

## November Block of the Month: “Walking Star,” by Nancy King

This is the name I am giving this block. I was unable to find it in Barbara Brackman’s wonderful reference book, *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*. I’m sure it’s there, but I just couldn’t find it.

The block is constructed using eight half-square triangles and a central square, and it consists of a focus fabric and a background fabric. Think of autumn when you pick your focus fabric and use a white, beige, ecru or cream-based fabric for your background. It doesn’t matter whether the background fabric is solid, tone-on-tone, gently mottled or lightly patterned this month: just make sure it complements your focus fabric and doesn’t overwhelm it.

You will need four 5 ½” squares of background fabric and four 5 ½” squares of focus fabric for the half-square triangles, as well as a 4 ½” square of focus fabric for the center. Align a background fabric square and a focus fabric square, right sides together. Mark a thin diagonal line on the lighter of the two fabrics and stitch a quarter-inch seam along one side of the line, then turn the block and sew a second quarter-inch seam. Cut on the diagonal line and press the block open to the darker side. Trim the two half-square blocks to 4 ½”. Repeat with the other three sets of squares.

Lay out the squares as shown. Sew the three vertical rows, and then sew the two outer rows to the center row, matching corners carefully. The block should finish at 12 ½” on each side.

