

Cathedral Stars!



A Special Donation Quilt with a Special Purpose!

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Quilt size: 912" x 91"
Block Size: 9"

I designed, pieced and quilted this quilt as a donation for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral's 59th annual Trinity Bazaar held on Nov 3rd, 2007.

The lucky winner is Melanie Grimm, of Frankfurt, Germany! Congrats Melanie!



Dean Linder drawing the winning ticket!

I love two block quilts! Especially when you are playing with asymmetrical blocks, you can create diagonals, X's and when put on point, as the alternate block is in this quilt.....you get the illusion of columns floating behind the stars and checkerboards!

This quilt was inspired by the beautiful colors in

the stained glass windows of Trinity Cathedral in Columbia, SC. The sun shining through those windows is a sight to behold.

The two blocks in this quilt are a modified "54-40 or Fight" star block, and a modified "Jacob's Ladder". You will need 36 star blocks and 25 ladder blocks to make this quilt. The blocks finish at 9" each.

All the lights and jewel tones for the four-patches came out of my 2" and 3.5" scrap bins. I did use yardage for the blue star points, the black setting triangles, and the red/black half square triangles and borders.

You will need these special rulers!

This quilt is perfect to learn how to use the specialty rulers I love and use so much in my scrap quilting!

*Bonnie K Hunter's Essential Triangle Tool or Easy Angle Ruler

*Tri Recs Rulers

These rulers make cutting the long skinny star points and tall triangles a breeze! The rulers are notched so the pieces line up perfectly. The seam allowance is already added to the ruler, so you cut your triangles based on the unfinished size of the unit.

Let's get started!

Both blocks have five four-patches made from jewel toned scrap strips. You will need a total of 305 four-patches!



Match 2" light strips with 2" jewel toned strips with right sides together.

If one strip was shorter than the other, I just matched a new strip up to the long one and kept sewing in one continuous chain until I had about a mile of strips piled behind my machine!

Trim between the pairs and take them to the ironing board. Press the seam allowance towards the darker fabric. Strip sets should measure 3 1/2" tall.



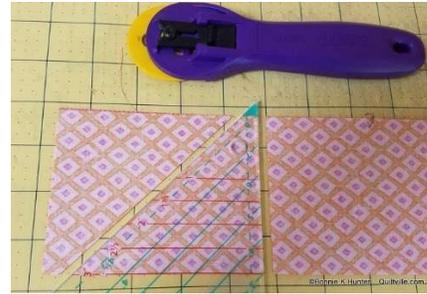
Match 2 strip sets with right sides together. Use your rotary cutter and ruler to trim the end even and then subcut into 2" sections.



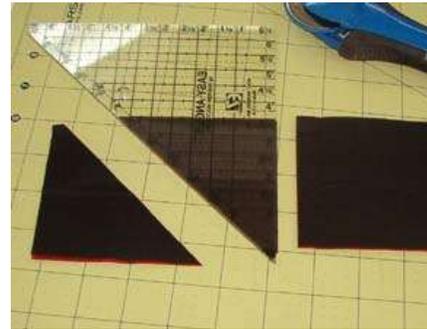
Feed the pairs continuously through the machine. Press.

Spin the seams in a circular manner to facilitate nesting when blocks are joined.

Jacob's Ladder blocks and Half Square Triangles:



Cutting Triangle Pairs from black/red strips placed right sides together using the Essential Triangle Tool.



Cutting with the Easy Angle. Red on bottom, black on top in this photo.

Either ruler will work, but the Essential Triangle Tool also works for quarter square triangles, hour glass units and flying geese!



Each Jacob's Ladder block uses 4 black/red half-square triangle units, so you will need a total of 100 triangle squares!

Specialty rulers make this easy. Cut 3.5" strips of both your black and your red fabric. Iron the strips and lay them carefully with right sides

together. Use the ruler to square off the end and use the corresponding marking on the ruler to cut your matched pairs of triangles.

There will be only one dog ear you will need to trim after pressing the seams to one side.



Triangle units sewn, pressed and dog ears removed.

All the jewel toned chains will go in the same direction in both blocks meeting to make 16-patch units between the stars.



The chains are going the right way in this picture!

Ladder block assembly:

Following the photo above, lay out 5 four-patch units with 4 half-square triangle units., paying attention to the direction of the colored squares in the four-patches.

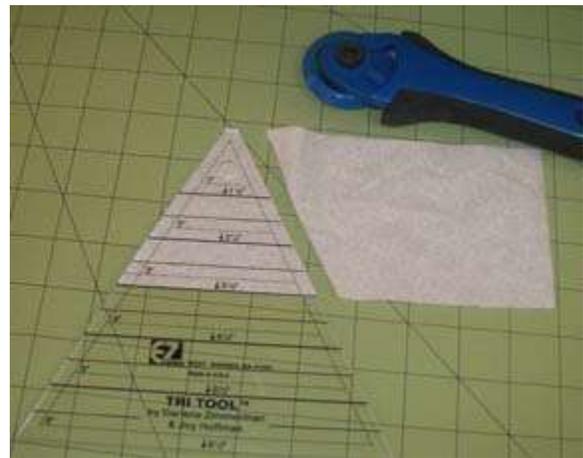
Join units into rows, pressing seams toward the half-square triangle units.

Join rows to complete block, pressing last two seams toward the center row.



Here are 25 blocks laid out on the floor. You can see how the red/black triangles make a "floating" strippy set!

Tri-Recs Star Points!



You will be cutting the star points and the background from 3.5" strips!

There are 36 stars and each star uses 4 star point units. So, we will need a total of 144 background triangles cut from the 3.5" neutral scrap strips.



The star points themselves require a bit of thinking! We need half the pieces in reverse image Cut pairs of units in mirror image with right or wrong sides together. Cut 144 pairs of mirror image triangles!

IMPORTANT! Trim notched corner when cutting.



There is only one way the star point triangles will work on your background triangle! Fold one star point down on top of the background triangle. Stitch. Press seam toward star point triangle.



Now you can add the other side to the star point unit. Trim between the units and press towards the star points.

Units will measure 3 1/2" and finish at 3" in the quilt.



Units positioned correctly and ready to sew.

Join the units into rows, pressing seams toward the 4 patch units. Join the rows together, pressing last 2 seams away from the center row.

Complete 36 star blocks. Be SURE all the chains are going in the right direction, the same direction they went in the Jacob's Ladder blocks!



Here they are, all laid out on the floor of my den!

Setting Triangles:

For the large triangles, cut five 14" squares. Cut the squares from corner to corner with an X to yield setting triangles with the straight of grain on the LONG edge of the triangle. This will minimize edge flaring.

For the 4 corner triangles cut two 7 1/4" squares. Cut once from corner to corner to yield 4 corner triangles.



When assembling a quilt on the diagonal, you will start at one corner, working in increasing rows across the diagonal of the quilt. I like to sew the rows to each other as they are assembled because it keeps the pieces in order.

I generally sew the quilt top in two diagonal halves, and then sew the two halves together to complete the top. This keeps the quilt sections from being too unwieldy as you are working towards that opposite corner.

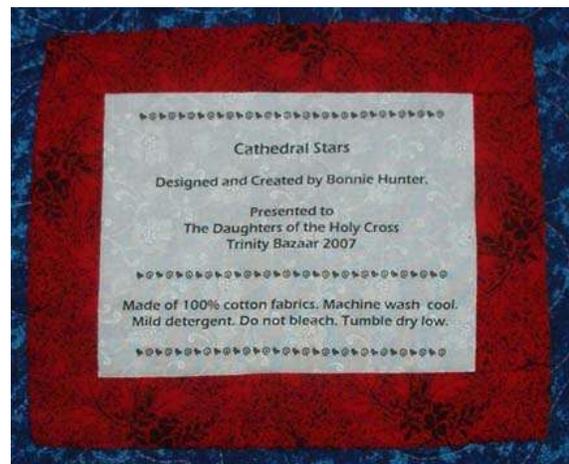
I added a 2" cut red inner border to the quilt center, and then framed the quilt with a 5" cut blue outer border to finish the top.



Quilting was done with signature variegated thread using "Fay Feathers" by Lorien Quilting.



Another close up of the quilting!



No Quilt is complete without the label!