STAR of the WEST

Finished Block 12” (with seam allowances 12-1/2”)

4 x 4 Block

FABRICS: Our pinwheel star block showcases the colors and winds of March! Medium kelly-green (A) clover spreads with the rains, while light lime-green (B, C) grass shoots from the soil. Trees of dark forest-green (D) tower over light golden-yellow (E) Acacias, mustard fields and daffodils...

STEP 1: Sew an A square to a B square, making four A-B units that measure 3-1/2” x 6-1/2”. Press seam towards the darker A.

STEP 2. Mark diagonal lines on the backs of four C squares and four E squares. Using the diagram to position, place a C square on the dark rectangle D with right sides together and sew on the line. Trim the seam to 1/4” and press to the dark D. On the other end of D repeat with the E square. Trim the four C-D-E units to 3-1/2” x 6-1/2”.

STEP 3. Sew an AB unit to a CDE unit four times. Press seam towards AB. The quarter sections should measure 6-1/2” x 6-1/2”.

STEP 4. Sew two quarter-sections together following the block diagram. Press towards D. Repeat with other two sections. Sew the two halves together, and press. Block finished is 12-1/2” square.

A.K.A. STAR of the WEST is a late 1800’s name for this classic pattern, known since the early 1800’s as CLAY’s CHOICE, tied to the historical Calhoun or Clay days. Other common names are CLAY’S STAR, CLAY’S FAVORITE, HARRY’S STAR, HENRY OF THE WEST, METEOR, SHOOTING STAR, STARDUST, BEAUTY PATCH, BLOCKS AND PINWHEELS. (sources: Kansas City Star Exhibit 2004, Barbara Brackman-Nancy Cabot, Carrie Hall) -K.H.
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