

Snowball Stars

A great pattern for T-shirts, fussy-cut prints, or deconstructed panels

Supplies (directions below are for a T-shirt quilt, skip applicable steps for regular fabric)

1. T-shirts
2. Main background and star accent fabric
3. Fusible Stabilizer (recommend French Fusion or very light garment stabilizer)
4. Cutting mat, rotary blade, and shears
5. Ironing mat, iron, pressing cloth(s) larger than selected size of t-shirt squares
6. Square template recommended or combo of rulers to mark size
7. Straight pins
8. Sewing machine with cotton thread and optional knit needle.

T-Shirt Prep

1. Based upon layout chosen, select the number of t-shirts required, wash and dry without fabric softener. This provides best stabilizer fusion.
2. Cut equivalent number of fusible stabilizer squares approximately 3 inches bigger than size of t-shirt block desired.
3. Break down t-shirts by laying t-shirts flat on cutting board. Use the rotary to freehand cut off each sleeve close to the seams. Use the shears to cut down both sides of shirts. Open shirts and rotary cut **just** below each neck front/back neck seam, recommend using a long ruler/straight edge. Place the pieces with desired images in a pile and put the rest aside for handy rags.



4. Place a shirt half with image on the cutting mat, straightening as much as possible. Overlay your template/ruler(s) to create desired size over each design. Insert a pin beyond each corner...about 1.5 inches out.
5. Take shirts to ironing mat. Lay a pressing cloth over mat for protection as well as protecting graphic images. Place shirt, image side down, over pressing cloth. Center stabilizer (rough side down) over the pins. Cover with another pressing cloth. Press, according to stabilizer directions...allowing extra time for heat to penetrate pressing cloth.

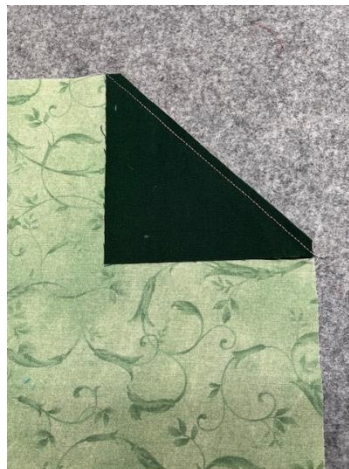
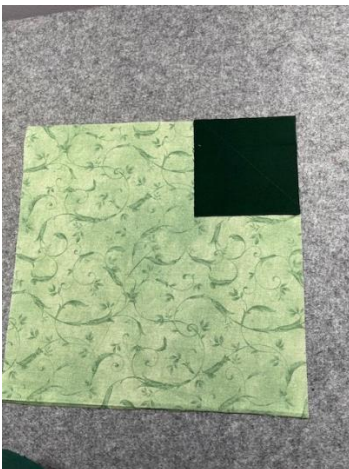
6. Take shirt to cutting mat. Use template/ruler(s) to mark outline of desired square size. Many images will not center on your square...so position as clearance allows. Cut on drawn outline with rotary blade/ruler. *Note: you can't use a 12-inch square to cut blocks as they need to be 12.5 to allow for seams.*
7. Stack your t-shirts in a pile or start arranging on your design board.

Cutting Fabric

1. Main fabric
 - a. Cut the required number of large squares from your main background fabric by cutting 12.5 WOF strips. Sub cut these strips into 12.5 squares. If you open the fabric fold and refold the WOF, folding selvages on top of each other, you should easily get 3 sets of double squares per WOF. ($12.5 \times 3 = 37.5$).
 - b. Continue refolding/cutting opened WOF until required number of **full** blocks and **half** the number squares to sub cut for number of **rectangles**. Cut the required number of rectangles from full blocks by cutting them in half. (12.5×6.25) Cut 4 squares 6.50 for the outside corners.
2. Star/accent fabric-there are two options to make the "snowball squares"
 - a. Cut 4.5 strips of fabric and sub cut into 4.5 squares until number of star points are met. This method does waste some fabric but is easier to achieve even points.
 - b. Cut $4 \frac{7}{8}$ strips of fabric and sub cut into $4 \frac{7}{8}$ squares. Sub cut these squares into triangles to achieve required number of points. Mark 4.5 inches out from corners to align triangle edges.

Stitching Blocks

1. If using option (2a) above, place an accent square right-side to right-side on the corner of a full square. Pin and draw a line from point to point. Stitch just to the outside of the line to compensate for the fold. Press and fold the accent square over to insure it completes the 12.5 square before trimming to a .25-inch seam. Once you master this step, chain piece one corner of all the snowballed large blocks in your pattern. Repeat for the remaining 3 corners. Press the star seams towards each corner of the block.



2. Count out the number of rectangles that do not get an accent point and set aside. Follow step (1) above to attach 2 points to the same side of the required number of rectangles.
3. Depending on layout selected, there may be some squares without points.

Quilt Layout

1. Use a design board, bed, or floor to determine desired positioning of t-shirts. Stand back. Are the colors randomly spread out? Are the heavy and sparse graphics evenly spread? Or, are there high priority shirts you wish to take center stage or act as corner stones?
2. Fill in between the t-shirts with star or solid blocks per the desired layout.
3. When happy with distribution, sew the blocks together with a .25-inch seam. Press the seams away from the t-shirts...remember to put a pressing cloth on the ironing mat under the t-shirt images. Sew each row across and then connect the rows. When sewing rows together, the seams will nest together, but during this pressing, one seam of t-shirts will have to go up or down, typically choose the direction of the row with fewer shirts.



Borders/Quilting/Binding

1. Border selection is a personal choice. The sample above uses a 4-inch border made with the star accent fabric along with coordinating flange binding.
2. The t-shirts are quilted just as fabric. A more open design provides better visuals of the graphics.
3. The attached layouts illustrate/measure with a 2-inch (F) inner border and a 4-inch outer border.