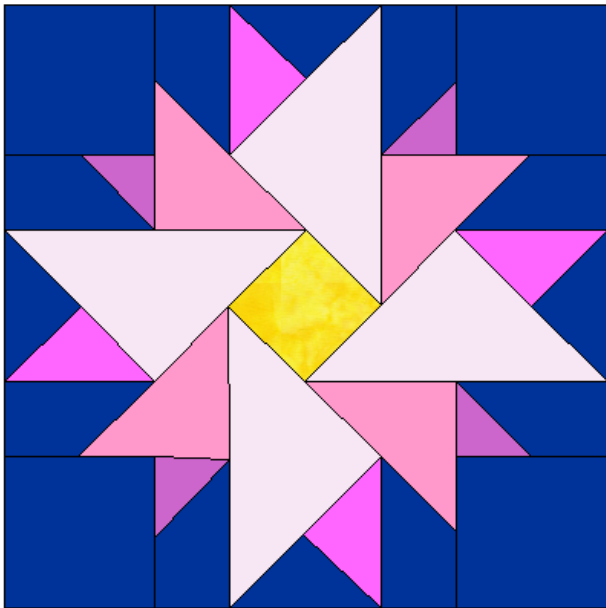


Double Aster

15 inches finished – 15 ½ inches edge to edge



The name *Aster* comes from the Ancient Greek word meaning "star", referring to the shape of the flower head. Many species and a variety of hybrids are popular as garden plants because of their attractive and colourful flowers. *Aster* species are used as food plants by the larvae of a number of butterfly species. Asters can grow in all hardiness zones.

Each Aster flower is actually a group of smaller flowers consisting of ray flowers surrounding disk flowers (the centre). Disk flowers are usually yellow or burdundy, with the blue, purple, violet or white ray flowers or petals. Our flower is a double Aster with many petals in overlapping layers around the centre.

Our Double Aster Block was first diagrammed in Chicago Tribune by Nancy Cabot November 12, 1936.

Background fabric - to make this easier, label the pieces as you cut them!



- 4 – 4 ¼ inch squares for the corners (A)
- 8 – 2 ⅜ by 4 ¼ inch rectangles (4 – B, 4 – C)
- 1 – 5 inch square cut in 4 diagonally (D) or
- 4 – triangles cut from a 2 ⅜ strip using a Quarter Square Triangle or Companion Angle Ruler

Centre (yellow) (E)



- 1 – 3 ⅛ inch square (E)

Petals (largest and lightest) (F)



- 1 – 8 ¾ inch square cut into four diagonally
- or 4 triangles cut from a 4 ¼ inch strip using the Quarter Square Triangle or Companion Angle Ruler

Petals (second largest, a little darker than F) (G)



- 2 – 4 ⅝ inch square cut in two diagonally
- or 4 – triangles cut from a 4 ¼ inch strip using the Half Square Triangle or Easy Angle Ruler

Petals (third largest, a little darker than G) (H)



- 1 – 5 inch square cut in 4 diagonally or
- 4 – triangles cut from a 2 ⅜ strip using a Quarter Square Triangle or Companion Angle Ruler

Petals (smallest, and a little darker than H) (J)



- 4 – 2 ⅜ inch squares for connector corners.

This may seem tricky - but it's harder to write up than it is to sew.....



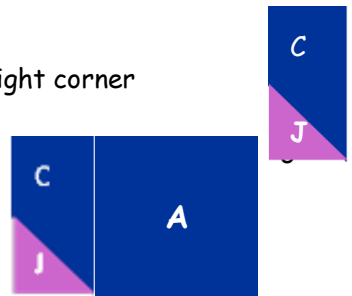
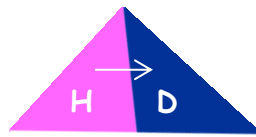
Make the four corners first ...

Start with the connectors J - add them to the background C rectangles in the lower right corner

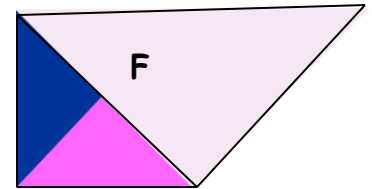
Add the corner squares A to the JC sections - you now have four sections measuring $1/8$ by $4 \frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Set these aside for now, and sew the background D triangles to the H petals. Make sure that the background is on the right!

Press toward the background.



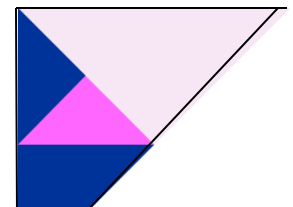
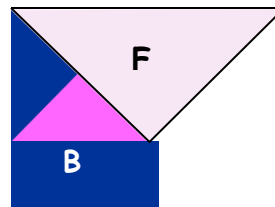
Sew this HD triangles to one short side of the F triangles - but it has to be the correct short side - see diagram. Press towards F.



Now, this doesn't look right, but do it anyway - sew the B rectangles to the remaining

side of the H triangle. Keep it even with the top of the D triangle, extending out the bottom of the unit a bit. Press towards B

Trim the strip even with the bottom of the F triangle.



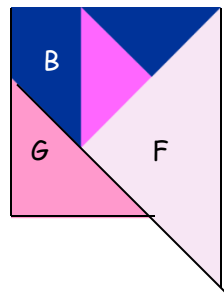
Now, we are going to do a partial seam to

add the remaining petal triangle G to that BF seam.

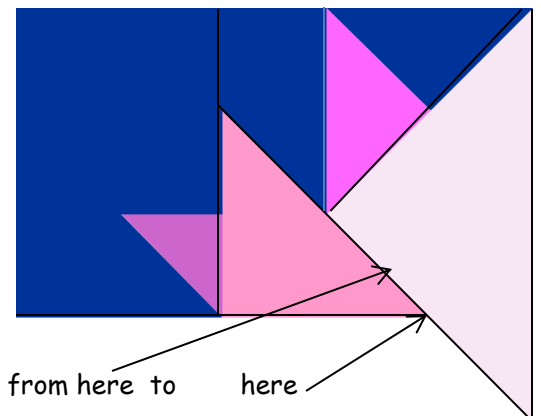
Line up the G triangle with the edge of the B rectangle, and

Sew from the B end until you are about $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inch before the end of the G triangle.

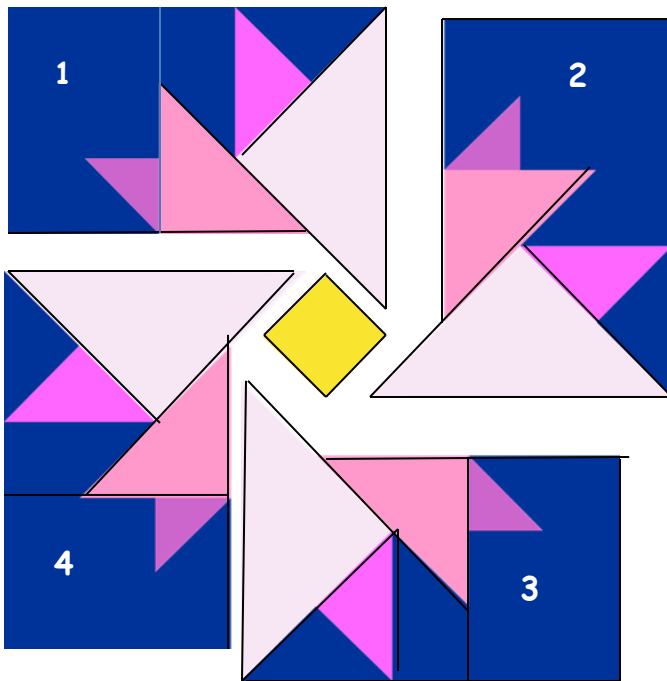
Press towards G



Remember that first piece you set aside - add it to the BG side. It should match perfectly. Press towards the first piece.



Now we are at the final step - putting our four sections around the centre square E. We are going to work clockwise around the centre square - starting with a partial seam, and finishing that partial seam between G and F while we are doing it. First, to see how it works, lay the sections out beside your machine, so it looks like the diagram at the top of the first page.



Mark the four corners of the centre at the seam lines, as well as the free corner of the F and G triangles.

Start with a partial seam sewing the corner of the F triangle of section 1 to the centre section (about half way along the centre square).

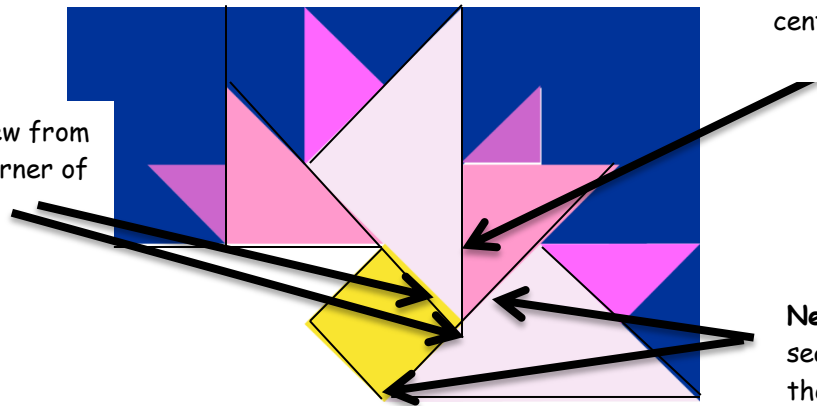
Now sew section 2 to section 1 - sewing the triangle F of section 1 to section 2 - just put aside that partial seam in Section 2. Your seams will match perfectly at the corner of the G triangle

Now finish off that partial seam between the G and F triangles in section 2, extending the seam across the centre square.

Now carry on adding section 3 to the block, and section 4. Once the second seam in section 4 has been sewn, finish off that first seam, and you are all done!

2

First Seam - Sew from this point to the corner of the centre square

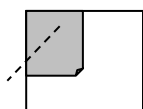


Second seam - sew from the outside to the corner of the centre.

Next - finish off the partial seam, sewing the F triangle to the centre as you do it.

Wasn't that easy!!

Connector Corners:



Draw a line kitty corner across the back of your small connector square. Place this on the appropriate corner of your larger piece, right sides together. Make sure that the line that you drew is in the correct position.

Now, sew along that line.

Press the connector into the corner so that the right side of the connector is in the correct position on the base piece, then trim away the centre layer $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the seam. Square up your piece.

