## Shimmer Braid

## Month 4



1 center block


## Star Block Size

10" square = Finished Block Size. Finished means after it is sewn into the quilt.

10 1/2" square = Unfinished Size. Unfinished means before you sew it into the quilt - when it is just a block by itself.

## Center Block Size

8" square = Finished Block Size. Finished means after it is sewn into the quilt.
$81 / 2 "$ square = Unfinished Size. Unfinished means before you sew it into the quilt - when it is just a block by itself.

## Cutting

## White Fabric

> Cut (1) $8 \prime \times 42^{\prime \prime}$ strip
> Cut (1) $33 / 4 "$ strip

| Cut this <br> Number | This size | Label it |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| From the $8^{\prime \prime}$ strip cut and label the following: |  |  |
| 11 | $33 / 4 " \times 8^{\prime \prime}$ | Background for star blocks |
| From the $33 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ strip cut and label the following: |  |  |
| 5 | $33^{\prime \prime} \times 8^{\prime \prime}$ | Background for star blocks |
| Cut all sixteen rectangles through the diagonal. Cut 8 one direction <br> and the other 8 the opposite direction to yield a total of 32 triangles. |  |  |

If you purchased the "Mineral" shimmer fat quarter bundle, you can use two different dark greys instead of the black fabric purchased separately. (See month 1 instructions page 4). Cut the following according to your choice.

TWO dark greys from the "Mineral" fat quarter bundle

Cut the following FROM EACH of two dark grey fat quarters.
Cut (4) 2" x approximately 20" strips
Cut (4) $11 / 2^{\prime \prime} x$ approximately $20^{\prime \prime}$ strips
Cut (1) $31 / 2 \prime \times x$ approximately $20^{\prime \prime}$ strip

| Cut this Number | This size | Label it |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| From the $2^{\prime \prime}$ strips cut the following: |  |  |
| 2 | $11^{1 / 2 \prime}{ }^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{\prime \prime}$ | Sashing |
| 2 | $10^{1 / 2 " ~}{ }^{\prime \prime} 2^{\prime \prime}$ | Sashing |
| From the $11 / 2^{n}$ strips cut the following: |  |  |
| 2 | $10^{1 / 2} 2^{\prime \prime} \times 1 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ | Sashing |
| 2 | $12^{\prime \prime} \times 11 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ | sashing |
| From the $31 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ strip cut and label the following: |  |  |
| 2 | $31 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 6{ }^{3 / 4 \prime}$ | Center block |
| Cut the two the oth | les through th opposite directi | t 2 one direction and tal of 4 triangles. |

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Cut (1) } 3112^{\prime \prime} \times 42^{\prime \prime} \text { strip } \\
& \text { Cut (3) } 2^{\prime \prime} \times 42^{\prime \prime} \text { strips } \\
& \text { Cut (3) } 112^{\prime \prime} \times 42^{\prime \prime} \text { strips }
\end{aligned}
$$

| Cut this Number | This size | Label it |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| From the $2^{\prime \prime}$ strips cut the following: |  |  |
| 4 | $11^{1 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 2 "}$ | Sashing |
| 4 | $10^{1 / 2 \prime}{ }^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{\prime \prime}$ | Sashing |
| From the $1^{1 / 2^{n}}$ strips cut the following: |  |  |
| 4 | $10^{1 / 2} 2^{\prime \prime} \times 1 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ | Sashing |
| 4 | $12^{\prime \prime} \times 1{ }^{1 / 2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ | sashing |
| From the $31 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ strip cut and label the following: |  |  |
| 4 | $31 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 63 / 4 "$ | Center block |
| Cut the fou the oth | gles through th opposite direct | t 2 one direction and tal of 4 triangles. |

## Various Fabric Strips

1. Cut approximately $7-9$ strips anywhere from $1^{\prime \prime}$ to $2^{\prime \prime}$ wide. These strips are cut from fat quarters and need to be approximately $20^{\prime \prime}$ long. A variety of widths is best. I like to add a couple of white strips for a more modern look.

2. Sew the strips together in any order and press the seams all in the same direction.

3. Trim the strip unit to exactly $61 / 4 \prime$ tall by trimming off one end or the other.

4. Place the triangle template on the strip unit and cut (8) triangle pieces from it. Flip the template upside down every other cut. You will get 4 identical triangles for one block and another 4 identical triangles for a different block.


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Each star block will need (2) $4^{\prime \prime}$ squares cut through the diagonal to yield (4) triangles.


Use these triangles for paper piecing the very center of the stars (piece \#2).


## Center Block Fabric - any two colors you choose

Cut (2) 5" squares of one color and (2) 5 " squares of another color. Use them to paper piece the center block.


## Paper Piecing the Blocks - Make 4 star blocks and 1 center block

The 4 star blocks are paper pieced. The pattern is attached. It is important to align piece \#1 the same on all four identical units the best that you can. Here are some tips:

1. Score the paper before you begin. I use the back side of a dull seam ripper and a ruler. Simply place the ruler right on the sew line of the paper pieced pattern. Run the back side of the seam ripper along the line next to the ruler while pressing down slightly. This creates a crease in the paper for folding the paper. It also makes the paper much easier to take out when you are done.

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 dry the glue and make it stay.
5. Place fabric triangle \#2 right sides together along the edge of piece \#1 that is hanging over $1 /{ }^{\prime \prime}$. Center it the best you can.

6. Unfold the paper and stitch right on the line between piece \#1 \& piece \#2. I like to keep my stitch length closer than normal. It helps the paper come out if it is perforated closer.
7. Backstitch - sew from point to point not into the seam allowance and backstitch on both ends.

8. Press.
9. Fold the paper down where piece \#3 is.
10. Trim the fabric hangover to $1 /{ }^{\prime \prime}$.


11. Place a background fabric triangle in position for sewing (right sides together). While the paper is folded down you can see the form of the triangle and exactly where it goes.
12. Pin.

13. Unfold the paper and stitch, backstitching at both ends. Do not sew into the seam allowance.
14. Press.

15. Fold the paper down where piece \#4 is.
16. Trim the fabric hangover to $1 / 4$.

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17. Place a background fabric triangle in position for sewing (right sides together). While the paper is folded down you can see the form of the triangle and exactly where it goes.
18. Pin.

19. Unfold the paper and stitch. SEW INTO THE SEAM ALLOWANCE on this last seam.
20. Press.
21. Trim the block to size on the outside lines.

22. Join four identical blocks together to form a star block. Make four of them.


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23. Follow the same paper piecing steps to make the center block. If you are using two different greys, place same greys in opposite corners.

## Sashing the Star Blocks

If you are using two different grey fat quarters from the "Mineral" bundle, frame two whole blocks with the same grey and the other two blocks with the other grey. Place identical greys kitty corner from each other in the quilt.

1. Sew a $1 \frac{1}{2 \prime \prime} \times 101 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ sashing strip to one side of each block.
2. Sew a $2^{\prime \prime} \times 10 \frac{112 \prime}{\prime \prime}$ sashing strip to the opposite side of each block.


That's it for Month 4. The final quilt assembly instructions will be in next month's tutorial.

