

## Block of the Month

Happy New Year! It looks like it's going to be a year to quilt.

This year's Block of the Month project is a 9-block star sample quilt called "Stars for Service". Each month a new star pattern will be presented and by Veterans Day we should be ready to sew them into a top that can be given to our Veterans' program. Each block will be in our newsletter, on our website and shown at the monthly meeting. January's block will be due in February, February's in March and so on. I'm hoping you will make 2 blocks: one for you to keep and one to donate to the BOM project.

Fabric: The block you make to donate should be red, white, and blue. It can be scrappy or you can elect to use the same fabric throughout the months.

Size: All blocks will be 12 1/2" unfinished (12" finished). We will add borders to make a nice lap size quilt.

## Friendship Block



Block #1 is the Friendship block; a return to the half square triangle (HST) blocks we used last year. If you didn't participate last year, no worries. There will be plenty of pattern details to get you started.

There are many ways to make HSTs and there are lots of great tutorials online.

A good reference is: [blog.treasurie.com/half-square-triangles/](http://blog.treasurie.com/half-square-triangles/)

The squares that make up this block will be 4 1/2" unfinished. Since the block has two sets of 4 alike HSTs, I used the 4-HST technique. Please choose the method you are most comfortable with (make 1, 2 or 4).

To produce four 4 1/2" HST, cut 2 squares of white fabric 7" x 7", one square of blue and one square of red. Layer one white with blue right-sides together and one white with red right-sides together. Sew 1/4" seam all around the squares. I like to pin the corners to make sure they stay put. Sew, then cut diagonally in both directions. WaLa! Open them up and you have 4 HSTs from each set. I recommend you take the time to square each HST to 4 1/2". This eliminates frustration when you try putting the squares into a 9-patch.

Place the squares in the pattern below and sew together.

Hints: You can give the fabric a light coating of fabric finish to help keep them from stretching or raveling. If you put the dark side up to iron open the triangles, the dark fabric will not show through on the white. Iron seams on rows 1 & 3 to the right and row 2 to the left. This will help the rows nest better for sewing.

