

Lesson 5 Posting Notes

Perfect Points Sampler by Ann Johnson

Here is Lesson 5... We are on the home stretch!

Lesson 5 includes the last two blocks and instructions for finishing the sampler.

The LeMoyné Star Variation is paper-pieced. Hopefully, the instructions will suffice if you have successfully paper-pieced in the past. I included a paper-pieced block so you could practice using a positioning pin with the paper and fabric. I posted resources for learning to paper-piece in Lesson 3 including CT tutorials on paper-piecing and related CT products.

For those of you who do not wish to paper-piece for some reason, here are two options:

- Make two more Sawtooth Star blocks to substitute for the LeMoyné Star Variations
- Make templates from the paper-piecing templates and piece them the traditional way.

This block also involves multiple intersecting diagonal lines. Paper-piecing can help piece this block precisely. With traditional piecing, it works best to stop each seam at the 1/4" mark at the center and backstitch. Then the intersection of the multiple seams on the back of the block can be "swirled" like the Pinwheel in Lesson 4. You may want to try this on one of the blocks.

The Basket Block is the final block in the sampler. It provides practice and review of the techniques in the other lessons. The trickiest part may be piecing the triangle underneath the basket. Use the positioning pin to align the marked diagonal line with the point at the bottom of the basket (this will make sense when you get there).

Final Comments on the Positioning Pin: I am the only person I know who, after inserting the perpendicular positioning pin, uses one securing pin coming out where the positioning pin is inserted. I often balance this with securing pins on each edge of the unit, but not always. I like to know exactly where the positioning pin was so I can sew one thread width away.

You need to know that most sources and other quilters use a perpendicular positioning pin to stabilize the fabric layers and then insert two pins, one on each side of the positioning pin about 1/16" or 1/8" away. Also, some resources say to push the positioning pin all the way down to the fabric, keeping it perpendicular underneath. I have seen people leave the positioning pin in place perpendicular to the fabric, sew right up to the pin and remove it at the last moment. Just wanted to let you know about these variations so you can choose one that works for you.

Finishing the Sampler: Lesson 5 also includes instructions for assembling the sampler, adding borders and finishing the quilt. Sewing the blocks and rows together may be challenging with all those points! You will be grateful for the blocks with frames; they at least don't have points to match. To be honest, when I assembled my sampler, I had to self-enforce my rule of accepting the results after ripping out a seam three times.

Binding: You may want to check out my five-part detailed tutorial on binding called *Binding Basics*. Perfect Points Quilt Along: This lesson ends the sampler quilt along in that there will be no more official postings. The tutorial, pattern and lessons will stay up for many more weeks so members can finish and others can start later. I will be checking the Perfect Points Quilt Along group frequently in the next month or so and infrequently after that. Eventually, everything will be available on the website.

Member's Photos: We will post some more photos in the next couple of days and probably as people send in photos of their finished samplers. Look forward to seeing them!

Thanks! I want to say thank you to all of you who have added your comments, helped others and sent in photos. This was my first blog and quilt along. It has been a tremendous learning experience and a rewarding one. I hope you have enjoyed it as well.