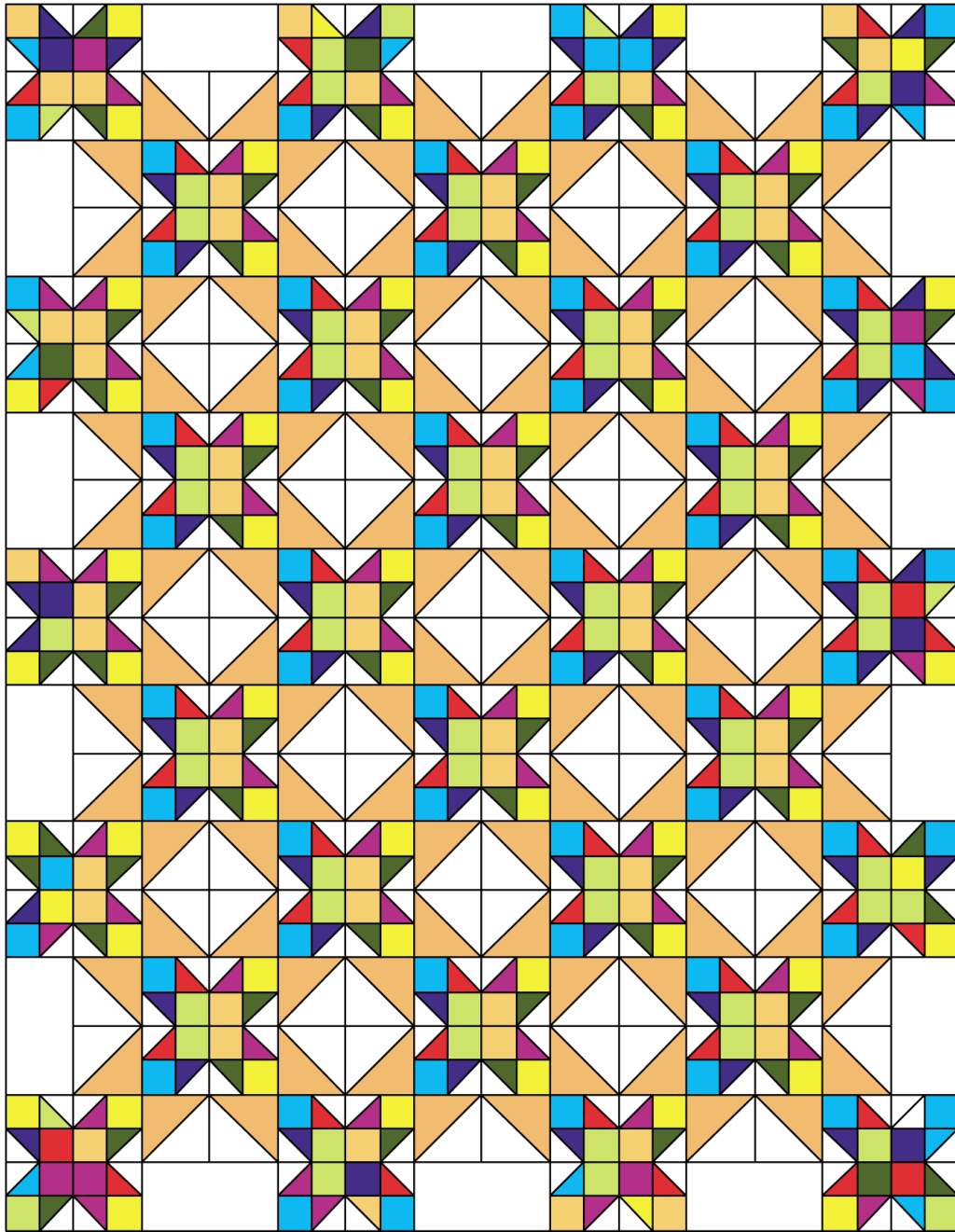


The Old Maid Sees Stars

By Lee Fowler



Finished size is 56" by 72"

The Old Maid Sees Stars quilt is a bright, cheerful quilt that is perfect for a summer day. The quilt is made up of traditional Old Maid's Puzzle blocks, along with some partial blocks for the border. When you pick your fabrics for the quilt, consider value just as important as color. You really need three distinct values: dark value for the small triangles, medium value for the large triangles (orange in my quilt), and light value for the small squares. Choose a bright white background fabric to make all the colors pop.

Materials List

White Background - 2¾ yards

Small triangles: scraps to total at least 1¼ yards

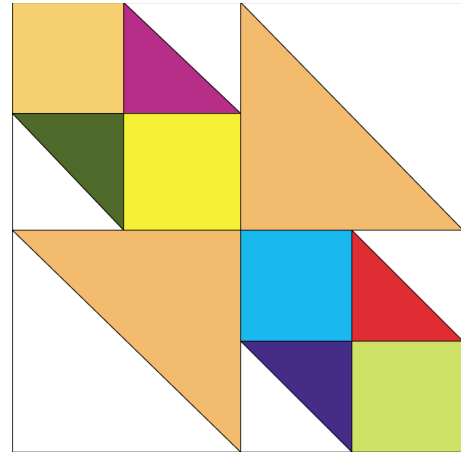
Large triangles: scraps to total at least 1¼ yards

Squares: scraps to total at least 1½ yards

Binding: ½ yard

Backing: 3½ yards

Batting



Old Maid's Puzzle block

Cutting Instructions

From the Background:

Cut (48) 4⁷/₈" squares, cut in half diagonally for the large triangles

Cut (144) 2⁷/₈" squares, cut in half diagonally for the small triangles

Cut 14 white rectangles, 8½" by 4½"

From the Colored Fabrics:

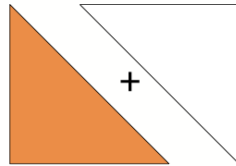
For the large triangles, cut (48) 4⁷/₈" squares, cut in half diagonally

For the small triangles, cut (144) 2⁷/₈" squares, cut in half diagonally

For the small squares, cut (288) 2½" squares

Piecing the blocks

1. Sew the large white triangles to the large colored triangles. Press seam towards the color.



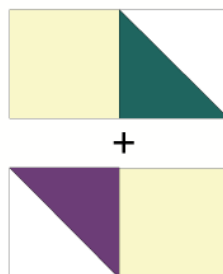
2. Sew the small white triangles to the small colored triangles. Press seam towards the color.



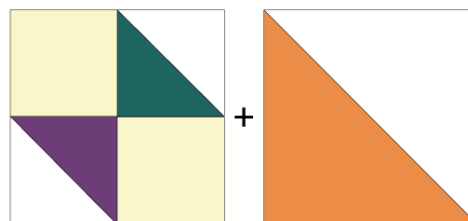
3. Take a small half-square triangle unit and sew it to a small square.



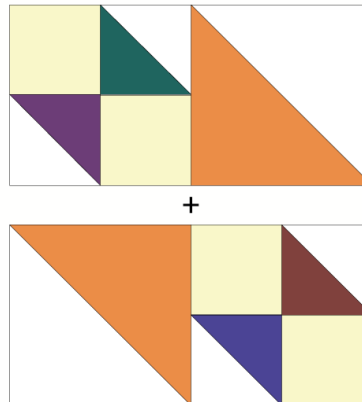
4. Make a four patch by sewing together two of the units you just pieced – making sure that the triangles are in the correct position. These are your four-patch units. You will need 128 four-patch units.



5. Sew a four-patch unit to a large half-square triangle unit.

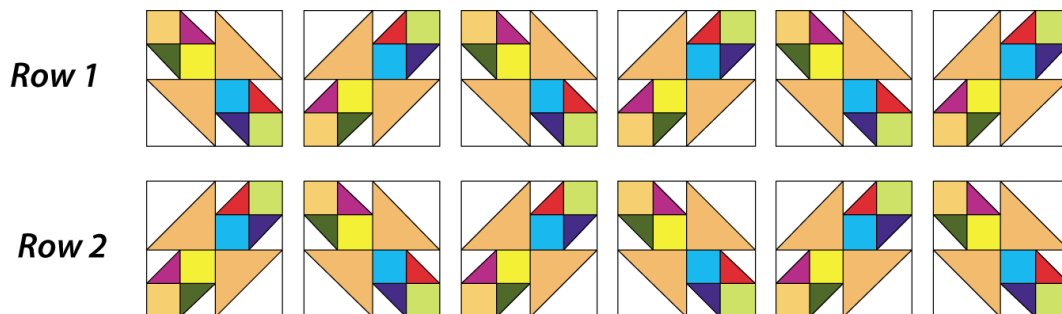


- Then join two of these units to make one Old Maid's Puzzle block.

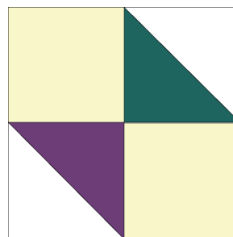


Assembling the quilt

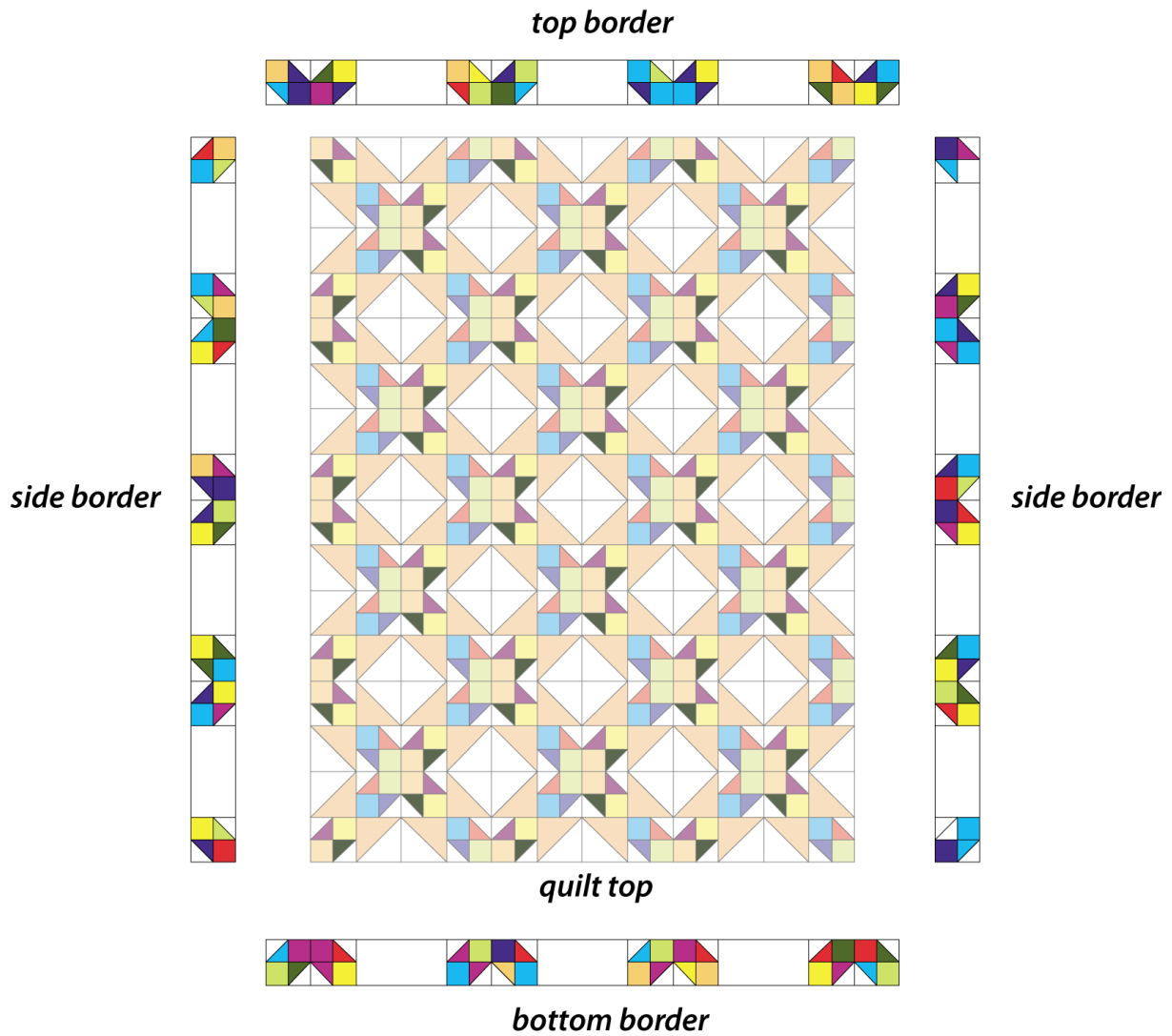
- Six blocks make a row and there are eight rows in the body of the quilt. You will need to rotate every other block in order to get the star design. The diagram below shows the first two rows. Continue in the same way for the remaining six rows.



- For the borders, you will be making the same four patch units that are illustrated in Step 4 of the Piecing the Blocks section. You will need to make a total of 32 four patch units.



- Refer to diagram on the next page for border placement. For the side borders, join eight four patch units and four white rectangles. Sew side borders to quilt. For the top and bottom borders, join eight four patch units and three white rectangles. Sew these to the quilt. Now you have finished the top.



4. Add batting and backing and quilt as desired. Enjoy!



Lee Fowler is a quilt artist based in the Pacific Northwest. Her work can be found at www.leefowler.com and on her blog, The Polkadot Debutante (www.polkadotdebutante.com). She can be reached at leefowler@mac.com.