

Star Celebration

Class Lesson Plan

Alex Anderson Classics

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Project Informational Guide

This lesson plan is provided to help you plan a class for *Star Celebration*. Use this lesson plan as a guide for presenting the ideas and methods needed to make this quilt. Make changes as needed. Also, your ideas and additions are important elements to the class, so be sure to share your thoughts, methods, and advice with your students.

The Quilt Project: Star Celebration

Students should be able to make this project in any of the pattern sizes, since the color ideas and techniques are the same, regardless of size. The differences are easy to handle in class.

Sample Class Description for Your Store's Class Brochure

Attention all star lovers! Here's a delightful star quilt designed just for you. With a red and blue flair, decorate your wall or bed with this innovative star quilt. You can make a wall/lap quilt, a twin-bed quilt, or a double/queen-bed quilt. Learn three great methods to construct this star block, then choose your favorite.

The Class Schedule

This class has been designed to be taught in four three-hour sessions. If you think it will work better for you to offer a different number of sessions or a different class length, feel free to make this change.

Alex's Basic Sewing Kit:

Students should take Alex's Basic Sewing Kit to each class: rotary cutter, rotary ruler (12" x 6"), cutting mat, extra-fine glass-head pins, seam ripper, small scissors, thread, pencil

SESSION ONE – Piecing the Large Stars

Students should bring to class the following items:

Star Celebration pattern, sewing machine & equipment, Alex's basic sewing kit template plastic, tool for cutting template material, and fabrics for the quilt top.

Step 1 Introduction to Pattern and Quilt

Introduce the quilt to the students. Have students open the pattern and become familiar with the different sections. Show students a sample of the large star block and the border star block, constructed with similar fabric colors as used in the pattern OR a sample quilt.

Step 2 Fabric Selection

Talk about good fabric choices, fabrics that are difficult to use, and fabrics that work well with others. Discuss color choices available for quilters. Certainly, students can use the color choices shown in this pattern or they may select their own color plan. Students should have selected fabrics prior to coming to class, but additional fabrics may be obtained at this time. Check each person's fabric selection. Discuss any fabric hints you think are important, as well as the importance of washing fabrics and pressing with a dry iron.

Step 3 Cutting and Piecing Methods for Large Star Blocks

Alex offers three different ways to cut and piece the saw-tooth star block. Demonstrate how to cut and piece the large star blocks, using these three methods: (1) cutting triangles; (2) flip and sew; and (3) secret saw-tooth star.

Step 4 Work Period to Cut and Sew the Blocks

Have students either select the one method they wish to use to construct this quilt top or have students cut and piece one block from each method.

Homework Have students make as many large star blocks stars as possible.

SESSION TWO – Piecing the Border Stars

Students bring to class:

Star Celebration pattern, sewing machine & equipment, Alex's basic sewing kit, finished and in-progress blocks, and fabrics for borders.

Step 1 Questions & Review

Inquire if anyone has any questions or had any problems working on her project. Respond to any inquiries.

Step 2 Making the Small Border Stars

Demonstrate how to piece the small red and blue border star blocks.

Step 3 Work Period

Have students cut and piece small red or blue border star blocks, as time permits.

Step 4 Making Border Fillers

Show how to make the border fillers. Alert the class to the fact that each of the four fillers is different.

Step 5 Work Period

Have students work on their border fillers and border stars.

Homework

Have students complete as many large star blocks and small border star blocks as possible. Also, they should complete their four filler strips.

SESSION THREE

Students bring to class:

Star Celebration pattern, Alex's basic sewing kit, sewing machine & equipment, blocks, fillers, and fabric.

Step 1 Questions & Review

Inquire if anyone has any questions or had any problems working on her project. Respond to any inquiries. Review concepts from previous week.

Step 2 Assembling the blocks

Refer students to the cover (wall quilt) or inside cover (bed quilts) for block assembly. Demonstrate how to pin blocks together for smooth sewing blocks into rows and rows into the central design. Give advice on setting seams and pressing seams.

Step 3 Work Period

Have students work on assembling blocks into rows and rows into blocks.

Step 4 The Inner Border

Demonstrate how to cut the inner border strips. Have students cut their border strips. Have them sew the side borders first. Then have students sew the top and bottom strips to the quilt top (refer students to the complimentary Border Basics 1 (squared corners). Talk about pinning; give your favorite hints.

Step 5 The Outer Border

Referring to the color illustrations (inside cover; front cover), show how to put the star blocks together with the fillers to make each star border.

Step 6 Work Period

If there is time for a work period, give students a work period.

Homework

Have students finish their quilts.

SESSION FOUR FINISHING STEPS

Students bring to class:

Star Celebration pattern, sewing machine & equipment, Alex's basic sewing kit, the completed quilt top, backing fabric, batting, binding fabric, quilting tools.

Step 1 Questions & Review

Inquire if anyone has any questions or had any problems working on her project. Respond to any inquiries. Review concepts from previous week.

Step 2 Making the Sandwich

Demonstrate how to baste the backing, batting, and quilt top together. If possible, show or describe two or more basting techniques, including spoon-baste (using thread, needle, and teaspoon). Demonstrate your favorite method. Give any of your own favorite tips.

Step 3 Quilting

Discuss quilting techniques and design ideas. Show how to mark the quilting design.

Step 4 Putting on a Sleeve

Discuss and demonstrate how to prepare a sleeve for a wall quilt.

Step 5 Making the Binding

Demonstrate how to make the binding and sew the binding to the quilt. Give any extra tips you may have.

Step 6 Work Period

Give students a work period to work on their quilts.

Homework

Have students finish their quilts.

Extra Credit—A Quilt Celebration

If there is interest, set a date for a quilt celebration and *Show & Tell* within a few weeks at the store. This should be an informal gathering where the students bring their quilts to share—finished or not. However, a deadline is helpful and a celebration of a finished quilt is fun. Treats accentuating red, white, and blue could be served.