Dear Reading Friend,

When my dear friend and a nationally known quilt teacher and designer, Deb Tucker, agreed to create a companion pattern for my new book, A THREAD SO THIN, I was very excited. And, as you can see, I had good reason to be. Deb is a wonderful designer and the Star-Crossed Love table runner she created as a free gift exclusively for Reading Friends is just gorgeous! And I can tell you from personal experience, it’s a lot of fun to make.

I used Deb's Rapid Fire Hunter's Star Ruler (petite version) to make my table runner and it made stitching the blocks a breeze. Deb graciously created the instructions for the table runner in three versions, traditionally pieced, paper pieced, or using the Rapid Fire Hunter's Star ruler so this pattern is accessible to anyone even if they don't have Deb's ruler. However, if you'd like to purchase the Rapid Fire ruler or one of Deb's rulers for your quilting toolbox, just go to her website, www.studio180design.net. (I’m a big fan of her "Wing Clipper" ruler too. It makes sewing Flying Geese blocks easy and accurate. Without it I suspect my son and daughter-in-love's wedding quilt would still be a UFO!)

While you're at Studio180 Designs, you might also want to consider getting the full-sized version of Star-Crossed Love, which is based on the quilt Liza's friends from the Cobbled Court Quilt Shop made for her bridal shower. I haven't yet had time to make the big quilt myself, but it is definitely on my to-do list.

Thank you for stopping my web site today and for joining the ranks of Reading Friends. I hope you enjoy the pattern, my friend, and many happy hours of stitching -- and reading!

Piecefully Yours,
Marie Bostwick
This table runner uses the Hunter's Star block in a 5” finished size. To make the blocks you will have three different choices - Traditional Templates (for either hand or machine piecing), Paper Foundation Piecing or Deb's Rapid Fire Hunter's Star Piecing. The Petite Star ruler is required for the Rapid Fire method and can be obtained from your local quilt shop or from the Studio 180 Design website.

The instructions that follow will give you a basic sequence for construction - color arrangement, block arrangement, border construction, etc..., but it will assume that the quilt maker is somewhat familiar with general quilting skills such as rotary cutting, stitching and pressing.

I hope that you will enjoy making this project and that you will think about Liza's story as you work. For those who would like to try their hand at Liza’s full size wedding quilt, you can visit Deb’s website for the pattern, tool and the complete instructions.

**Fabric Requirements**

- 8 Fat Quarters of bright 100% cotton fabric
  - (The sample was made from Moda Marbles fabrics using all the colors of the rainbow - Deep Purple - 6698, Royal Blue - 6699, Ocean Blue - 9880 - 49, Kelly Green - 9592, Golden Yellow - 9881 - 53, Pumpkin Orange - 9881 - 59, Fire Engine Red - 6696 and Bright Pink 9880 - 81)
- Black Fabric - ¾ yard
- Backing Fabric - 1½ yard (for unpieced backing or you can use ¾ yard for a pieced backing)

**Cutting for Borders and Binding**

From Black fabric:
- cut 3 strips - 1½” x wof (width of fabric)
- cut 4 strips - 3” x wof
- cut 4 strips - 2¼” x wof (for binding)

From Each of the 8 Bright fabrics:
- cut 1 strip 1¾” then cut to various lengths from 4” to 6” long for the scrappy pieced border. I cut some with a straight cut and some with a 45 degree angled cut. Your choice!

**Cutting for Backing**

From a 1½ yard piece of fabric, cut it in half lengthwise along fabric fold
- OR
From a ¾ yard piece of fabric, cut it in half along the fold and then piece the two sections together.

**Assembly**

This pattern is written with the assumption that the maker has some prior knowledge of quilt making, such as cutting, stitching, pressing, etc…. If you do not have any background in quilting, please think about taking a few beginner courses before you attempt this project. The angles make it a little challenging for a first time project, but it is not overly difficult if you are familiar with quilt making in general.

Again, depending on your chosen method for construction, you will be following slightly different paths for your assembly process. Some steps will be the same or similar, some will be quite different, all will result in 5” finished Hunter’s Star blocks that you will use for your table runner.
Step 1 - Organize

Organize your 8 bright fabrics into pairs. I chose to always team up a cool color with a warm color using the following pair sequencing: Red with Ocean Blue, Orange with Green, Pink with Deep Blue, Yellow with Purple.

Step 2 - Sew

In all the methods of construction, the sewing will be similar. Sew the diamonds from color #1 of the pair to the trapezoids of color #2 of the pair, then repeat the opposite.

For example: Sew the Purple diamonds to the Yellow trapezoids, then sew the Yellow diamonds to the Purple trapezoids.

Press seams as indicated by the pressing arrows. If using paper foundation, or the Rapid Fire technique, pressing will vary and you should follow the general directions for each.

Step 3 - Sew Again

Sew a colored triangle that matches the trapezoid color to each of the pieced trapezoid sections. I pressed the cool colored triangle seams toward the triangles and I pressed the warm colored triangle seams toward the pieced trapezoids. This will result in nesting seams throughout.

Step 4 - Assemble Blocks

Match the color pairs and stitch the pieced triangles together into Hunter’s Star Blocks. When your block sewing is complete, you should have a total of 16 blocks, with each measuring 5½” x 5½”.

If you are doing Traditional Piecing, place carefully and pin for precision before stitching.

If you are doing Paper Foundation Piecing, follow the numerical piecing order.

If you are doing the Rapid Fire Piecing, use the Rapid Fire Hunter’s Star Tutorial page and the expanded general directions that come with the Petite Star ruler.

Step 5 - Arrange Blocks

Use a design wall or the diagram shown here to arrange the pieced blocks into groups of four. I tried to scatter the color combinations evenly and tried always to alternate the cool/warm diamonds and triangles. But please feel free to arrange the blocks to your own personal taste.

Step 6 - Sew

Sew the blocks together first into pairs and then into larger units. Diagram is on the next page.
Step 7 - Press
At this stage I like to press my seams OPEN. I find that this helps my 8 point stars come together with the least amount of bulk and it helps me to fit seams better.

Step 8 - Add Inner Border
Add the 1½” black border to the center section. I added the long side first and then the short sides. Press seams toward the black border.

Step 9 - Piece the Colored Border
Sew the 1⅛” colored rectangles together using either a square seam or an angled seam. Make two sections long enough for the long sides of the runner and two sections long enough for the short sides of the runner. Seams can be pressed in any direction.

Step 10 - Add the Pieced Border
Sew the pieced border sections to the black border using an accurate ¼” seam. Use care when attaching this border. Because it is so thin, sloppy seams become apparent quickly. Press seams toward the black inner border.

Step 11 - Add the Outer Border
Sew the 3” outer border strips into place. Add the short sides first. Piece the long sides to fit and sew in place. Press seams toward the outer border strip.

Step 12 - Baste and Quilt
Layer the runner top together with batting and backing, and baste. Quilt as desired.

Step 13 - Bind to Finish
Step 1 - Position and Stitch
Position trapezoids on diamond strip and stitch using a \( \frac{3}{8} " \) seam. Place first trapezoid 2\( \frac{3}{4} " \) from top of strip.

Step 2 - Press and Trim
Press seam toward trapezoids then trim apart using Rapid Fire ruler. Trim following the long edge of the trapezoid only at this time.

Step 3 - Stitch
Stitch the step 2 units to remaining diamond strip.

Step 4 - Press and Trim Again
Press seam toward the diamond strip then trim apart using Rapid Fire ruler. Trim following the long edge of the trapezoid only.

Step 5 - Trim
Trim pieced trapezoid sections to measure exactly 1\( \frac{3}{4} " \).

Step 6 - Stitch
Stitch pieced trapezoid section to corresponding triangle and press towards triangle.

Step 7 - Match and Stitch
Match color pairs and stitch together into Hunter's Star blocks. Press seams open.

Step 8 - Trim
Trim to precise 5\( \frac{1}{2} " \) blocks using Petite Star ruler.
Use see-thru template plastic and a fine marking tool to trace one of each shape. Carefully cut on the drawn lines using an exacto knife or a used rotary cutting blade.

Cut 4 trapezoids from each of 8 different bright fabrics to total 32 trapezoids

Cut 8 diamonds from each of 8 different bright fabrics to total 64 diamonds

Cut 4 triangles from each of 8 different bright fabrics to total 32 triangles

When this page is printed, the example block above should be 5" square. Please check before continuing.
Drafting Aid

Drafting Instructions

Step 1 - 5" Square

Step 2 - Diagonal from A to B

Step 3 - Diagonal from C to D exactly 1¼" from center diagonal

Step 4 - Diagonal from E to F, same as above

Step 5 - Line G/H exactly 1¼" from A/E line

Step 6 - Line G/I exactly 1¼" from A/C line

Step 7 - Line J/K exactly 1¼" from B/F line

Step 8 - Line J/K exactly 1¼" from B/D line

Step 9 - Drafted shapes - add exactly ¼" seam outside shape
   Diamond A/E/H/G
   Trapezoid G/H/K/J
   Triangle E/F/M
When this page is printed, the solid side of the triangle should measure 5". Please check before continuing.