

# Aurora Stars

by Shelley Swanland



60" x 60"

Featuring *Aurora* by RJR

**RJR** Fashion Fabrics  
[www.rjrfabrics.com](http://www.rjrfabrics.com)

## Aurora Stars Project Description

The *Aurora Stars* quilt uses seven fabrics from the RJR *Aurora* fabric line. The quilt showcases a version of the Cathedral Stars technique. Each Floating Star is a three dimensional unit of four single Star Point Frames, the seams of each captured in the underlying grid of squares and rectangles. These Frames have bias folded edges that are turned back over the Star Panes during quilting. Single color gradated fabrics are used for Floating Star units. A Blue to Red variegated fabric is used for the primary background squares and a Yellow to Turquoise variegated fabric is used for the secondary background. **Read through the instructions before beginning.** Create plastic templates for the Star Point Frame and the Star Pane. Squares and rectangles are used for all other pieces. All seams are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " inset seams.

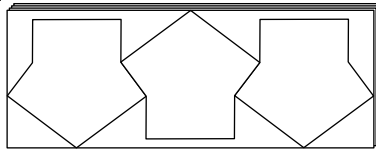
## Cutting the Pieces

### Star Units

Working with the five single color gradated fabrics, Blue, Green, Yellow, Purple and Red, fold the fabrics lengthwise and remove the selvages. From the dark end of each of the five fabrics, cut two strips,  $7\frac{1}{4}$ " each. As you prepare to cut the Star Point Frame pieces fold the strip so that it is four thick. **Refer to Illustration I-1** and the **Cutting Chart** for layout and cutting recommendation.

Working from the light end of the remaining single color gradated fabrics cut the following in order.

- Cut two strips,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " each.
- Cut two strips,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " each.
- From the dark end of the remaining fabrics cut one strip,  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " each.



I-1

### Cutting Background Squares

To cut the Blue to Red and Yellow to Turquoise variegated background squares refer to the **Cutting Chart**.

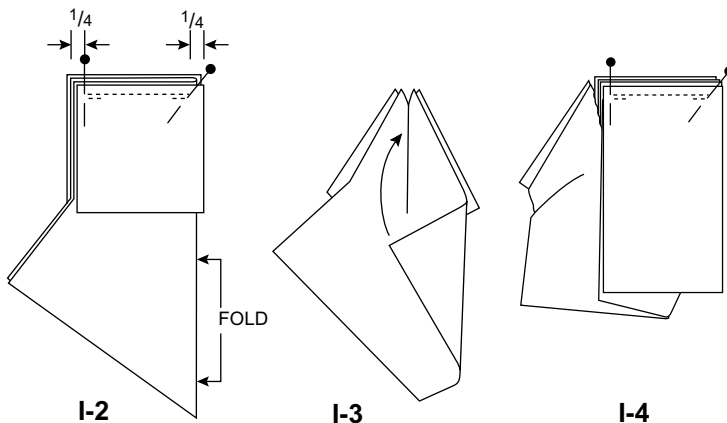
### Constructing the Floating Star Units

Each Floating Star Unit requires four Star Point Frames, four light  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares and eight  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles.

**1.** Start with two  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares and one Star Point Frame. Fold the frame in half lengthwise, *wrong sides* together. With the square end up and the raw edges to the left, place the frame between two of the squares, *right sides* together. Line up the upper edge and the left side raw edges. The squares will extend  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the fold on the right hand side. Pin through all four layers on the fold and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the left edge.

With the fold of the frame facing you, backstitch to the first pin, then stitch right up to the second pin using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Take one stitch over the pin and backstitch (**See Illustration I-2**).

**2.** Rotate the unit counterclockwise and open it out so you can see the *wrong side* of the frame fabric (**See Illustration I-3**). Fold the lower right corner of the frame up to the seam upper edge. Lay the darker short end of one of the rectangles on top, right sides together. Line up the corners and top edge, pin and stitch as in **Step 1** (**See Illustration I-4**).

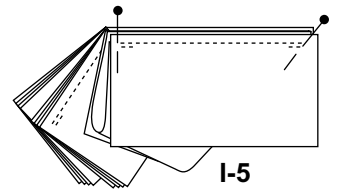


I-2

I-3

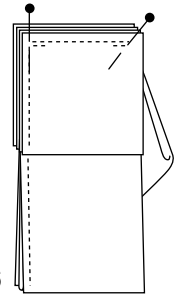
I-4

**3.** Repeat the rotating and pinning on the longer seam of the rectangle and frame. The darker end of the second rectangle should line up with the previous rectangle. Sew as in **Step 1** (**See Illustration I-5**).



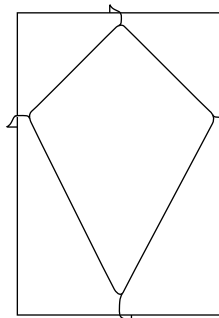
I-5

**4.** Bring the unsewn edges of the square and rectangle together with the folded frame between. Pin and stitch as in **Step 1** (**See Illustration I-6**).

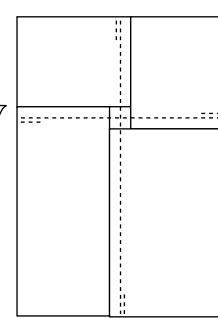


I-6

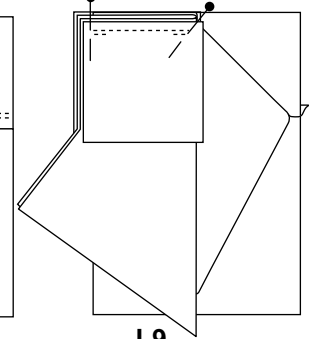
**5.** Pull the squares and rectangles out flat. This will pull the Star Point flat. The back will look like a four piece rectangular grid (**See Illustration I-7 & I-8**).



I-7



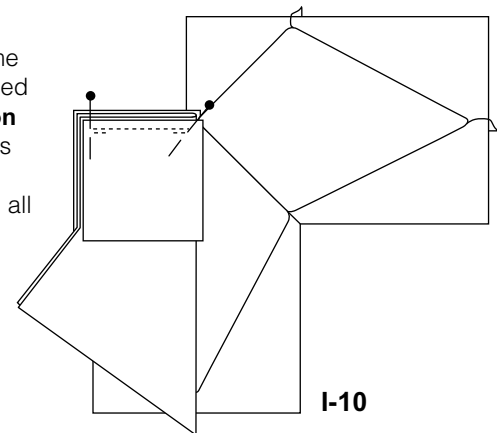
I-8



I-9

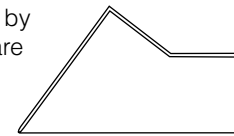
**6.** To add another frame you will need an additional square and two more rectangles. Place the folded frame, square end up, on the left square of the original frame unit (**See Illustration I-9**). Add the square on top. Line up the corners and upper edges. Pin through all layers to the left and again through the fold and stitch as in **Step 1**. Work around this frame, adding the rectangles, as with the previous frame.

**7.** Rotate the two-frame unit. Add another folded frame (**See Illustration I-10**). Work around this frame as you did with the previous two, until all four seams are sewn.



I-10

**8.** Add the fourth frame by placing the folded square end between the two unsewn squares (**See Illustration I-11**). Work around this frame, as with the other frames, adding the last two rectangles. You will need seven blue, seven green, four yellow, four purple and three red Star Frame units.



I-11

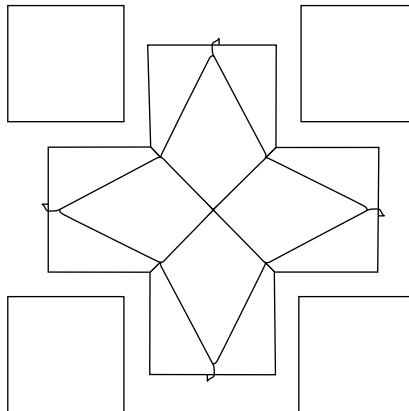
## Cutting Chart

Fabric	Strip/ First Cut	Pieces/ Second Cut
Blue Gradated	Darkest, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	16 Star Point Frame pieces
<i>Cut from Lengthwise Grain</i>	Dark, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	12 Star Point Frame pieces
	Lightest, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	16 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	12 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	32 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
	Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	24 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
		5 squares, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Medium Dark, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	28 Star Pane pieces
Green Gradated	Darkest, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	16 Star Point Frame pieces
<i>Cut from Lengthwise Grain</i>	Dark, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	12 Star Point Frame pieces
	Lightest, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	16 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	12 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	32 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
	Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	24 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
		5 squares, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Medium Dark, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	28 Star Pane pieces
Yellow Gradated	Darkest, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	8 Star Point Frames
<i>Cut from Lengthwise Grain</i>	Dark, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	8 Star Point Frames
	Lightest, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	8 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	6 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	16 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
	Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	16 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
	Medium Dark, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	16 Star Pane pieces
Purple Gradated	Darkest, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	8 Star Point Frames
<i>Cut from Lengthwise Grain</i>	Dark, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	8 Star Point Frames
	Lightest, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	8 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	6 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	16 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
	Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	16 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
	Medium Dark, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	16 Star Pane pieces
Red Gradated	Darkest, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	8 Star Point Frames
<i>Cut from Lengthwise Grain</i>	Dark, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	4 Star Point Frames
	Lightest, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	8 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	4 squares, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Light Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	16 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
	Medium, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " strip	8 rectangles, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
		2 squares, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " each
	Medium Dark, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " strip	12 Star Pane pieces
Blue to Red Variegated	8 strips, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 42"	8 cuts of eight 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " squares
<i>Cut from Crosswise Grain</i>		<i>Keep in order</i>
Yellow to Turquoise Variegated	4 strips, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " x 42"	7 cuts of four 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " squares
<i>Cut from Crosswise Grain</i>	Start cutting these strips in the Gold section. Refer to cover photo.	<i>Keep in order</i>

### Constructing the Floating Star Blocks

Refer to the cover photograph and layout diagram to layout the Floating Star units. Add the Blue to Red variegated 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" squares to the layout. To the Floating Star units in the four by four rows, add the corner squares, making sure to keep the variegation going in the same direction (**See Illustration I-12**). Using inset seams, pin 1/4" in from each edge and sew between the pins, backstitching at the beginning and end.

I-12



### Constructing the Top

Referring to the cover photograph and layout diagram, layout the Floating Star blocks, the remaining Floating Star units, the secondary Yellow to Turquoise variegated 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" squares and the light red, blue and green squares. Use inset seams as in the previous step to stitch the Floating Star units and the background squares to the top, starting in one corner and working across the quilt.

# Aurora Stars

Finished Quilt Size: 60" square

Once you have finished sewing the blocks, units and squares together, sew all the seams on the edges of the top to the edge.

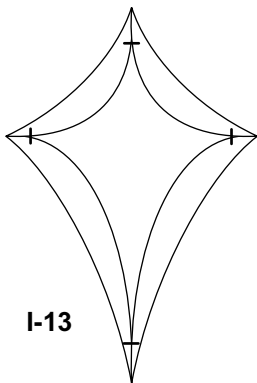
## Pressing and Basting

Press from the wrong side, using steam, beginning at one edge and working out. Press seams to one side in a spiral around each intersection. The direction of the spiral will alternate from one intersection to the next. Some of the seams under the Star Frames will want to lie in both directions. These Frame seams can be clipped in the center to the stitching line and pressed in both directions. Pull the quilt top flat as you go and the frames will automatically be pulled into their correct position.

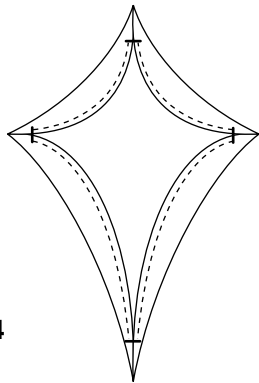
Piece a 66" square for the back of the quilt. Layer the backing, batting and top. Center a Star Pane on each Star Point Frame coordinating the colors. Pin-baste through each frame and through each background square working from the center out.

## Tacking and Quilting

Before quilting, the Star Frames are tacked into position. At each corner of each Star Point Frame the edges will be pulled back to cover the edges of the Star Panes. Using a zig zag stitch, set a medium width and with your feed dogs down, work from Star corner to Star corner, folding the edges over the panes and tacking at the point where the edges cross. Without cutting the threads, jump from one tack to the next. When finished trim off the threads (See Illustration I-13).



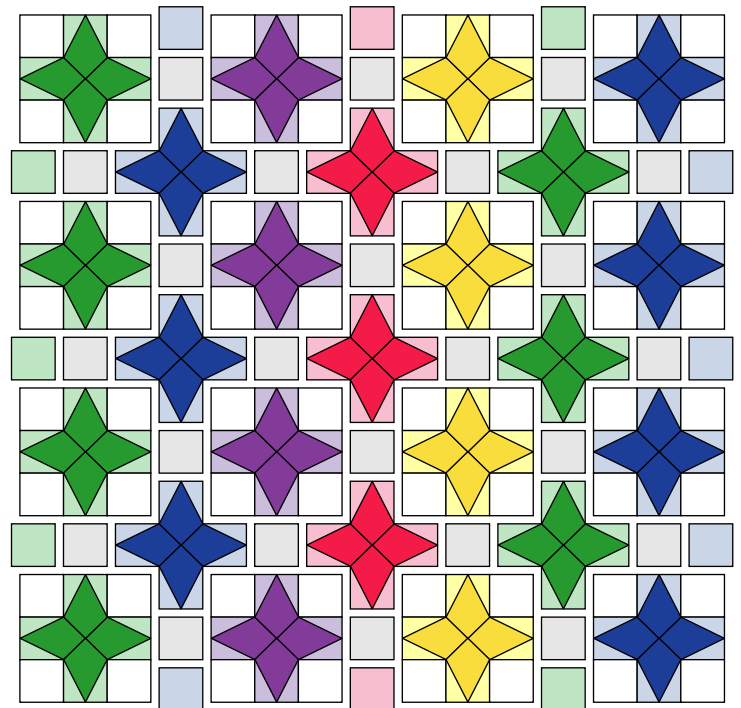
I-13



I-14

To quilt, set the machine for a straight stitch using a slightly longer stitch. Stitch from one tack to the next on the edge of the folds. Reduce the length of the stitch as you begin and end each seam (See Illustration I-14). The remainder of the quilting can be done by either machine or hand. Use your favorite method to bind. Enjoy your new quilt.

## Layout of Blocks, Star Units and Background Squares



I-15

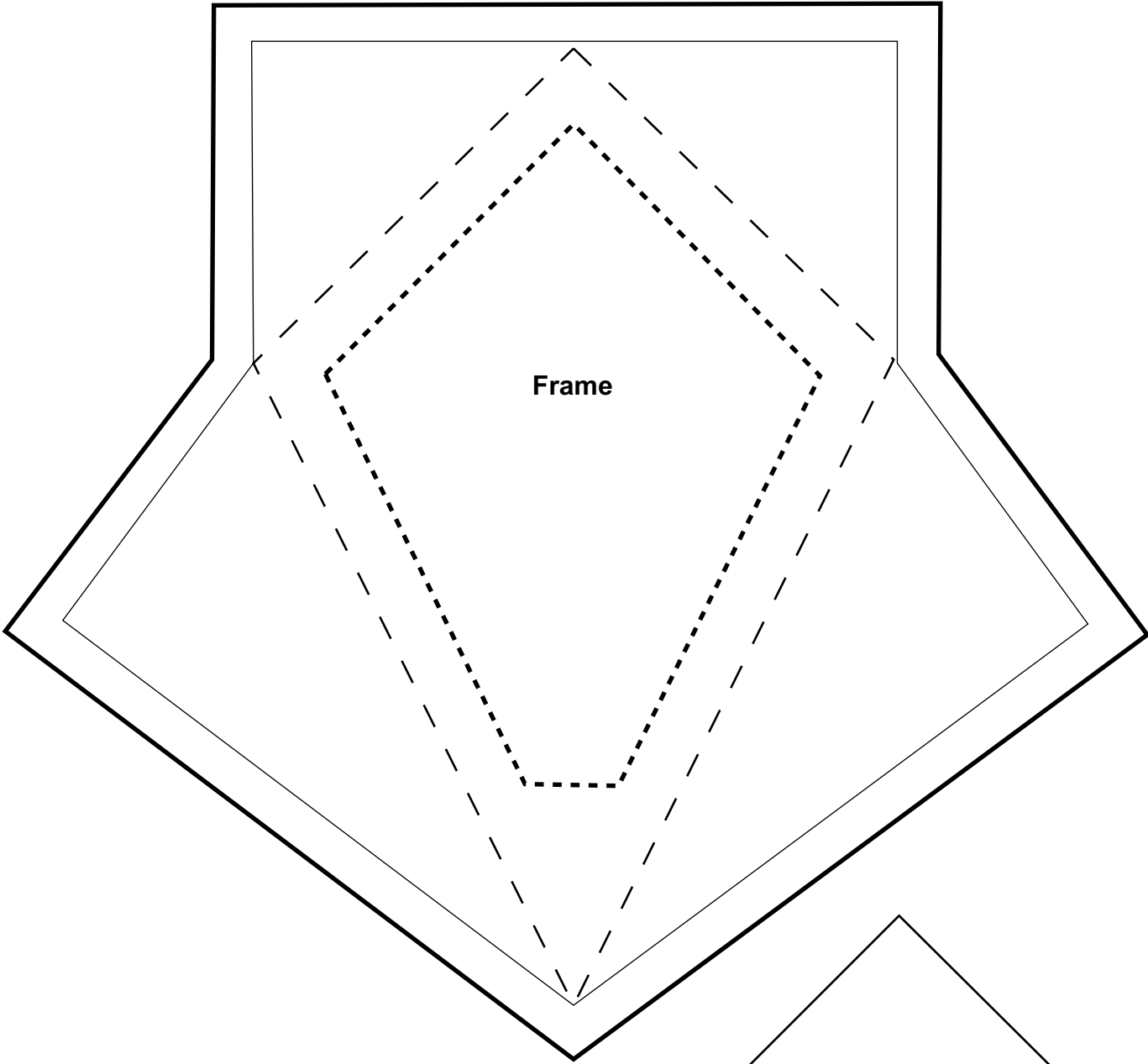
- Use Blue to Red Variegated Print for Block Corners
- Use Yellow to Turquoise Variegated Print for Remaining Background
- Use Green, Blue and Pink Squares at Edges

## Fabric Requirements

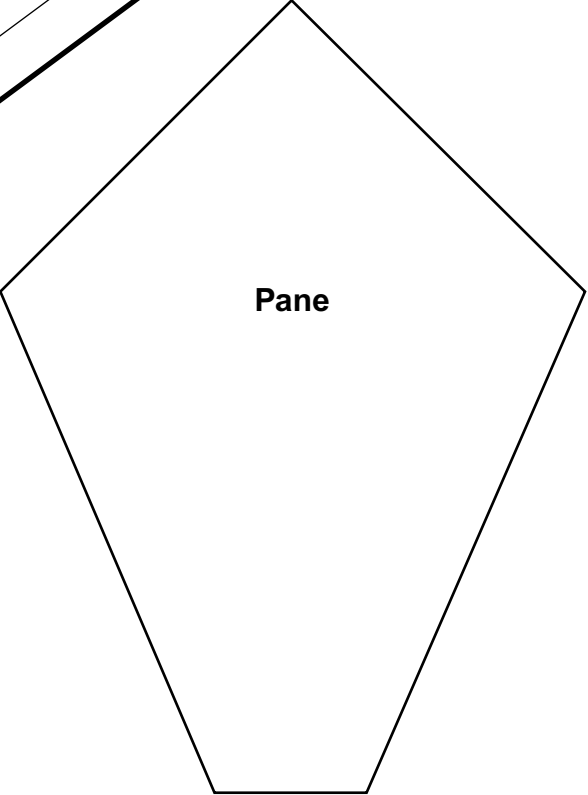
Style #	Description	Yardage
4150-11	Yellow Gradated	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> yards
4150-15	Blue to Red Variegated Print	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> yards
4150-16	Yellow to Turquoise Variegated Print	<sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> yard
4150-2	Green Gradated	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> yards
4150-4	Red Gradated	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> yards
4150-5	Purple Gradated	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> yards
4150-8	Blue Gradated	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> yards
4150-15*	Binding	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> yard
	Backing	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> yards

\*style is repeated

# Aurora Stars Template



- Cutting Line
- Stitching Line
- - - Frame Fold Line
- · · Pane Placement Line



**Pane**