

Westerville Quilt Guild – America 250! Quilt (the Ohio version)

MONTH	THEME	BLOCK
JANUARY	OHIO FIRSTS	OHIO STAR
FEBRUARY	OHIO WORKS	MONKEY WRENCH
MARCH	OHIO ENTERTAINS	ART SQUARE
APRIL	OHIO MOVES	PROPELLER
MAY	OHIO CREATES	FLIGHTS OF FANCY
JUNE	OHIO OUTDOORS	OHIO TRAILS
JULY	OHIO GATHERS	PICNIC BASKET
AUGUST	OHIO GOES TO THE FAIR	STATE FAIR
SEPTEMBER	OHIO PLAYS	PINWHEEL VARIATION
OCTOBER	OHIO GROWS	CORN AND BEANS
NOVEMBER	OHIO SERVES	SAWTOOTH STAR
DECEMBER	FUTURE OHIO	BRIGHT HOPES

JANUARY

OHIO FIRSTS & ORIGINALS

OHIO STAR

Ohio is a pioneer in American innovation and civil society, with notable "firsts" including the first professional baseball team (Cincinnati Reds, 1869), the first ambulance service (1865), and the first traffic light (Cleveland, 1923). As the "Birthplace of Aviation," Ohio produced the Wright Brothers and became the first state to be designated "Technology First" for disability services.

Historical and Social Firsts

- *First Ambulance Service:* Established in Cincinnati in 1865.
- *First Professional Baseball Team:* The Cincinnati Reds.
- *First Interracial and Coeducational College:* Oberlin College.
- *First Female President of a 11y Board:* Ohio.
- *First Lady/First Lady Role:* Ohio is the birthplace of many First Ladies.

Inventions and Technology

- *First Traffic Light:* Installed in Cleveland.
- *First Airplane:* Invented by Ohio natives Wilbur and Orville Wright.
- *First Cash Register:* Patented by James Ritty in 1878.
- *First Vacuum Cleaner:* Patented by Murray Spangler in 1907.
- *First Pop-top Can:* Invented by Ermal Fraze in Kettering.
- *First Automobile Self-Starter:* Developed by Charles Kettering.

Industrial and Geographical Firsts

- *First Standard Oil Refinery:* Opened by John D. Rockefeller in Cleveland.
- *First Technology First State:* Designated to prioritize technology for people with disabilities.
- *First 4-H Club:* Founded in Clark County in 1902.

Astronaut Firsts

- *First Human to Walk on the Moon:* Neil Armstrong, a Wapakoneta native.
- *First American to Orbit Earth:* John Glenn, a Cambridge native.

History of the Ohio Star Quilt Block

(courtesy of <https://www.sewthedistance.com/blog/lessons-from-old-ohio-star-quilt>)

The Ohio Star quilt block is a timeless classic with roots that stretch deep into American quilting history. This nine-patch block, featuring a central square framed by four smaller triangles forming a star, has captured the hearts of quilters for generations. But where did this iconic design come from, and how did it get its charming name?

The Ohio Star is believed to have originated in the early 19th century, gaining popularity among quilters in the Midwest, particularly in Ohio—hence the name! Its simple yet striking geometry made it an ideal choice for hand-piecing, a labor-intensive process that demanded precision and patience. The design’s versatility also meant it could be created using scraps from old garments or leftover fabric, making it a practical choice for thrifty homemakers. [1]

Legend has it that the Ohio Star’s popularity soared during the 1800s, a time when quilts served not only as bed coverings but also as tools of communication. Some historians suggest that certain quilts, including those featuring the Ohio Star, were used to convey coded messages along the Underground Railroad, guiding enslaved people to freedom. While this theory remains a topic of debate, it adds an air of mystery and intrigue to an already beloved pattern. [2]

Fast-forward to the 20th century, and the Ohio Star became a staple in quilting books and patterns, solidifying its status as a go-to design for both beginner and experienced quilters. Its enduring appeal lies in its adaptability—you can make it traditional with reproduction fabrics, modern with bold solids, or whimsical with novelty prints. Whatever your style, the Ohio Star is like the little black dress of quilt blocks—it never goes out of fashion!

So, the next time you stitch an Ohio Star, take a moment to appreciate its rich history and the countless hands that have brought this beloved design to life. It’s a reminder that even in a world full of trends, some things remain forever classic.

OHIO STAR QUILT BLOCK INSTRUCTIONS

Cutting Directions

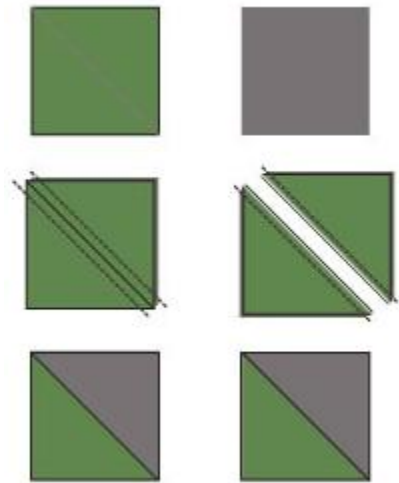
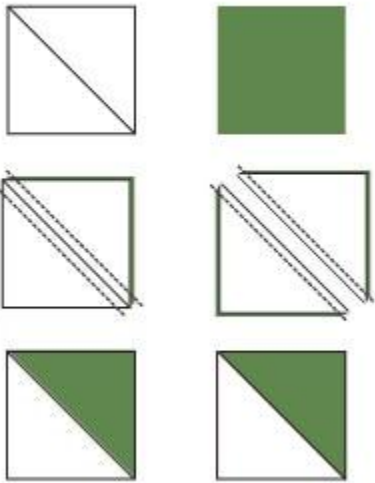
1. Fabric A: Background Fabric
 - Four pieces 4 1/2” x 4 1/2”
 - 1 piece 5 1/2” x 5 1/2”; for the quarter square triangle units
2. Fabric B: Star Points :
 - 2 pieces 5 1/2” x 5 1/2”; for quarter square triangle units
3. Fabric C: Inside Star Contrast:
 - 1 piece 5 1/2” x 5 1/2”; for quarter square triangle units
4. Fabric D: Center Fabric:
 - 1 piece 4 1/2” x 4 1/2”

Step 1: Make Half Square Triangle Units (HST)

A Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the two 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" Fabric B pieces.

B Pair one 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" Fabric B piece with one 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" Fabric A piece, right sides facing.

C Pair one 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" Fabric B piece with one 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" Fabric C piece, right sides facing.



D On both units, sew 1/4" on each side of the drawn line.

E Cut on the drawn line. Press toward Fabric B.

Step 2: Make Quarter Square Triangle Units (QST)

A Take one HST created with Fabric A/B and one HST created with Fabric B/C and place them right sides facing so that the two Fabric B pieces are not on top of each other.

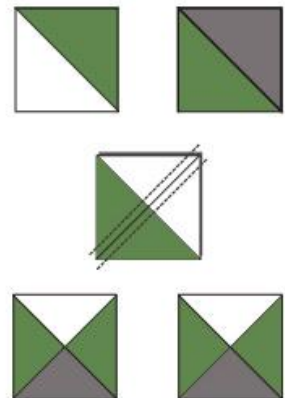
B The seams of the blocks should be on top of each other and "nested".

C Draw a line perpendicular to the seam (corner to corner).
9.

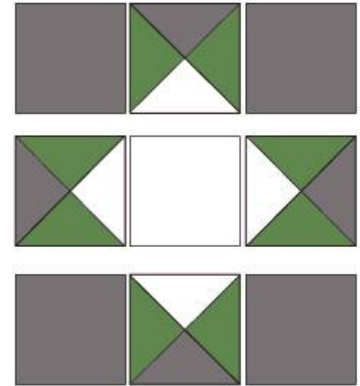
D Sew 1/4" on both sides of the line, then cut on the drawn line to make two-quarter square triangle units.

E Repeat with the remaining Fabric A/B and Fabric B/C HST units.

F Trim and square up to 4 1/2" x 4 1/2"



G **TIP:** As you trim your block, make sure you trim from the center out. If you remove too much fabric from one side of the block, you will not have precise corners.



Step 3: Layout the Block

A Layout your 3×3 grid:

>Corners: 4 Fabric A 4½” squares

>Sides 4 quarter square triangle units (rotate so light triangles point to the center)

>Center: 1 star 4½” square

Step 4: Sew the Rows and Assemble the Block

A Sew each row together. Press the seams of Row 1 and Row 3 away from the center and press the seams of Row 2 towards the center of the block.

B Sew rows together, pinning at intersections.

C If necessary, trim and square up the block to 12½” x 12½”.

Pattern sourced from <https://www.polkadotchair.com/how-to-make-a-12-inch-ohio-star-quilt-block/>

FEBRUARY

OHIO WORKS: INNOVATION AND INDUSTRY

“MONKEY WRENCH BLOCK”

Ohio's industrial history is defined by its pivotal role in the American Industrial Revolution, evolving from agricultural roots into a powerhouse of manufacturing, steel, rubber, and automobile production. Centered in cities like Cleveland, Youngstown, and Akron, the state became a top 20th-century producer, driven by coal, iron ore, and, later, innovation in aviation and polymers.

Key Historical Industrial Sectors:

- **Iron and Steel:** Beginning in 1802 with a blast furnace near Youngstown, Ohio became the nation's second-largest steel producer by 1892. It was critical for manufacturing, bridges, and automobiles.
- **Rubber and Tires:** Akron became the "rubber capital of the world," housing major tire manufacturers.
- **Automotive and Machinery:** A major hub for assembly and auto parts manufacturing.
- **Oil and Gas:** The first oil-producing well was drilled in 1814 in Noble County, and the industry grew rapidly, featuring companies like Standard Oil in Cleveland.
- **Glass:** The Libbey Glass Company (1892) revolutionized stemware and glass production.
- **Coal Mining:** Production doubled in the 1870s to 10 million tons annually, fueling industry.

History of the Monkey Wrench Quilt Block

“Monkey Wrench” is based on the block’s resemblance to a fixed carriage or wagon wrench and to adjustable wrenches (look at the top row of the block and visualize the gripping teeth of a wrench). The block and these names have been around since about 1855 with the first publication in 1884 as “Double Wrench” in Farm and Fireside magazine. The Monkey Wrench is a variation of a Churn Dash block with the difference being a smaller center section in the Monkey Wrench.

MONKEY WRENCH BLOCK INSTRUCTIONS

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS:

2 - 6.5 inch squares dark fabric

2 - 6.5 inch squares light fabric

1 - 3 x 12 inch strip light fabric

1 - 3 x 12 inch strip dark fabric

1 - 2.5 inch square light fabric

BLOCK INSTRUCTIONS:



Making the HSTs

Using the 6 1/2 inch squares make 4 half square triangles (HSTs); pair dark and light square to make your HSTs.

Use a pencil to draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of the 6.5 inch light squares.

With right sides together and the light fabric on top, stitch a 1/4 inch seam away from both sides of the marked line.

Use a rotary cutter to cut the square apart on the marked diagonal line.

Press seam toward the dark fabric.

Trim HSTs to 5 1/2 inches.

Making the Bars

Place the 3 inch strips right sides together and sew a 1/4" seam along one of the long sides.

Press to the dark fabric.

Cut 4 - 2.5inch segments for the bars. (bar segment should measure 2.5 x 5.5 inches)

Putting it together

Sew the units of Row 1 together. <HST-BAR-HST> Press seam inward towards column 2.

Sew the units of Row 2 together.<BAR-2.5"SQ-BAR> Press seam outward towards columns 1 and 3.

Sew the units of Row 3 together. <HST-BAR-HST> Press seam inward towards column 2.

Sew rows together and your block is complete.

MARCH

OHIO ENTERTAINS: MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

“ART SQUARE BLOCK”

The impact of Ohio musicians and artists is well noted. Ohio is a vital epicenter of American music history, most notably as the birthplace of rock and roll—coined in Cleveland by Alan Freed in 1952—and as the "funk capital of the world" via Dayton in the 1970s. The state has profoundly influenced rock, funk, R&B, and soul, producing artists like The Ohio Players, Devo, Nine Inch Nails, and John Legend. (For further information see <https://rocknheavy.net/exploring-ohios-impact-on-rock-music-history-d8e0395955d0>.)

Ohio also has a profound, historic significance in the American entertainment industry, acting as a crucial cradle for cinema, theater, and talent. As a hub for pioneers like Thomas Edison and the Warner Brothers, Ohio established early movie-going habits. The state boasts a rich legacy of historic theaters and has served as a filming location for iconic movies, creating a lasting impact on popular culture.

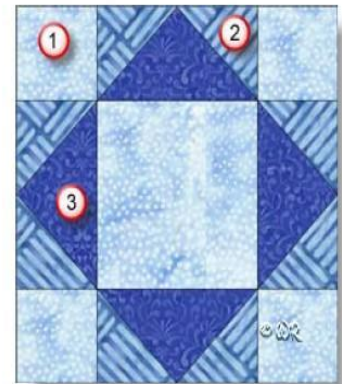
Key elements of Ohio's entertainment significance include:

- **Cinema Pioneers & Early Film:** Thomas Edison filmed early kinetoscope scenes in Cleveland in 1897. The Warner Brothers started their career in Youngstown, showing movies at Idora Park before forming their famous studio.
- **Historic Venues:** Ohio houses historic theaters like the Majestic Theatre in Chillicothe (oldest operating in the US) and Playhouse Square in Cleveland, which features 12 performance spaces.
- **Iconic Film Locations:** Major films like *A Christmas Story* (Cleveland), *The Shawshank Redemption* (Mansfield), and *The Avengers* (Cleveland) were filmed in Ohio.
- **Cultural Talent Hub:** Ohio is the birthplace of legendary actors and directors, including Clark Gable, Paul Newman, Doris Day, Steven Spielberg, and the Russo Brothers.

Art Square

12" finished quilt block

Fabric Placement



How-to Notes	
	Bisect square on one diagonal
	Bisect square on both diagonals
*All seam allowances are 1/4" unless noted otherwise	

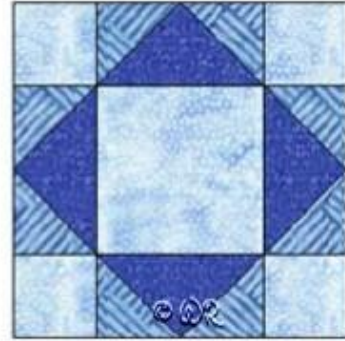
1		Background fabric 1 Cut 4 squares 3 1/2" Cut 1 square 6 1/2"
2		Fabric 2 Cut 4 squares 3 7/8" and bisect on one diagonal
3		Fabric 3 Cut 1 square 7 1/4" and bisect on both diagonals

Sources from : © Wendy Russell — all rights reserved <https://www.patchworksquare.com/>

Art Square



Make 4



APRIL OHIO MOVES: TRANSPORTATION

“PROPELLER BLOCK”

Ohio transportation history evolved from 19th-century water and canal travel, which connected the state to the Ohio River and Lake Erie, to a massive railroad boom and, finally, a dense interstate highway system. Ohio was a national leader in transportation infrastructure by 1860, boasting nearly 3,000 miles of track.

Key Eras in Ohio Transportation:

- **Waterways & Canals (1820s–1840s):** Following statehood in 1803, transportation was limited to rivers and horse-drawn methods. The 1820s saw the construction of over 800 miles of canals, notably the [Ohio and Erie Canal](#), which connected Lake Erie to the Ohio River.
- **Railroad Boom (1840s–1900):** The 1840s and 1850s introduced railroads, such as the [Little Miami Railroad](#), enabling rapid transit of goods. By 1900, Ohio had 8,900 miles of track, controlled by major companies like the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.
- **Roads & Interurban (1880s–1930s):** The [National Road](#) served early travelers, while electric trolleys appeared in cities like Columbus by 1888.
- **Automobile Era & Highways (1913–Present):** The 1913 flood heavily damaged infrastructure, accelerating the move toward modern highway construction. The Ohio Department of Highways was formed in 1905, later creating the State Highway Patrol in 1933. The 1950s solidified the shift from rail to automobile and truck transport with the development of the interstate system.

12” PROPELLER BLOCK INSTRUCTIONS

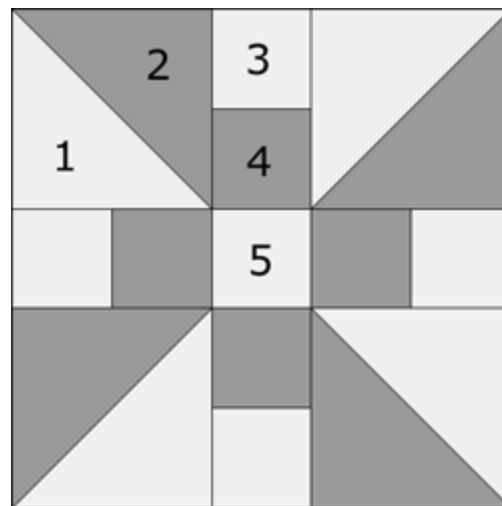
The Propeller quilt block is a vintage pieced pattern, with roots tracing back to the early 20th-century aviation boom, often dated to the 1920s-1930s. Published by the Ladies Art Company as early as 1928, it became popular for its dynamic, circular motion, representing airplane propellers. It is sometimes known as "[Broken Arrows](#)" or associated with "Victory Quilts" from the 1940s.

Historical Origins and Variations

- **Early Publication:** According to Barbara Brackman’s *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*, the block (identified as #1934) was published by the Ladies Art Company, with designs dating between 1897 and 1928.

- **1930s Popularity:** A version called "Air-Ship Propeller" was printed in the *Kansas City Star* in 1933.
- **War Era:** The block gained patriotic significance during WWII, featured in 1940s "Victory Quilts" to represent the aviation industry.
- **Name Variations:** It is also known as "Broken Arrows," particularly in later publications like *Quilt World* in 1979.
- **Similar Patterns:** It is often confused with or acts as an alternative to the "Pinwheel" block, but the Propeller block generally uses flying geese and rectangles to create a more mechanical, rotating appearance.

The propeller block is made with 4 Half Square Triangle (hst) units, 4 pieced strips, and a center square.



Fabric Requirements:

1 = 9 inch square of light fabric

3, 5 = 2.5" x 18" strip light fabric

2 = 9 inch square of dark fabric

4 = 2.5" x 12" dark fabric

MAKING HSTs

Make the half square triangles by placing the two 9" squares, right sides together.

Using a ¼ inch seam allowance, sew around the perimeter of the square. (It is like topstitching the outer edges.) Once you have sewn around the square, use your rotary cutter to slice the squares into 4 hsts. Do this by cutting an X; cut diagonally from corner to corner.

Your resulting hsts will need to be trimmed to 5.5 inches.

MAKING STRIPS

Cut the light strip into:

1 square @ 2.5" x 2.5"

4 rectangles @ 2.5" x 3.5"

Cut the dark strip in 4 squares @ 2.5" x 2.5"

Sew a 2.5" Dark square to light rectangle. Repeat for remaining dark squares/rectangles.

PUTTING THE PROPELLER BLOCK TOGETHER

Put the units together as shown.

