



LLQG_APR23_BOM_Milky_Way
12.5" finished
13" unfinished

Think of the four patches as having 2 small (distant) stars, mine are white, and 2 background patches, which in my case are blue. As you can see, I also have 2 large (closer up) stars in a bright yellow. All blue is considered background on mine. I used a fat quarter of each of the colors for this block. You may use any fabric and colors you like together. Directional fabric will require more planning. All seams are $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Knowing this, cut **2 strips** of both the **background**

color and the **small star color** at $1\frac{3}{4}$ ". Sew one of each color together, these new strips will be **3" wide by either 18 or 22 inches long**. Press seams open. Subcut this first strip set into $1\frac{3}{4}$ "s down the length. For **non-directional fabric**; repeat for the second strip. For **directional fabric**; for the second strip set you will **reverse** the color order of the strip set and sew it together, so that one strip set has the **star color on top** and the **second set will have the background on top**. Press seams open. Now subcut the second set into $1\frac{3}{4}$ " s as well, but keep them in a second pile, from the first group. You need nine pieces in each group.

Now take **5 of the $1\frac{3}{4}$ " subcut strips** with the **white star color** on top and lay them out then get **5 of the $1\frac{3}{4}$ " strips** with the **background** on top, and place these second pieces on top of each the first pieces right sides facing, sew them together down the right side matching seams. Press seams open. *These should have the star fabric in the top left corner and bottom right corner.* Next take the **4 remaining background on top $1\frac{3}{4}$ " strips** and lay them down separated out then place the **remaining 4 star fabric on top $1\frac{3}{4}$ " strips** and place them right sides together on top of the **4 background on top strips** and sew them together down the right side, matching seams. This group should have the *background pieces in the top left corner and bottom right corner.* Press seams open.

Trim all 4-patches down to 3" square by placing your diagonal line of a square $3\frac{1}{2}$, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ", or $6\frac{1}{2}$ " square ruler, corner to corner through the center of the block and making sure that all four sides of the block fit within the first 3" markings of the ruler, trim the first 2 adjoining sides, then lift the ruler and flip your patch around and trim the other two adjoining sides the same way. Your block should now be as close to 3 inches as you can get it. You need nine of these finished 4-patch blocks. Five will have the star color in the top left and 4 will have the background in the top left corners.

Next cut **6 squares at $3\frac{3}{8}$ "** of both the **background fabric** and **large yellow star fabric**. Pay attention if using **printed and directional fabrics**. For directional fabrics I would cut once diagonally from **3 of each color from the bottom left corner to the top right corner**. Separate into top and bottom pieces of each color. Sew **3 of the top star triangles to 3 of the bottom background triangles** right sides facing, then sew the **3 top**

background pieces to the **3 bottom star pieces** right sides facing. Press seams open, trim to 3" s. Place in different stacks as to color on top. **The other 3 squares** I would cut diagonally from the **top left corner to the bottom right corner**. Again, separate into top pieces and bottom pieces for each color, and sew together opposite colors together. Press seams open and trims to **3" s**.

(If using solid fabrics just cut all 6 squares diagonally once then paying attention to color direction and which direction they need to face, flip them around or turn them over, then sew them together, press open and trim).

Lastly **cut 2-3" squares** of both the **background** and **large star** fabric. These are the centers of your big star patterns.

All finished sub-blocks should have been trimmed to 3 inches.

Looking at the picture, lay your sub-blocks out in rows paying attention to direction and position of colors.

Then sew the first row across together, you will not be matching points when doing this, but lining up the block accurately does matter. Press the seams open after each row. Next sew the second row across, then the third, and so on for the five rows.

Lastly when sewing row to row, this is where you will need to match seams and points of the triangle blocks! This is where I pin, using ultra-thin pins, right thru the open seams, and right at the triangle color change seam for the points of the triangles.

I would sew row 1 to row 2, then sew row 3 to 4. Then row 5 to the bottom of row 4. Then the bottom of row 2 to the top of row three.

You are done!