

2012 BLOCK OF THE MONTH QUILT

Welcome to the 2012 Block of the Month quilt for The Quilt Show!



Sedona Star by Sarah Vedeler for The Quilt Show
88" x 88"

I had a ton of fun designing this quilt, and I hope that you will have a ton of fun making your own version. I created two color ways for Sedona Star – a bright version (the colors that I love!) and a neutral version (colors that are not my normal palette, but I love the finished result!). One of my favorite things as a designer is to see the colors and fabrics that other people choose, and this quilt is no exception. In the instructions for this month, you will find a file “Sedona Star No Color.pdf”. I’ve included this uncolored version of the quilt so that you can try out your own color schemes.

There are lots of things to be learned during the construction of this quilt. If you follow the instructions, it's really quite easy to make – even though it looks like it could be complex! Here are some of the things that you will learn:

- Easy and accurate paper piecing.
- Curved piecing – or sewing circles into holes!
- Perfect Y seams.
- How to position applique shapes exactly where you want them.
- How to do applique with your embroidery machine (if you have one).
If you don't have an embroidery machine – don't worry! The applique can be done using any technique, so choose your favorite.

Each month there is a corresponding video giving some hits and tips for success, so be sure to watch these.

Here's my first tip for success:

If you create the entire quilt on a paper foundation, it goes together very easily.

My choice for the “paper” foundation is a medium weight tearaway stabilizer. Ricky's Stable Stuff Poly is my first choice. It comes already cut into printer ready 8 ½” x 11” sheets that can be feed into your printer (inkjet or laser) one sheet at a time. You will need 6 packages (not quite all of the 300 sheets). Most other tearaway stabilizers will need to be cut to fit your printer, and each sheet will need to be taped to the top edge of a sheet of regular copy paper in order to have it feed successfully into the printer.

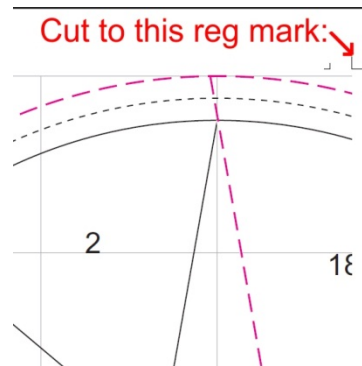
Here's my second tip for success:

*Make sure to set **Page Scaling = None** when printing all templates.*

Actually, this isn't really a tip for success – it's an absolute necessity!

If a template prints onto multiple pages, the template will print with registration marks on each page and a ¼" overlap. You will need to tile the pages to create the template:

- Layout the pages so that they are in rows that need to be tiled together.
- Trim each page to the registration marks on the right hand side of the page.



- Line up each page with the one to its right hand side. Use a glue stick or ¼" wide fusible tape (Lite Steam A Seam 2 – ¼" wide) to join the sheets together. There will be a grey grid printed on each page to help get the alignment exact. Each square in the grid should measure the size specified on the template.
- Now trim each row of joined pages to the registration marks on the bottom of the page.
- Join the rows together.

The paper foundation (stabilizer) should be left in right until the very end of creating the quilt top. The templates contain all kinds of markings that will help to make the quilt top go together easily. When you're all done (at the end of month 12), have a movie night with some friends to remove all of the stabilizer. If you are planning on washing the quilt, you could even leave Rcky's Stable Stuff in the quilt top as it washes away to leave a fine web that is barely noticeable in the finished quilt.

In order to make it easier to remove the paper foundation, use a super tiny stitch length (1mm – 1.5mm). My favorite thread to use is AURIfil Cotton Mako 50 weight. The finer the thread, the more precise your piecing will be. Having a pair of tweezers on hand will help to remove any pieces of stabilizer that get "stuck" in the seam allowances.



SEDONA STAR

BY SARAH VEDELER FOR THE QUILT SHOW



If you have questions as you go along, be sure to stop by the forum. There's a whole section for the Block of the Month quilts. Chances are, if you have a question, someone else might have the same question!

Each month you will be given instructions to cut only the pieces required for that month. Occasionally, it is more efficient to cut a few pieces for the following month or two as well. Either way, the more organized you are, the easier it will be! Use some small zip lock bags to keep your pieces together.

When cutting your applique shapes, the AccuQuilt GO! Cutter can make the cutting go much faster – and be a lot more accurate! (But it's not necessary – you can always trace and cut your shapes with a pair of scissors.) These are the dies that you might find useful for this project:

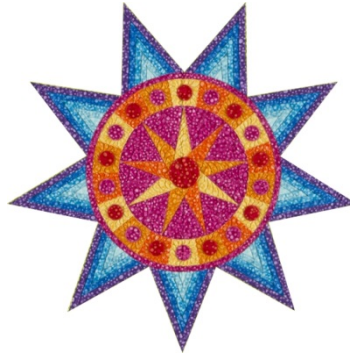
- Heather Feather #1 and Heather Feather #2 by Sarah Vedeler.
- GO! Circle 2", 3", 5"
- 1" circles can be found on these dies:
 - GO! Round Flower
 - GO! Rose of Sharon by Sharon Pederson
 - GO! Airplanes
- 1 ¼" circles can be found on these dies:
 - GO! Daisy
 - GO! Rose of Sharon #2 by Sharon Pederson
- 2 ½" circles can be found on:
 - GO! Pomegranate by Alex Anderson (there's only one 2 ½" circle on the quilt, right in the center)
- 4" circles can be found on:
 - GO! Dresden Plates

Another way of cutting the circles is to use the OLFA Rotary Circle Cutter. This is great for all the circles 2" and bigger, but it won't cut the 1" and 1 ½" circles.

Be sure to read the instructions each month BEFORE you cut anything! That way, you will start out with a good idea of what you are going to be doing with all of the pieces you cut.

Here's a quick guide to what you will be working on each month:

Month 1



In Month 1 you will create the very center of the quilt – the circle and the 9 triangles surrounding it. The circle will be completed in its entirety. The 9 triangles will be set aside until month 2 when they will be added to the

quilt top. There's a lot of paper piecing this month and a little bit of applique.

If you've never sewn a circle into a hole before, you will get to do that this month! However, if that sounds pretty intimidating, if you wait until Month 4, the video for Month 4 will give you some tips to make it easy.

Month 2



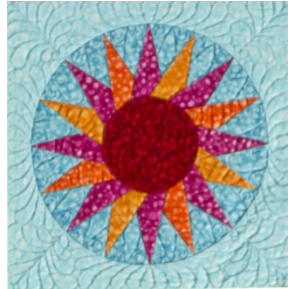
In Month 2 you will create 9 appliqued blocks. These will then be stitched to the triangles made in Month 1 and added to the center circle.

You will learn how to position your applique shapes exactly where you want them. This technique can also be used to easily position the applique

shapes in all future "applique" months.

For embroidery machine owners... this block will not be stitched in the hoop because it is too big for all but the Jumbo hoop on the Bernina 830.

Month 3



In Month 3 you will make the first of 3 paper pieced star blocks. There are 3 copies of this block in the quilt.

If you are using the Buttons and Blooms fabrics to make your quilt, you will see that the fabrics used for the star points have a stripe on them. The instructions for this month (and the video too!) show you how to align the stripe so that it is centered through the star points.

Month 4



In Month 4 you will make the second set of paper pieced stars (3 copies again).

Whereas the star in Month 3 was created as a ring, the star this month is created in sections that are then stitched together.

Watch the video this month to see some tips for sewing the circular stars into the background hole.

Month 5



In Month 5 you will create the last set of paper pieced stars (3 copies). You will also set the star blocks into the quilt top.

The video for this month will give you some tips on how to create perfect Y seams – it's really quite easy to do!

Month 6



Month 6 changes the pace with the first of 3 appliqued blocks. You will be making 3 copies of this block.

If you've never used the AccuQuilt GO! Cutter before, check out the video this month to see why I love to use it for cutting all of my applique shapes. It makes your cutting very fast and accurate.

You can use your favorite applique technique to create the 3 blocks for this month. If you have an embroidery machine, designs are included for you to do basic applique in the hoop.

If you own an embroidery machine but have never used it to do applique this month, you may want to take a break and wait until next month to start your applique. The Month 7 video tells you everything you need to know to be successful! If you want to get stuck in straight away, you'll still be able to do that this month as full instructions will be provided.

Month 7



In Month 7 you will work on the second of the appliqued blocks. You will be making 3 copies of this block.

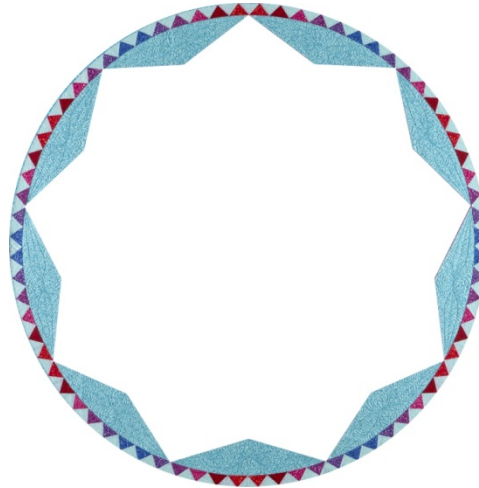
Month 8



In Month 8 you will work on the third of the appliqued blocks, 3 copies of it. You will also set the applique blocks into the quilt top. Check out the

video for this month for a refresher on how to make perfect Y seams.

Month 9



In Month 9 you will add the setting “triangles” to create a big circle, and then add a paper pieced circular border.

The setting “triangles” are a great place to feature some really cool quilting or trapunto. Check out the video for some ideas. You’ll find a few templates for quilting included in the instructions.

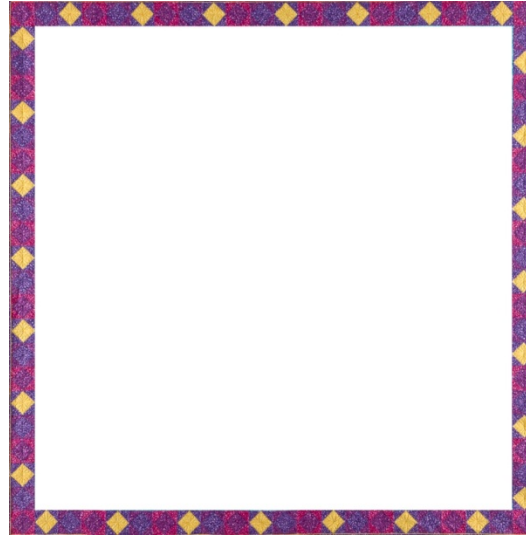
Month 10
& 11



In Months 9 and 10 you will work on the 4 big corners pieces, 2 each month. There’s lots of applique to be placed, and these are quilt large pieces, so be sure to check out the video

for a refresher on how to get those applique shapes exactly where you want them.

Month 12



In Month 12 there are 84 simple paper pieced diamond in a square blocks to be made, giving a nice relaxing finish to this project. Check out

the instructions (and the video) to see how I create these blocks without having to cut out any triangles!

When you're all done with the piecing, it's time to remove all of the stabilizer from the quilt top. Invite some friends over for a movie night (and maybe a glass of wine) and make a relaxing evening of it!

Let's get started!