



BLOCK of the MONTH - APRIL 2016

OHIO STAR

The OHIO Star blocks were made throughout the state of Ohio during the 19th & 20th centuries. Still popular today, the block uses Quarter Square Triangles (QST) as the star's points. A finished QST is a square bisected along both diagonals. Traditionally 2 fabrics are then arranged in pairs, opposite one another. There are many tools on the market designed to help minimize inaccuracies in constructing these QST blocks. You can use any method or tools you have, I.e. the whirlwind whiz; one tool that seems to be very helpful is a 4 1/2" square ruler.

The Ohio star is 4 Hourglass blocks made from quarter square triangle pairs and 5 squares. Cut from 1 light (#1) and 1 dark (#2) fabric, these are the cuts:

Fabric #1 Light Fabric.	Cut 2 - 4 1/2" x 4 1/2"
	Cut 1 - 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"
Fabric #2 Dark Fabric	Cut 2. 4 1/2" x 4 1/2"
	Cut 4. 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

To make the hourglass blocks, place 1 each of the 4 1/2" squares together placing the right sides of both fabric #1 and #2 together to make 2 sets.

Using a marking pen on the darkest fabric, draw perpendicular lines that intersect in the center of the square. Next, sew 1/4" to the right of the first line, then at the intersection of the center, stitch 1/4" to the left and then straight down. Now, go to the left of the square as positioned in figure 1, and do the same thing, sewing to the right of the line, then left at the center 1/4", then down to the end of the drawn line. You can see a swastika-like sewing line. Once you cut on the solid drawn lines, press each QST and pair with a second so that they look like the figure shown. Press seams towards the darker fabric. Trim hourglass blocks to 3 1/2". Arrange the hourglass blocks as shown with 3 1/2" squares placed as shown in figure 2. Sew blocks, then rows together, nesting seams. Press seam allowances in the directions shown. Block measures 9 1/2".