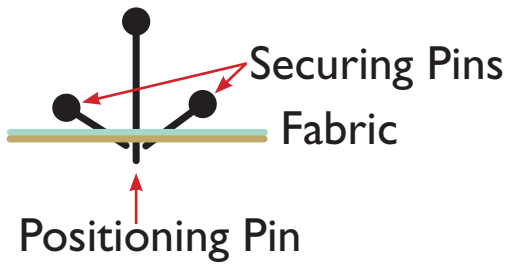


Part 3 Notes

Block Assembly:

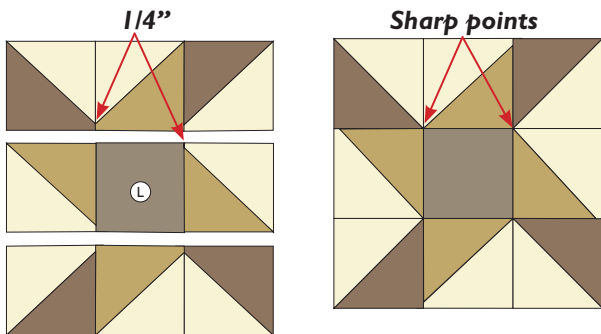
Part 1 and Part 2 involved lots of cutting and piecing stitch and flip units and HSTs. Part 3 has minimal cutting and all those pieced units will now be sewn into blocks, rows, & borders. If you were wondering why all the fuss about precise cutting, piecing, pressing, and squaring up, you will find out as the blocks, rows, and borders are assembled.

Note: I strongly encourage a review of the *Perfect Points and Positioning Pin Tutorial* to minimize problems maintaining sharp points or straight diagonal lines within and between blocks. This is especially true for beginning quilters, anyone who has trouble piecing points well, and if you are unfamiliar with the use of a positioning pin.



In Steps 10 to 15, HSTs and Ls are combined to construct Block A and Block B. As the blocks are pieced and then joined to other blocks, the importance of accurate 1/4" seam allowances to maintaining sharp points will be evident.

Sharp points usually means that the points on a block, like a star block, meet the adjoining seam and without being cut off and buried in the seam. I expand the meaning to include any place a diagonal seam intersects one or more seams, as seen in the illustration below, because the same factors are important.



If points are not sharp when units are joined, it is usually due to:

- Diagonal seam in HSTs not sewn straight
- Diagonal seam in HST not exactly in corner
- Misshapen HSTs or lack of accurate squaring up
- Seam size not accurate or consistent (1/4" or scant 1/4")
- Raw edges of units not precisely aligned (common!)
- Pressing directions not followed so seams not nested
- Additional pinning or positioning pin needed to align and stabilize for sewing

If you encounter a problem where a point is not well-formed by a diagonal seam and another seam, go through the checklist to identify the problem. Sometimes the problem can be fixed, or you can learn from it for the future.

Border Assembly:

The assembly method of the border units was partly determined by the fact this was a mystery quilt. I had to come up with a way for you to make lots of units without making it clear how they went together:



Careful with accurate seam size and seam allowances



A positioning pin will help you joins the rows

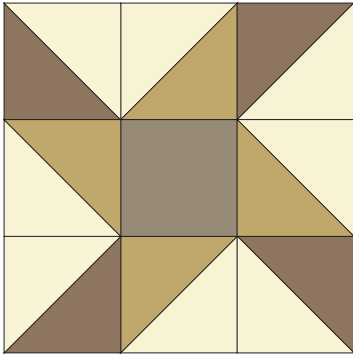
Quilt Top Assembly:

When you sew the blocks into rows and the rows together, you will understand why seam directions between Blocks A & B are alternated. It is much easier to align seams, pressed in opposite directions, that can be abutted and nested.

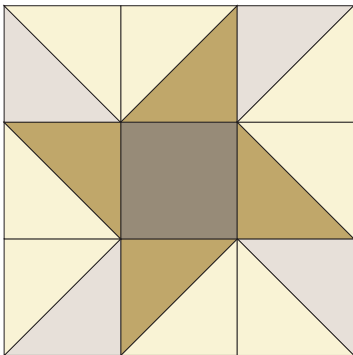
Secondary Patterns:

When blocks are joined in a quilt, often other pattern designs become evident. These secondary (as opposed to primary) patterns add visual interest and cause the eye to travel around the quilt. Mystery Quilt 2014 has three additional design elements that appear, especially if there is adequate contrast between the background and other fabrics.

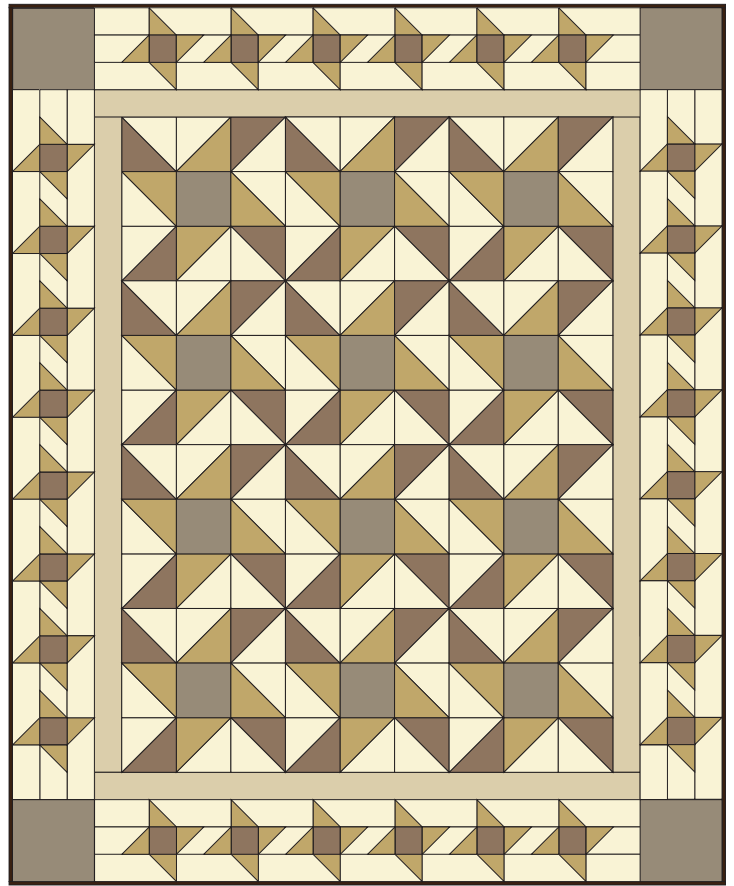
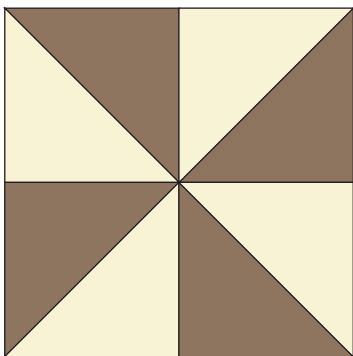
Primary Design - Eccentric Star (Block A & Block B)



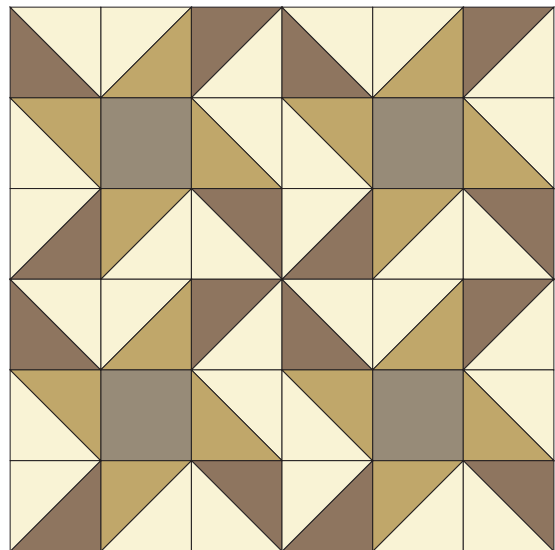
Secondary Designs - Friendship Star



Secondary Designs - Pinwheel



Secondary Designs - What I call "lightning strikes"



Study Questions -

Which of these patterns stands out in your quilt?

Can you see all of them?

What effect would result from changing colors (warm vs. cool), boldness, or degree of contrast?

Look at the following quilts, done in different colorations, to evaluate the effect of color and value on the secondary patterns.

Mystery Quilt 2014 in other Fabrics:

The sewing sample quilt was made with lower contrast fabrics from the Neutral Love II collection:



Here are two examples with color values reversed; the background is the darker value:

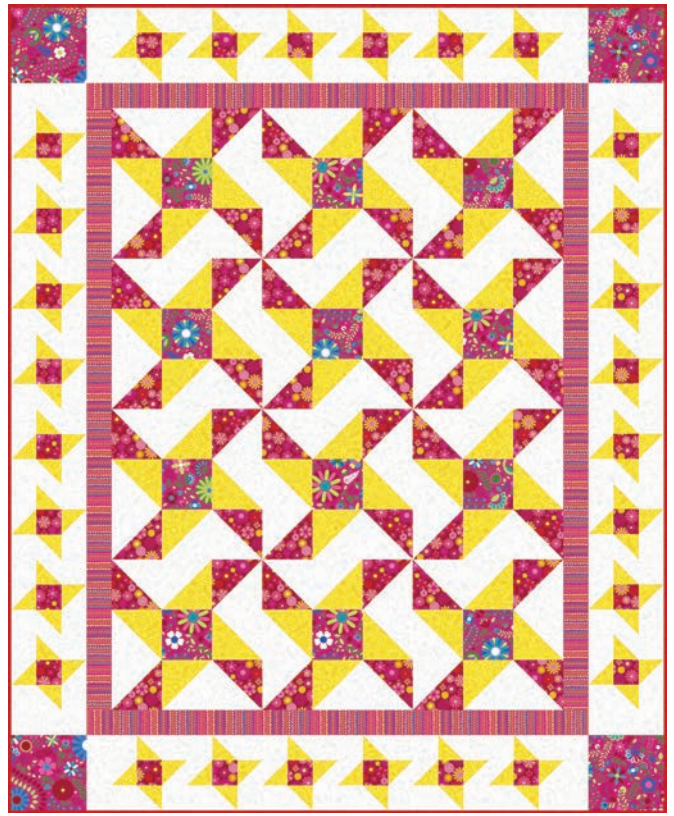
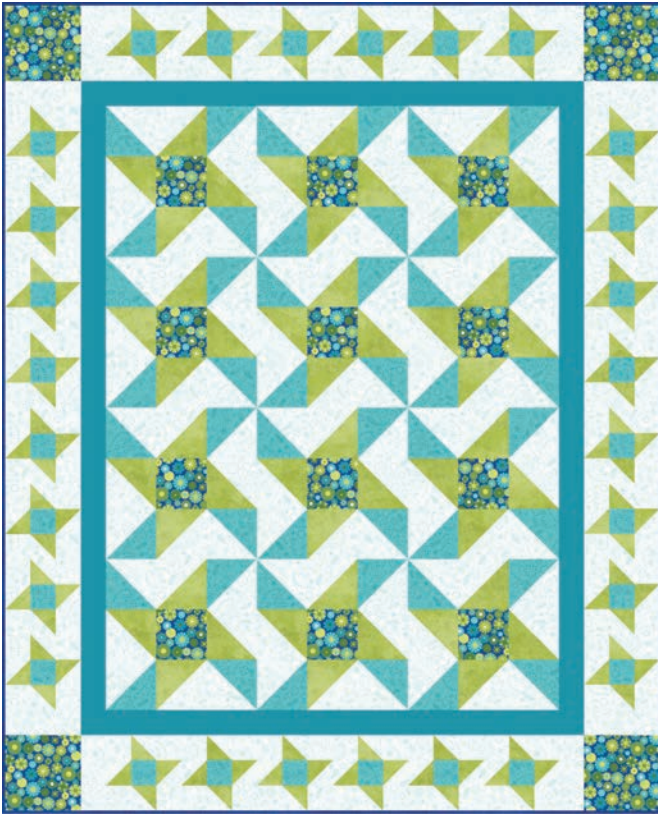


¡Fiesta!



Golden Age

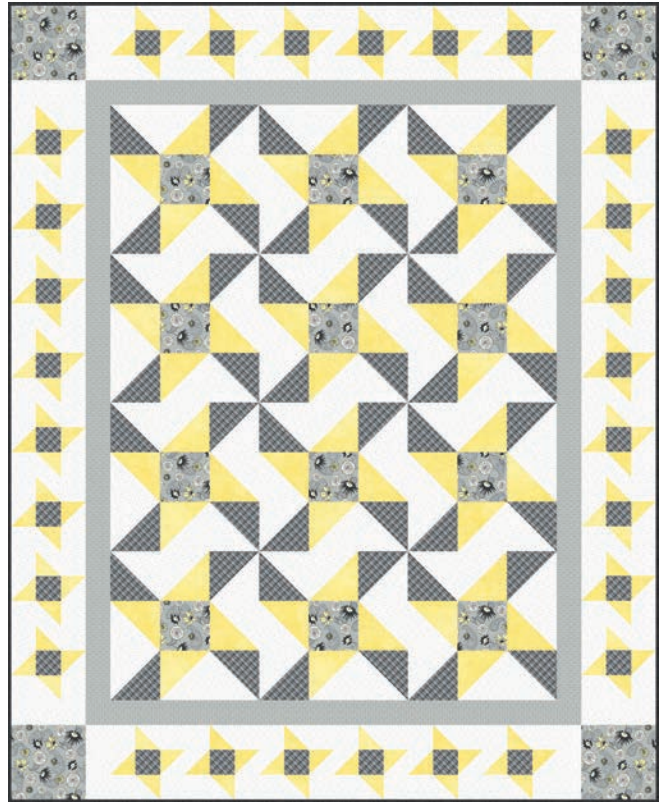
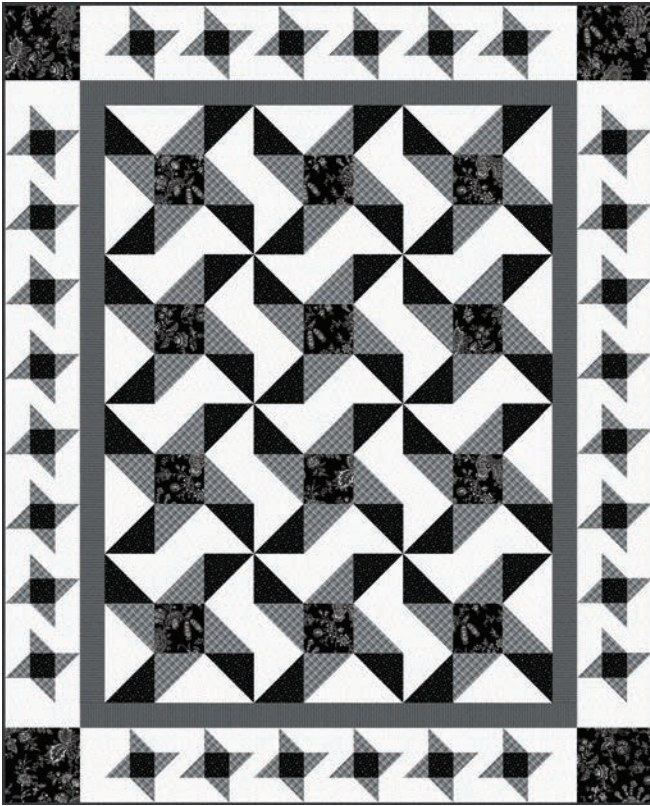
Two more examples from the ¡Fiesta! collection.:



Two more examples from the Golden Age collection.:



Two examples from the cool colors in the Neutral Love II collection:



Three examples from the Rhapsody of Reds and Symphony of Blues:

