**VARIABLE - OHIO STAR**

Finished Block 12” (with seam allowances 12-1/2”)  3 X 3 Block

**FABRICS:** NASA says Variable Stars are a class whose luminosity or brightness changes over time - just like the sea! Choose a **light turquoise** of the tropics or your favorite backyard pool for (A), B, and (C).  (D) is the **dark blue-green** of a stormy ocean and (E) is a **bright marine blue**.  (F) is the **violet** as the waters and sky blend as the sun slips down.

**STEP 1:** (Corners BD) Mark a diagonal line on the wrong side of each B 4-7/8” square. Place a B and D right sides together; sew scant 1/4” seam **on both sides of the marked line**. Cut on the line and press to the dark. Repeat for the other B-D set of pieces. Unit finishes 4-1/2”.

**STEP 2a:** (Star Points CEFE) On the wrong side mark a diagonal line on both E 5-1/2” squares. Place one E and one C square right sides together. Sew scant 1/4” seam **on both sides of marked line**. Repeat for the other E using F square. Cut on marked lines and press towards E.

**STEP 2b:** On the wrong side of FE square mark a diagonal line upper left to lower right. Place one FE square right sides together with a CE square, opposing E triangles. Sew scant 1/4” seam on either side of the new marked line. Cut on the line and press open away from F. Trim the four CEFE units to 4-1/2”.

**STEP 3:** (Assemble block) Follow the diagram above and sew the blocks into three rows and the rows into the final 12-1/2” block.

**A.K.A. VARIABLE or OHIO STAR** names are often interchanged, and sometimes called SAWTOOTH. The OHIO design refers to a 9-patch, the VARIABLE a 16-patch - BUT...put on point, each morphs into the other design! A favorite and pioneer American pattern, it originated as an English border. Many new names arise when the corners or the center or coloring changes.  (Sources: M.E. Johnson, Rehmel, Brackman, Malone)  -K.H.
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