

General Instructions

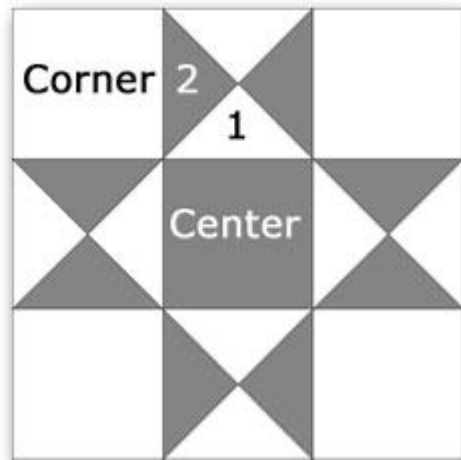
Several abbreviations are used in this tutorial:

- **SA** - seam allowance
- **RST** - right sides together
- **QST** - quarter square triangle
- **HST** - half square triangle

All the seam allowances (SA) are a 1/4". Check to see if you have a true 1/4" seam allowance before you continue, if you are "off" even a bit it will throw the whole block off.

Starching your fabric before cutting helps control all the bias edges we'll be stitching.

Step 1: Choose a size and cut the patches



Ohio Star design

I **ALWAYS** cut my patches for QSTs larger than they need to be, make the block and then trim it to size. This Ohio Star quilt block is no different.

When you cut patches for QSTs, the patch size is computed as...

Finished QST Size + 1-1/4"

That formula assumes that you cut and sew precisely. That your quarter inch SA is always spot on. And not once, but twice for sewing **AND** cutting during the construction.


That's a lot of opportunity to be off a bit; that's why I cut oversized to begin with.

The dimensions in the chart are computed using the +1-1/4" formula above. All the patches are squares. So, for Patch #1 for a 4-1/2" finished block, from your light fabric cut two 2-3/4" x2-3/4" squares.

Since I prefer to cut generously sized patches for half- and quarter-square triangles, before cutting I added an additional 1/2" to the #1 and #2 dimensions.

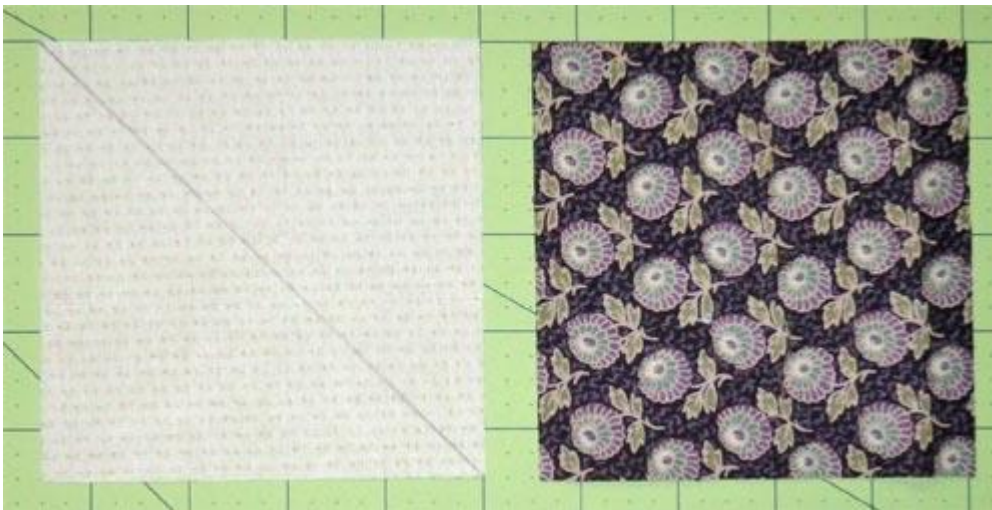
That's what works best for me. I suggest you add a 1/2", too, make some blocks and then fine-tune this 'insurance' measurement if you need to.

In the cutting chart above is the measurement your QSTs need to be after stitching. Trim as needed.

		 Cutting Chart for an Ohio Star Quilt Block ~Traditional Piecing~					
		Finished Block Size					
Patch	Fabric	Qty	4-1/2"	6"	7-1/2"	9"	12"
1	Light	2	2-3/4"	3-1/4"	3-3/4"	4-1/4"	5-1/4"
2	Dark	2	2-3/4"	3-1/4"	3-3/4"	4-1/4"	5-1/4"
Corner	Light	4	2"	2-1/2"	3"	3-1/2"	4-1/2"
Center	Dark	1	2"	2-1/2"	3"	3-1/2"	4-1/2"
Trim QST to...			2"	2-1/2"	3"	3-1/2"	4-1/2"
QST Center for trimming			1"	1-1/4"	1-1/2"	1-3/4"	2-1/4"
Grid Size			1-1/2"	2"	2-1/2"	3"	4"

Step 2: Assemble the QSTs

Mark the diagonal of the two light #1 patches.

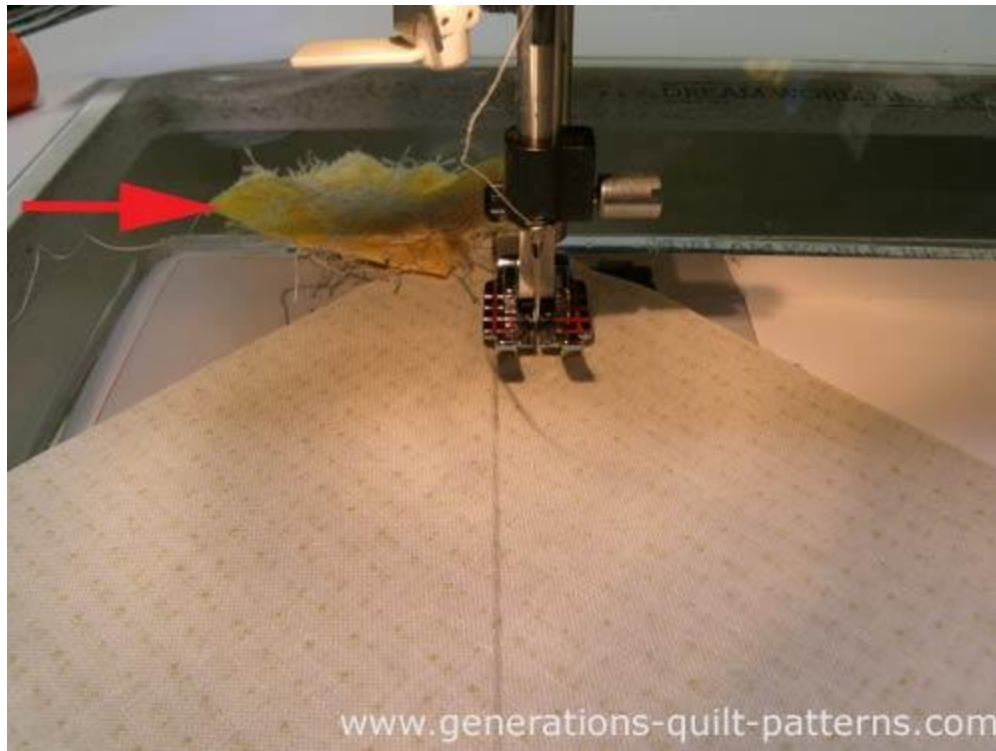


Mark only as

dark as **YOU** need to see it.

With right sides together (**RST**), layer a #1 and #2 together. Stitch a quarter inch away from both sides of the line.

The red arrow points to my anchor cloth—a scrap of fabric that helps prevent my machine from chewing up the points of the patches.



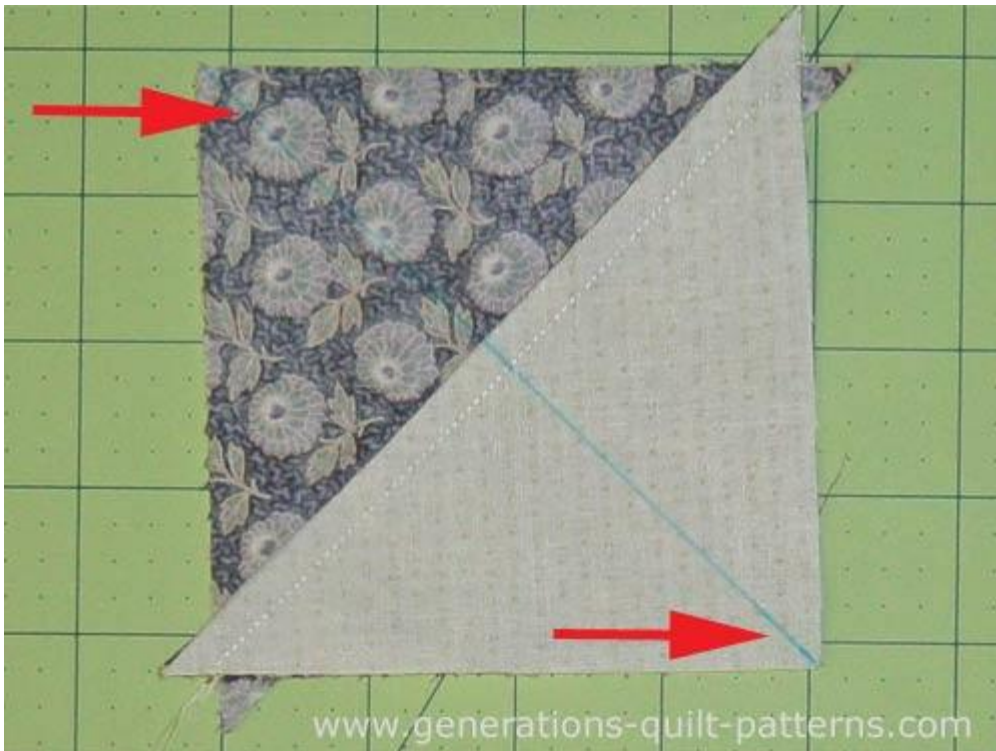
Cut the units apart on the drawn line.

Press, first with the patches closed to set the seam and then open with the SAs towards the darker fabric.

Repeat for both pairs.

At this point you have, for all practical purposes, four half square triangles (**HSTs**).

Draw a diagonal line (blue in the photo below) that bisects the sewn seam on **two** of these **HSTs**.



This line is perpendicular (90° to the previous stitching).

With **RST**, sandwich a marked and unmarked **HST**, nesting the seam to make matching the center easier.

Align the edges of the **HSTs**. Use pins to hold things in place if needed.

Again, stitch a 1/4" inch from both sides of the drawn line.

See how the **SA** is pointed toward the needle. That makes it easier to 'push' the match at the center of the **QST**.



Repeat for the second pair.

Cut the two apart on the marked line. Press, first closed to set the seam and then open.

You now have four QSTs.

Trimming

At your cutting mat, align your square ruler over the QST. The diagonal 45 degree line matches the seam line.

This next step is CRITICAL to properly trimming your block.

You must determine the midpoint of your block and align that ruler mark with the intersection of the seams in the center of your block.

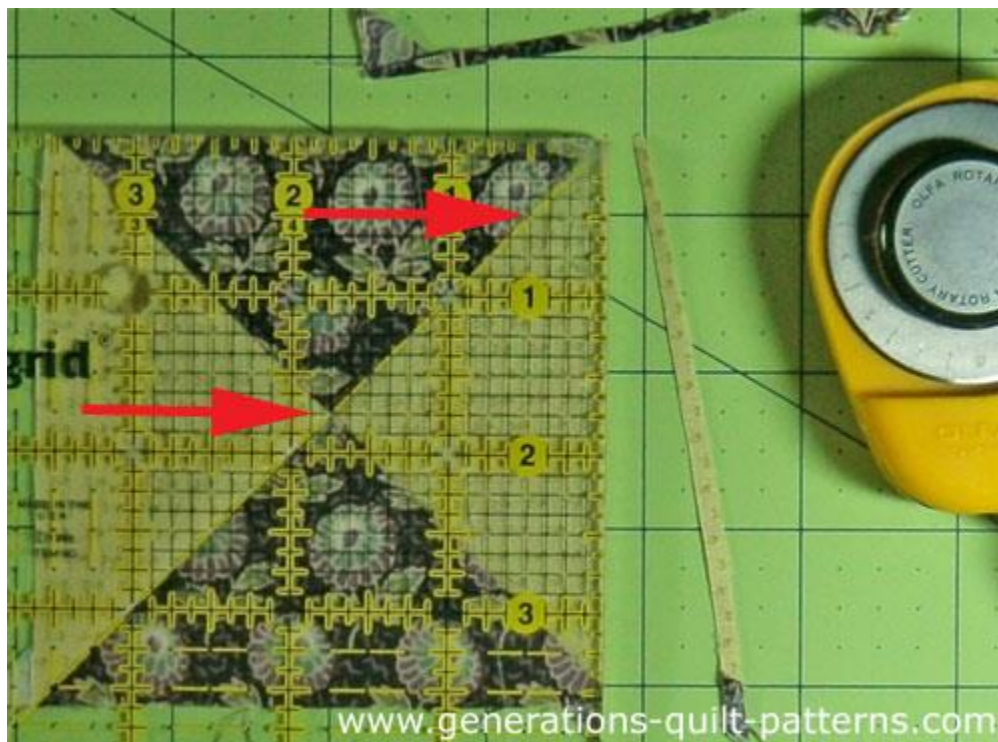
This number is in the cutting chart above for your convenience. (We aim to please!)

The **QST** in the photos here finishes at 3", it is trimmed to 3-1/2" unfinished.

In the chart, you'll find a row with this information. The next row down is 'QST Center for trimming'. You can see that a **QST** in a 9" finished block is trimmed to 3-1/2" with a center of 1-3/4".

Shown below the 1-3/4" mark on the ruler (both vertical and horizontal) is positioned right on top of the intersection of all seams in the center.

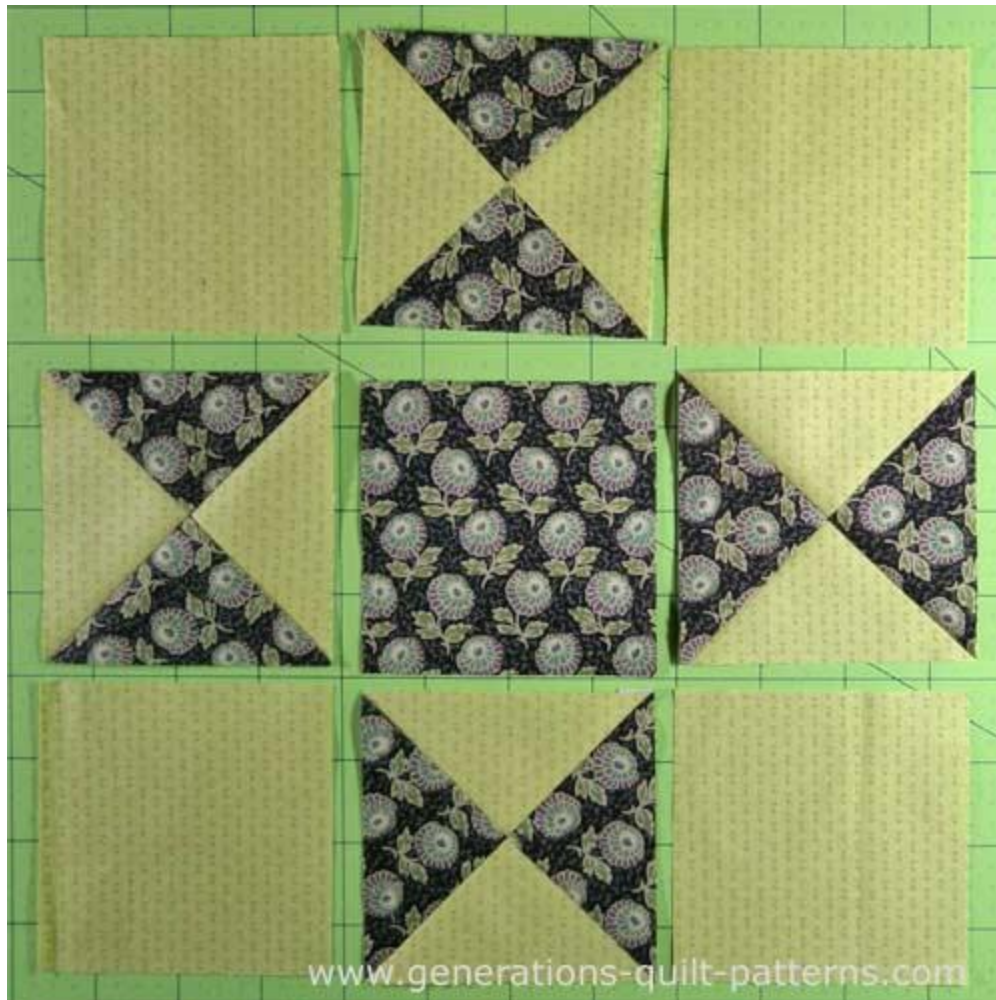
Make sure nothing has shifted and then trim the two exposed sides.



Flip the unit and repeat these trimming steps so that your **QST** equals the 'Trim to' size from the chart above. Repeat for the remaining three.

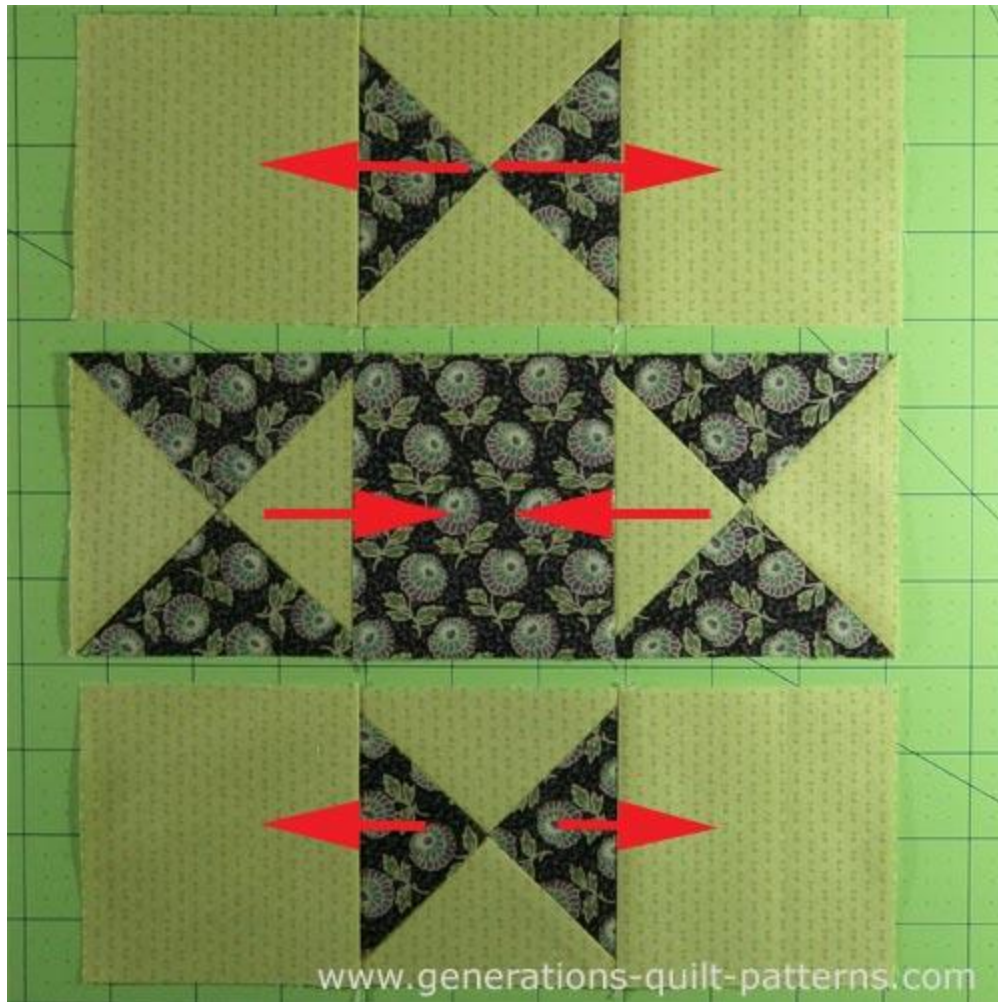
Step 3: Assemble the Ohio Star quilt block

Lay out the cut patches and stitched QSTs into rows making sure the 'star points' point to the outside edges of the block.



It's easy to get them switched! Did you notice the ones on the top and right are positioned incorrectly—double checking is faster than ripping!

Stitch the units into rows and press with the **SAs** in the direction of the arrows. This is to reduce the bulk in the seams.



Stitch the rows together and give your block one final press, and this is the finished Ohio Star quilt block.



www.generations-quilt-patterns.com