

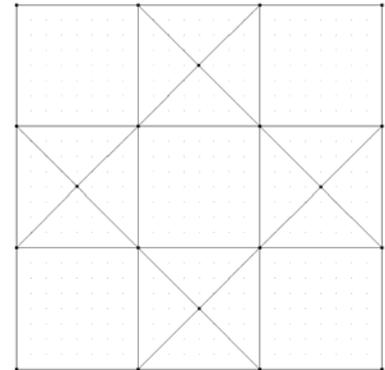
# Variable Star

**12 inches finished**

12  $\frac{1}{2}$  edge to edge



Choose three fabrics for this star, with a bit of contrast to show how cleverly you have pieced it. Try a stripe for one of the fabrics for added interest. Find an interesting focus fabric and fussy cut the centre.



## Background:

Corner squares: 4 - 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch squares

Points: 1 - 5  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch square (4 -  $\frac{1}{4}$  square triangles from 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  strip)

## Focus Fabric:

Centre square: 1 - 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch square

## Second Fabric:

Points: 1 - 5  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch square (4 -  $\frac{1}{4}$  square triangles from 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  strip)

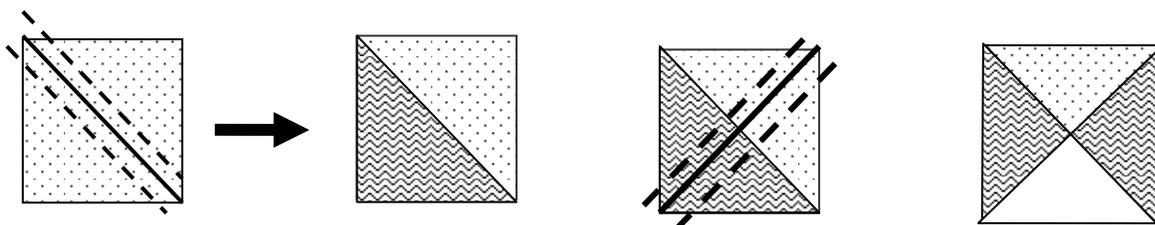
## Third Fabric:

Points: 2 - 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch squares (8 -  $\frac{1}{4}$  square triangles from 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  strip)

## Make the Points:

Make half square triangle blocks with one square of the Third fabric, and the background square. Make another pair of half square triangle blocks from the second square of third fabric and the second fabric.

Now comes the tricky bit! Take one square from each pair of blocks, and put them right sides together, with the seams the same way, and the third fabric NOT on the same side of the seam. Draw your line through the opposite corners this time, and sew on either side of it. Cut on the pencil line and you should have quarter square triangle blocks 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches from edge to edge.



If you have triangle rulers, cut the required number of triangles with the quarter square or companion angle ruler and 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch strips. Place them according to the diagram, and sew them up!

Lay the pieces out so that they form the finished nine-patch, and sew them up in your usual manner. Now you have a Variable Star!

This variable Star appeared in a Nancy Page column. In the 1920s and 1930s, Florence LaGanke Harris wrote a series of columns for many syndicated papers in the States. Each week a new pattern appeared along with a story of the women making the block. Florence graduated from quilt block columns to food in the late 30s and 40s with such wonderfully titled books as "Everywoman's complete guide to homemaking" , "Victory vitamin cook book for wartime meals", and "Food 'n' fun for the invalid"!

This star first appeared in Godey's Lady's Book in 1862 simply called Godey Design. It is also known as Mosaic Patchwork, Eight Point Design, Flying Crows, Happy Home, Lone Star, Ohio Star or Texas Star - and I am sure that there are many more names for it out there.