

Perfect Points Sampler

by Ann Johnson for Connecting Threads



Perfect Points Sampler: Lesson Three

The *Perfect Points Sampler* was designed to provide practice for the techniques discussed in the **Perfect Points & the Use of the Positioning Pin** tutorial. The *Perfect Points Sampler: Introduction* describes the pattern, fabric requirements and suggested cutting layout. Please read the detailed and illustrated tutorial, *Perfect Points Sampler: Introduction* and *The Perfect Points Sampler: Lessons One and Two* for a more thorough understanding. Cutting directions are provided on page 3.

Lesson Three:

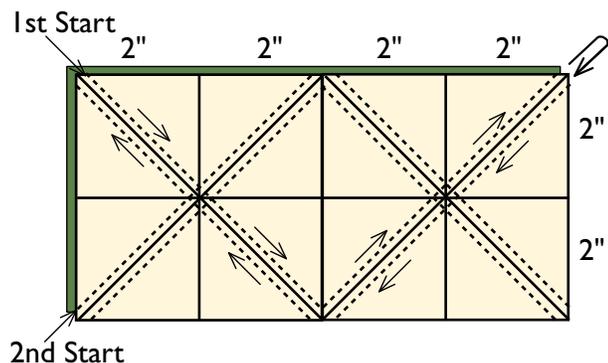
Bears's Paw

This sampler quilt has one Bear's Paw block. It is surrounded by a 1/2" finished frame to make it fit into the 8" finished format of the other blocks. Using a scant 1/4" seam allowance may be needed to maintain accurate block size since the units are so small.

You may use the method of your choice to make the HSTs; the grid method will be discussed. The actual math for 1" finished HSTs is cutting 1-7/8" squares; this leaves no room for cutting, sewing or pressing mistakes or distortions. Instead of drawing squares in a grid, individual pairs of squares may be sewn using the marked diagonal sewing and cutting lines.

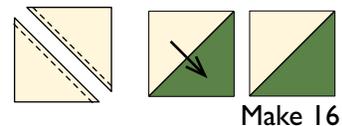
1. To make the sixteen HSTs using a grid, place a 4" x 8" rectangle of **Fabric 3** on top a 4" x 8" rectangle of **Fabric 10** with RS together. Draw the solid lines 2" apart; these are the cutting lines. Draw the dashed sewing lines 1/4" away on each side of the solid diagonal lines. Some quilters prefer to omit drawing the dashed lines and sew along the solid diagonal lines using a 1/4" sewing foot.

Beginning at the 1st Start, sew in a continual path following the arrows and pivoting at the corners. Using the needle-down function (if your machine has it), sew to the line and pivot or sew off the fabric for a couple of stitches. Reverse direction at the other end, return and end near the first starting point. Repeat beginning at the 2nd Start.

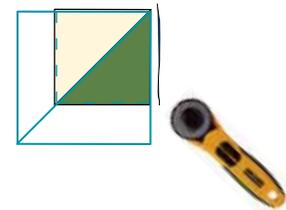


Approx. finished size: 40-1/2" square

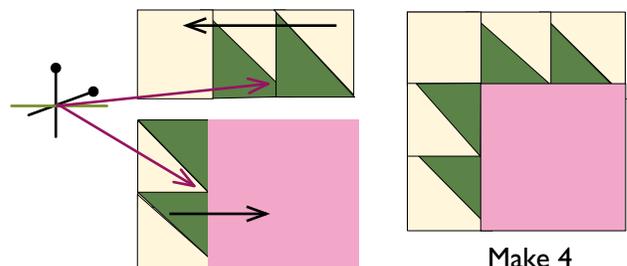
2. Keeping the pieces arranged together, cut first along the solid horizontal and vertical lines and then the diagonal solid lines. Press to the darker fabric. Each of the eight 2" squares make two HSTs for a total of sixteen HSTs.



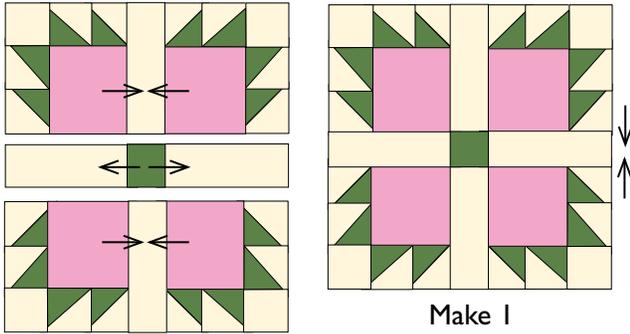
3. It is important to square-up each of the HSTs to 1-1/2" before proceeding. Use a square ruler with the 45° line placed exactly on the diagonal seam. Trim each side as needed keeping the seam exactly at the corner point.



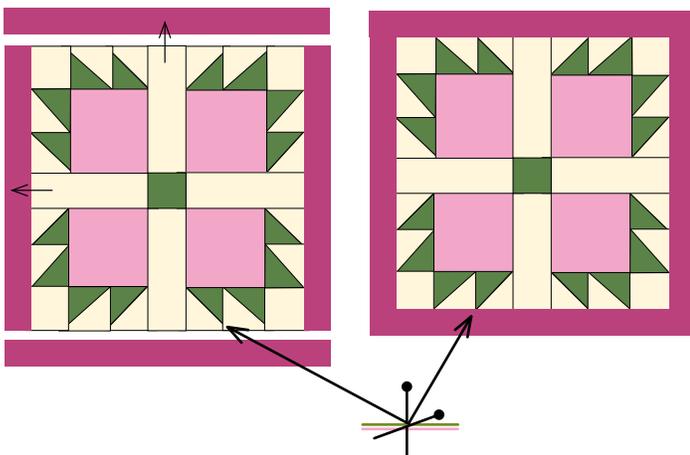
4. Sew two HSTs together as shown. Press. Sew on one side of a 2-1/2" square of **Fabric 8**. If **Fabric 8** is directional, pay close attention to which side of the square the HSTs are sewn as the "paws" are rotated. Using a positioning pin will help maintain sharp points as the HSTs are joined to the square. Press. Sew two more HSTs and a 1-1/2" square of **Fabric 3** in a row. Sew to the pieced unit. Press. Square-up to 3-1/2". Make four.



5. Sew a "paw" unit to each side of a 1-1/2" x 3-1/2" rectangle of **Fabric 3**. Repeat with two more "paws" and another rectangle. If your **Fabric 8** is directional, pay close attention to the placement of the units. Sew a 1-1/2" x 3-1/2" rectangle of **Fabric 3** on each side of a 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" square of **Fabric 10**. Press in the direction shown by the arrows or press open. Pressing seams open may help a block with multiple diagonal seams lay flatter. Square-up to 7-1/2". The **Fabric 12** strips for the frame are slightly larger than needed in case the block is smaller than 7-1/2".



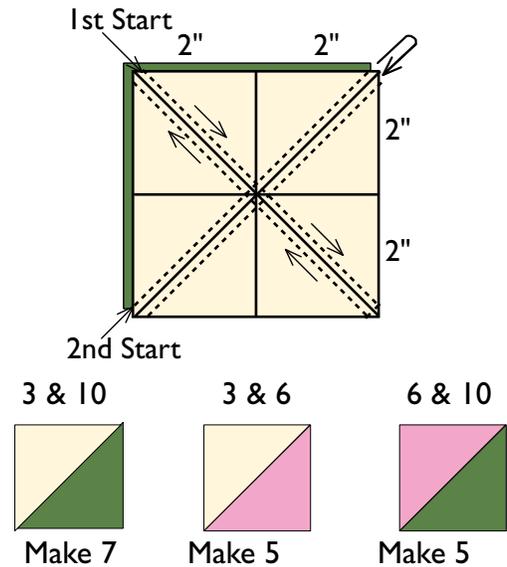
6. Sew a 1-1/4" x 7-1/2" strip of **Fabric 12** on each side of the Bear's Paw block. If seam allowances at the points are consistently 1/4" (or a "scant 1-1/4"), it is possible to lay the strip on the bottom with the block on top (RS together) and sew along the 1/4" (or scant 1/4") line. Remember that sewing one thread width away from the seam line (closer to the edge of the fabric) will allow the fabric to fold over exactly at the points and keep them sharp. Use a positioning pin to help maintain sharp points. Press. Sew a 1-1/4" x 9" strip of **Fabric 12** on the top and bottom. Press. Square-up the block to 8-1/2" trimming off the excess **Fabric 12**.



Friendship Stars

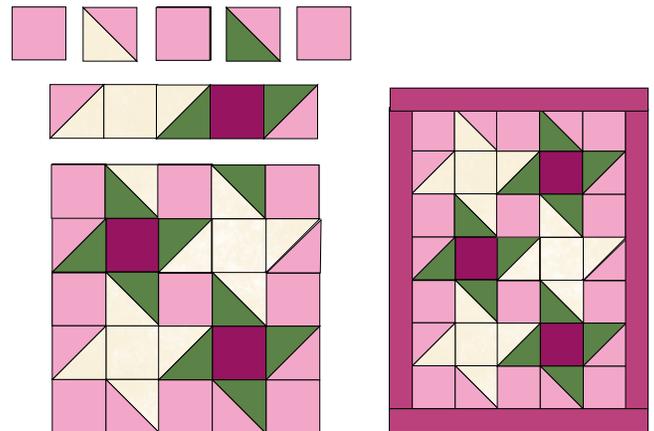
This Friendship Star block is a variation with six stars; it will be made as one unit because the stars are interwoven. The HSTs forming the stars are made from three different fabric combinations. There will be some leftover HSTs.

7. Follow the process in Step 1 using a 4" square each of **Fabric 3** and **Fabric 10**. Make seven. Combine 4" squares of **Fabric 3** and **Fabric 6**. Make five. Combine 4" squares of **Fabric 6** and **Fabric 10**. Make five. Square-up all the HSTs to 1-1/2".



8. Sew the HSTs into rows with 1-1/2" squares of **Fabrics 3, 6 and 11**. Pay attention to the color placement and diagonal seam direction of the units to make the interwoven star pattern. Press seams toward the 1-1/2" squares, so the seams can "nest" when rows are joined or press seams open.

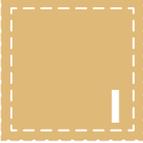
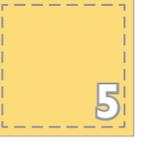
Following the process in Step 6, add framing strips to the block. Sew a 1-1/4" x 7-1/2" strip of **Fabric 12** on each side of the Friendship Star block. Press. Sew a 1-1/4" x 7" strip of **Fabric 12** on the top and bottom. Press. Square-up the block to 6-1/2" x 8-1/2" trimming off the excess **Fabric 12**.



Lesson Four:

The focus of the next lesson will be twofold: sewing sharp points and keeping lines straight between blocks. The Ohio Star blocks will provide vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines to sew straight!

Cutting Directions

 <p>1-1/4 yds</p>	 <p>3/4 yd</p>		
 <p>1 yd</p> <p>Lesson 3: One 4" x 8" Seven 1-1/2" squares Four 1-1/2" x 3-1/2" Two 4" squares</p>		 <p>FQ</p>	 <p>FQ</p>
 <p>1/2 yd</p> <p>Lesson 3: Twelve 1-1/2" squares Two 4" squares</p>	 <p>1/2 yd</p>	 <p>FQ</p> <p>Lesson 3: Four 2-1/2" squares</p>	 <p>FQ</p>
 <p>1/2 yd</p> <p>Lesson 3: One 4" x 8" One 1-1/2" square Two 4" squares</p>	 <p>FQ</p> <p>Lesson 3: Three 1-1/2" squares</p>	 <p>FQ</p> <p>Lesson 3: Four 1-1/4" x 7-1/2" Two 1-1/4" x 9" Two 1-1/4" x 7"</p>	 <p>FQ</p>