

Instructions for Milky Way block (also known as Friendship Star)

Block of the Month for August, 2026

Cutting instructions:

1. This block uses four-patches and HSTs. You will make this block using just two colors in addition to your focus fabric. You can also make the four-patches out of black and white fabrics (a real eye popper!). You will make twenty-five 3" mini-blocks and sew them together to complete the block.
2. For the centers of the stars, cut four 3" squares from your focus fabric or, if you prefer, from the two colors you are using to create the stars.
3. For the HSTs and four-patches, cut eleven $3\frac{3}{4}$ " squares from each of two colors. Five will be used to make the four-patches and six will be used for the HSTs.

Assembly:

1. Make nine four-patches. Place two squares, one of each color, with right sides together. Stitch two sides that are opposite each other. Cut in half (measuring $1\frac{7}{8}$ ") parallel to the stitching and press open. Place the dark side on top of the light side, matching the seam and stitch each side across the seam. Cut in half parallel to the stitching and press open, being sure to pinwheel the center seam. Repeat four times (you will have one extra four-patch).
2. Make 12 HSTs. Place two squares, one of each color, with right sides together. Draw a line down the diagonal on one side. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from either side of the diagonal, then cut along the diagonal and press open. Repeat five times.
3. Now for the trimming. Each of the small blocks should be trimmed to 3" square. For the four-patches, measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the center seam on all four sides. For the HSTs, make sure your diagonal seam measures 45° .
4. Assemble according to the illustration, being absolutely sure to have all of the small blocks oriented correctly (this is a little tricky, so take your time).
5. Stitch the blocks together, ensuring that the vertical seams for the top, middle and bottom rows all face one way and the opposite way for the second and fourth rows.

