

STAR STRUCK TOTE | QUILTING



Technique:	Foundation piecing, sewing, quilting
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Intermediate
Crafting time:	Weekend

Celebrate patriotic holidays in style with this handy shooting star carryall. The bold big stitches hold the raw-edge appliques in place and the trailers wind their way around the tote in sparkling star struck fashion.

Finished Size of Project: 16" x 16" x 4" (excluding handles)

Supplies:

- ¾ yd navy poplin fabric
- ⅝ yd patriotic print lining fabric
- ¼ yd cranberry solid cotton fabric
- ¾ yd cotton batting
- Coats Bold Hand Quilting thread, White (color 100)
- Coats Dual Duty XP All-Purpose thread, Navy (color 4900)
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Hand sewing needle with large eye

Cutting:

From the navy poplin, cut:

- (2) squares, 20" x 20"
- (2) strips, 3" x 24"

From the lining, cut:

- (2) rectangle, 18" x 20"
- (1) strip, 1½" x width of fabric

From the cranberry solid, cut:

- (3) small stars*
- (2) large stars*

From the batting, cut:

- (2) squares, 22" x 22"

*Use the patterns provided (page 4)

Assembling the Tote Front and Back

1. Cut a 2" square from each lower corner of the poplin square (tote front and back), and lining rectangles. On the lining, the 18" is the height of the bag and the 20" is the width, so cut accordingly. Set aside the lining.
2. Center the two poplin squares each over a batting square. Use temporary spray adhesive to hold the pieces in place.
3. Spray the wrong side of each star with temporary adhesive and arrange in place on one square following the tote photo. Keep in mind that the upper edge will be turned under 1½" for a hem, and 2½" on each side will become the tote sides.
4. Using two strands of Bold Quilting Thread, use big stitches to anchor the appliqués in place ⅛" from each cut edge. Knot the thread ends securely on the underside.
5. Using big stitches, add tails to the stars, ending stitches at the raw edges of the square. Tails can be stitched at any angle desired and include circles or spirals.
6. On the tote back, randomly big stitch several rows to hold the poplin to the batting. Include some circles or spirals for fun.
7. Baste the raw edges of the tote front and back to the batting and trim to size.

Making the Tote

Note: Seam allowances are ½".

1. With right sides together, sew the tote front and back side seams, and bottom seam. Press the seam allowances open.

2. To box the corners, fold the lower corners so the side seam is exactly on top of the bottom seam. Sew across each corner. Turn the tote right side out.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the lining, but leave it wrong side out.
4. To make the handles, press under ¼" on both long edges of each 3" x 24" poplin strip. Tuck the batting strip inside the handle. Edgestitch each long edge, encasing the batting. Repeat for the second handle.
5. Pin-mark the center of the tote front and back upper edges. Measure out 3½" on each side of the center. Matching raw edges, baste the handle ends in place matching the inner handle edge to the mark. Be careful not to twist the handles.
6. Using the 1½" strip of star print, bind the tote upper edge, trimming off extra binding length. Be sure to catch each handle end in the binding. Turn the binding under and stitch in the ditch to anchor.
7. Press under 1½" at the tote upper edge for a hem.
8. With wrong sides together and matching side seams, tuck the lining into the bag and up under the bound hem. Pin in place.

Finishing the Tote

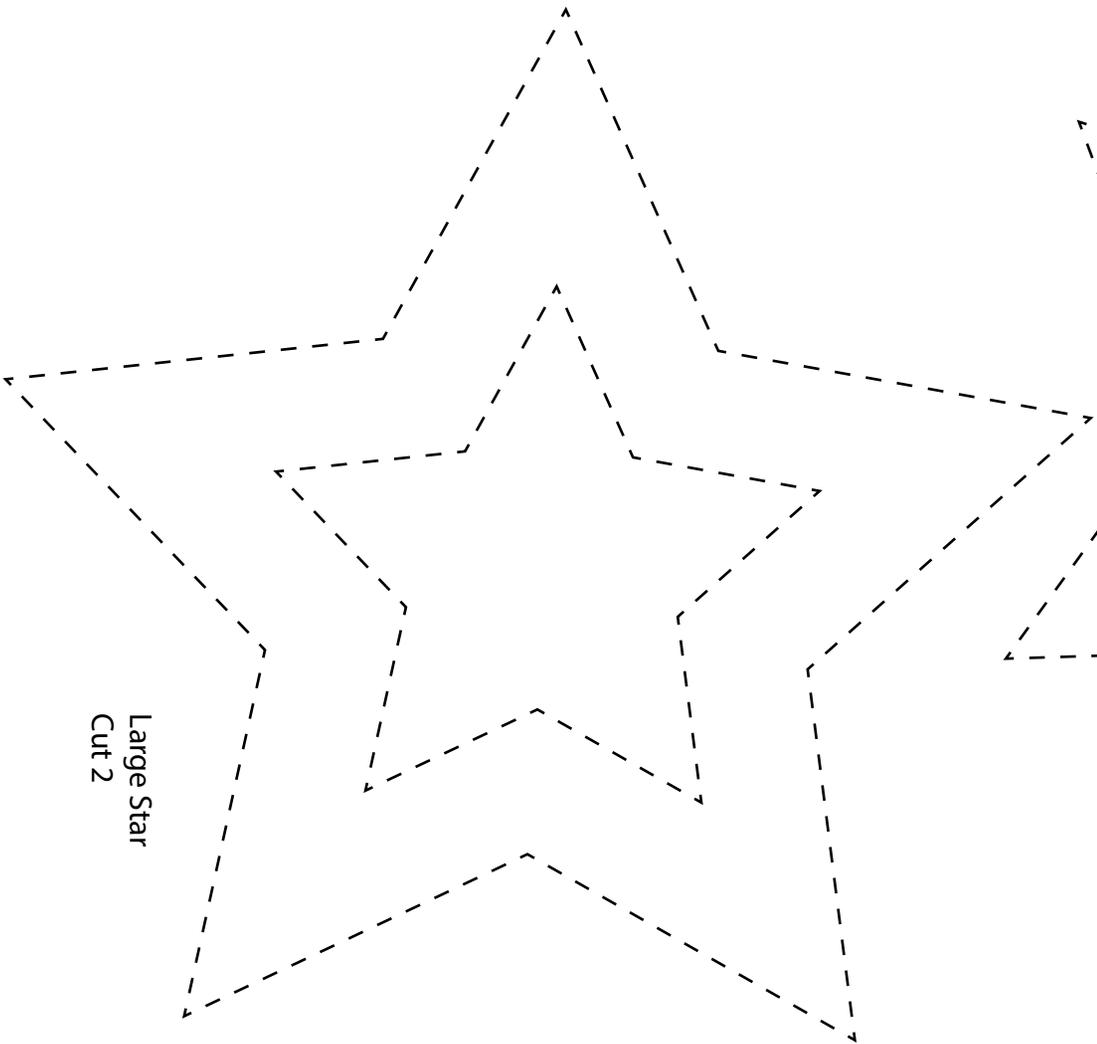
1. Pin the upper hem in place, keeping the handles straight throughout the hem width.
2. Topstitch 1" and ⅛" from the upper hem fold, anchoring the handles in place at the same time.

Front

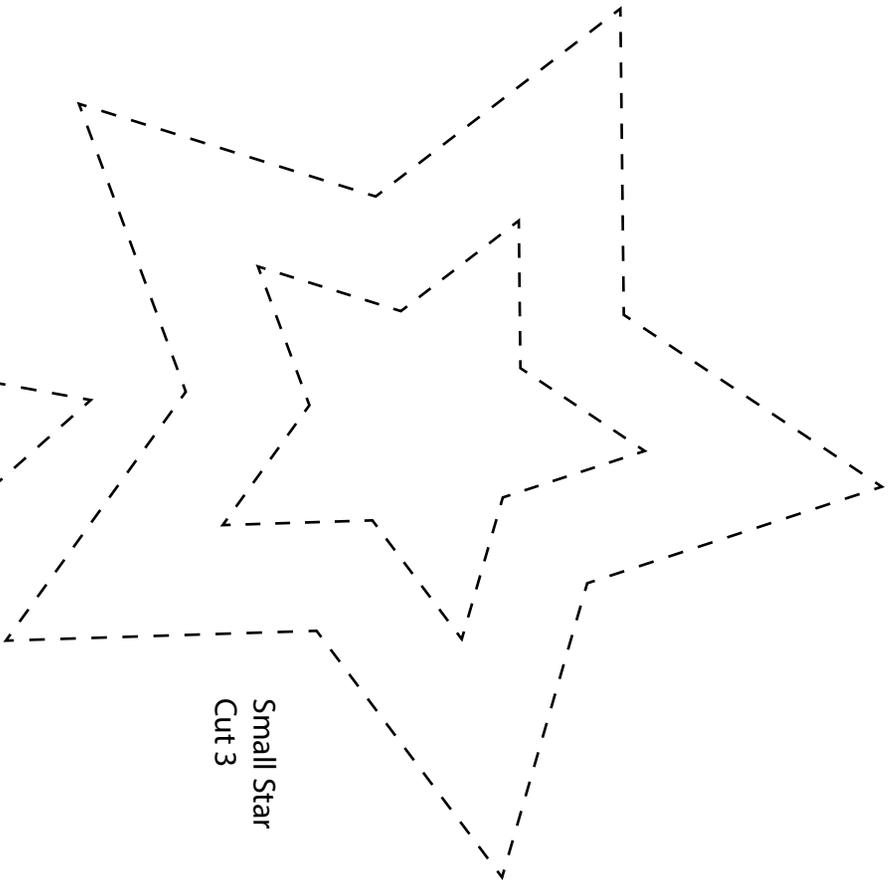


Back





Large Star
Cut 2



Small Star
Cut 3