

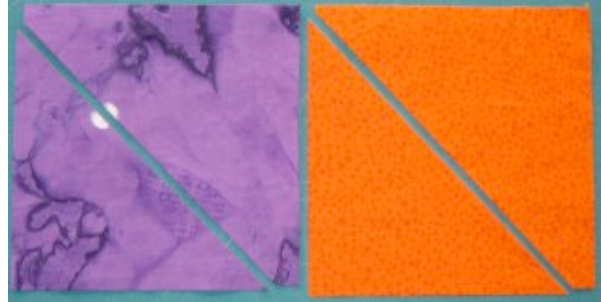
Asterisks



These are asterisks. They can be used as fireworks, snow, flowers, and just cool blocks.

Start with squares, or rectangles if you prefer. The ones I'm doing here are 4 1/2" and the strips I'm inserting are 1". I've done these with various widths of strips but I stop liking it after they get wider than 1 1/2" - but that just may be me. Working with the 1" strips, I end up with a block the same size I started out with or a bit smaller, depending on how uneven I pieced it.

These start out a lot like X's. Slice from one side (or corner) of the square to another side or corner. The slice can bisect the square or be angled. In the purple block, I'm aiming to get the center of my burst off-center, where that white chalk mark is.



Sew your strip of fabric to one side of the triangle, then to the other, and trim even. This is what I call inserting a strip. Check out the [UnRuly Piecing Basics](#) if you need more details.

Slice again, so that you make something of an X.



Insert a second fabric strip, trim even.

Slice again, making sure to go through the center of the X.



And make the final slice, again hitting the middle mark.



you have sewn both sides of an inserted strip - this will help the block keep its shape. (I often don't iron until I've done the whole block, but that's me, non-ironing girl.)

Oh, and always press towards the strip.

Insert the strip, trim even.

Hint: After making each slice, check out the back of the block and cut off any dog ears. That will help lessen the bulk in the middle of the asterisk.



If you run into a problem sewing over the bulk, you can just sew a better seam over that spot again.



Other helpful hints: I piece with the strip at the bottom and the background on the top. Press with the iron *after*