting the light half of the HSTs with another (fourth) color fabric.