MILKY WAY STAR

Finished Block 12” (with seam allowances 12-1/2”
3 x 3  or Nine Patch Block

FABRICS: Spread across the dark summer sky are glittering diamond-like stars of our own galaxy - the Milky Way. For the many twinkling stars far away choose fabric (A) as white or cream, perhaps having gold flecks. For the deep of space choose (B) and (C) in a dark blue. What is your favorite star: Polaris - that points the way North? Sirius - the brightest star in the sky? or Sol, our sun orbiting in the center of the Milky Way? For our star choose fabric (D) and (E) in a bright golden yellow.

STEP 1: Sew (A) and (B) strips right sides together and press to the dark. Cut at 2-1/2” intervals. Sew the 2-1/2” strips together making 4 checkerboard blocks that are 4-1/2” square. Press last seam open.

STEP 2: On the two light 5” (D) squares mark a diagonal line from corner to corner. Stack with the dark 5” (C) squares, right sides together. Sew scant 1/4” on both sides of marked line then cut on the line. Press to the dark. Trim the four D-C units to 4-1/2” square.

STEP 3: Lay out the four checkerboard AB units, the four half-square triangle CD units and the center 4-1/2” E square as in the diagram above. Sew across in rows, then sew the rows together. Press; trim to a 12-1/2” square.

A.K.A. MILKY WAY as a block name has also been applied to a hexagonal log cabin-type construction. Our form, with or without the two side borders and varying color placement, has been called SQUARE AND HALF SQUARE, CHINESE COIN, CROSSES AND LOSSES, FRIENDLY HAND, INDIAN PUZZLE, INDIANA PUZZLE, MONKEY WRENCH, PINWHEELS and WATERWHEEL and dates at least from the 1920’s (sources: Maggie Malone, Barbara Brackman, Carrie Hall) - K.H.
Friendly Hand (12” finished block) {use scant ¼” seam}

Supplies: Color #1 : (1) 3 ½” x 7” strip AND (1) 2” x 20” strip AND (1) 3 7/8” x 15 ½” strip
(dark)

Color #2 : repeat #1 cuts
(light)

Step #1: cut both 3 ½” x 7” strips into 2 of each 3 ½” squares

Step #2: Sew the two 2 x 20” strips together & press to dark; cut at 2” intervals
Sew 2” strips together making 4 checkerboard blocks

Step #3: Speed piece half squares as follows:

- stack Color 1 & 2 tog. & mark w/pencil on light @ 3 7/8” intervals
- mark diagonals in direction shown below

Pll. sign in “Top sq.”
+Keep oriented per arrow.

- sew scant ¼” on each side of diag. line, pivoting @ square lines
- cut apart on square lines & then on diagonal (pencil) lines
- press seams to darker side and square up!

Layout & piece together using scant ¼” seam.