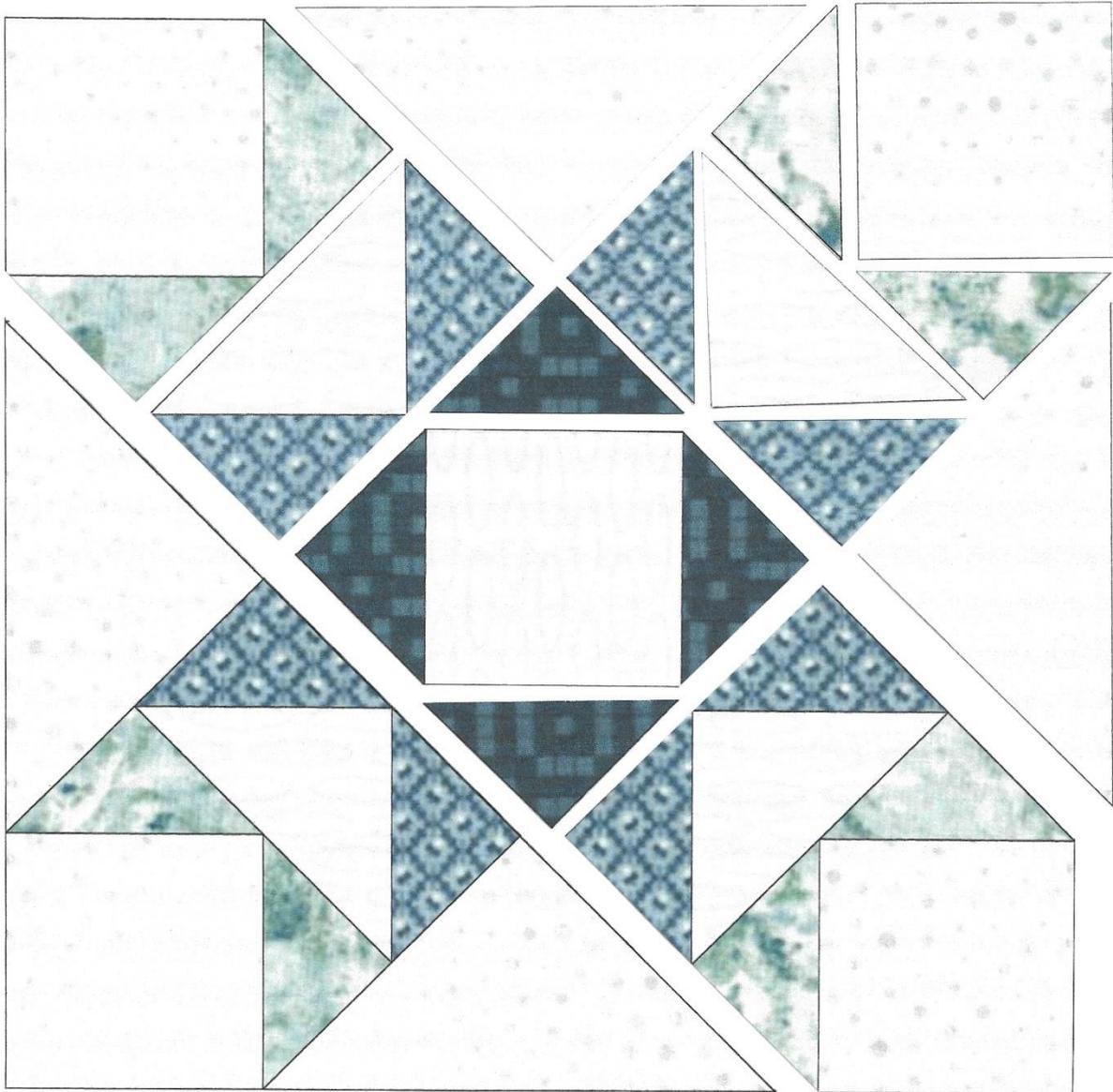


QCG BOM 2021/22

January – Block #11

**BROKEN STAR – 15 ½" (Unfinished)**



Broken Star is a beautiful star pattern similar in construction to last month's Northumberland Star. It is also a diagonally constructed block which can be intimidating when there are more pieces involved but we've had practice so I know you can get it done.

## Assembly

As usual, after cutting, lay out all your pieces. This is my layout.



I found that the best way to put this block together was to construct all the smaller units first, sew the units into their rows and then sew the rows together. We'll start with the centre square in a square. Attach opposite dark triangles to the centre square, press to the dark and then attach the other 2 triangles and press to the dark. **Trim to a generous 5 3/4" square.** (a few threads larger all around) \* I used my triangle trimmer to create the engineered corners – worked great!



Next we will construct the 4 flying geese units that surround the centre square. I chain piece by first attaching 1 wing, pressing, and then the other wing. I always stitch from the top of the large triangle down even though I have to flip my piece over for one side. This way I can see where the tips of the wings cross. On these units I've pressed the first seam away from the wing toward the centre large triangle and the second wing away from the large triangle. This gives less bulk in future seams. **Trim unit to 3 1/8" by a few threads larger than 5 3/4".**



Next job is to construct the 4 corner units. They are half of a square in a square with the triangles attached to adjacent sides of the square. I've once again trimmed the corners off the triangles. If you don't have a triangle trimmer, centre your triangle on the side of the square either by folding both pieces in half and matching the folds or just eyeballing that the tip of the triangle hangs off both ends evenly. Press towards the triangles.



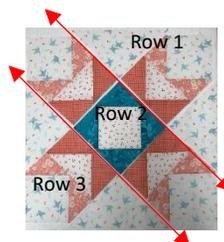
Neaten the long edge making sure you have  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance where your triangles meet and trim the short edges in order that the unit measures slightly larger than  $5\frac{3}{4}$ " as shown below.



Lay out your block again making sure your units are in the correct orientation. Time to join the 4 flying geese to the 4 corner units. Press seam toward the flying geese.



All we have left now is to join the units to create our rows and sew the rows together.



Attach the triangles on each side of Row 1 and 3 to the corner unit – press towards the triangles. Attach the 2 corner units to the centre square on Row 2 and press towards the centre square. Sew your rows together.

Sewing on the diagonal can present challenges because of fabric stretching. If your units don't quite line up, do not tug, pull or stretch – easing is always better. Your best friends are spray starch, pins and an iron. Pin your pieces together at intersections, spray and ease everything gently with your iron. Don't worry about things not quite matching – quilting is not meant to be perfect – it's meant to be FUN!



I wasn't sure how to press the row seams. They wanted to lie towards Rows 1 and 3 but the intersections with the geese and the centre square did not want to flatten down very well so I did something I normally never do. I pressed towards Rows 1 and 3 and opened the seam at the bulky intersection and smooshed it down with the iron. Nobody will see it but you....shhhh!



**Trim your completed Broken Star Block to 15 ½" square, put it into your quilt top layout and call January done!**



Hoorah...see you soon!