

## Q4CI Block Drive: March 2020 – 4 patch pointed star (12 inch block)



This block has various names including 4 patch star and pointed star. The pattern we will be using is based on 2.5 inch strips (so you may be able to use left over jelly roll strips) and makes a 12.5 inch block (12 inch finished size in the quilt).

### Colours/fabrics:

**Star colour:** choose **one bright colour** for your star. Use plains, tone on tones, or patterns where your chosen colour is dominant. The short star points will be your strongest or darkest colour, and the longer star points either lighter, or more patterned (to give a contrast). A small piece of a third fabric is needed for the small coloured squares.

**Background:** **white, ivory, or cream**– plain, tone on tone, or a “neutral” (low volume) patterned fabric where the white or cream background is dominant.

### 1. Cutting list:



**Background** ( A Fat Quarter of your background fabric will be enough to make two blocks - see cutting notes below)

Four (4) pieces 2.5 x 4.5 inches

Twelve (12) pieces 2.5 inches square

**Coloured Fabric 1** – for the longer, lighter coloured star points

Four (4) pieces 2.5 x 6.5 inches

**Coloured Fabric 2** – for the shorter, darker coloured star points

Four (4) pieces 2.5 x 4.5 inches

**Coloured Fabric 3** – for the contrasting squares

Four (4) pieces 2.5 inches square

**NOTE:** if cutting background fabric from a FQ (enough for two blocks), first cut 2.5 inch strips in the direction that gives you 20 inch long strips (you need 5 strips). Use 2 of these strips to cut a total of eight (8) 4.5 in long pieces and 3 strips to cut a total of twenty four (24) 2.5 in squares



1. Draw a diagonal line on the back of 8 of the background squares (2.5 inch squares) that will be used for the star points



2. To make the long and short star points, with right sides together, place a background square at the correct angle (yes, it matters!) of the star point pieces (4 short and 4 long) – as shown above.
3. Stitch just barely to the outside edge of the marked line (so the background fabric will fold on the marked line). If you stitch in the direction shown above, it will help avoid chewed up points.



4. Press open background points, matching those corners. Check all your points are at the correct angle, then trim away excess fabric from the back. You may want to re-press the seam open (see next page), as this will make it easier to assemble the block later.

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This picture shows the diagonal seam re-pressed open, which will help to reduce the bulk of the seam when you come to assemble the block.

#### Block units

**NOTE:** The finished block is made up of four identical units.

Check pictures as you go to make sure you are sewing the correct sides together



5. Sew a background square to a coloured square (make 4), and press seam
6. Sew a background rectangle (2.5 x 4.5 inches) to each of these, and press seam. Check diagrams to make sure you have the pieces placed correctly.
7. Sew the first (shorter) star point piece in place.

**NOTE:** if your seam allowance is correct, then each new piece will **EXACTLY** match the length of the side it is being stitched to. You need it to be correct to end up with the right sized block, so it is worth unpicking your last seam and correcting it now if it doesn't match.



8. Finish the quarter block units by sewing on the second star point.



Note that again, the pieces you are sewing together should be **EXACTLY** the same size if your seam allowances were correct.

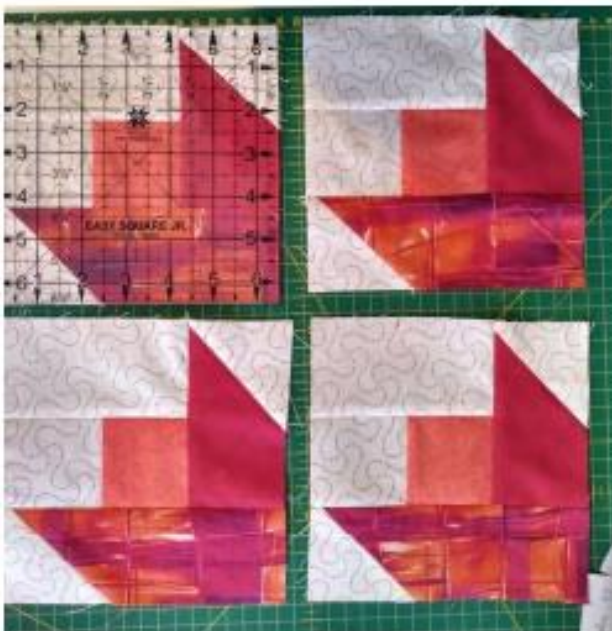
If the piece you are adding appears shorter, then your previous seam allowance was a wee bit too small.

If the piece you are adding appears longer, then your previous seam allowance was a wee bit too big.

Correcting this now will mean that each of these block units ends up at exactly 6.5 inches square, and your finished block will also end up the right size.

### Block assembly

9. Your four quarter block units should all measure 6.5 inches square. Turn the pieces to form your star block.



10. Sew the top two pieces together, and the bottom two pieces together, and press the seams (either in opposite directions so they nest, or open)

**NOTE** You will need to carefully pin and match seams at the V of the star and at the centre: (see pictures next page)



This diagonal seam should be matched carefully when sewing each of the two pairs of blocks together.

When sewing the last seam you will need to match both diagonal seams and the centre seam.





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