

Octagonal Orb Quilt Block by Elizabeth Hartman

Adapted from a pillow design by Heather Bostic



Makes a 16³/₄" x 16³/₄" finished block.

Materials and Supplies

Choose a neutral solid fabric like white, gray, or brown for the block background. The pieces of background fabric needed for one block can be cut from a single 6" x width of fabric strip.

The pieced "rings" around the center of the block are the perfect place to use those tiny scraps of favorite print and solid fabrics that you just can't bear to throw away. Use whatever combination of fabrics you want, making your block with a focused color scheme, a totally scrappy look, or anything in between.

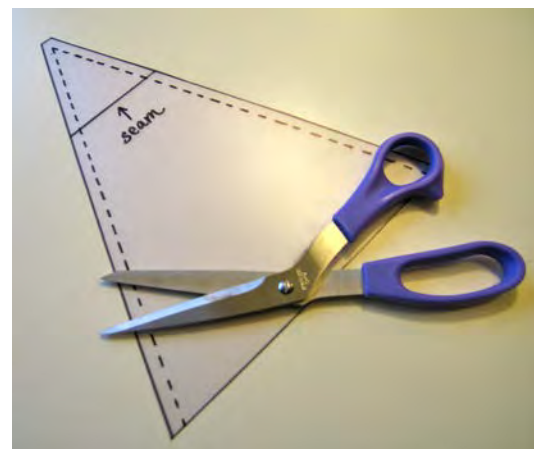
If you don't have a fabric stash to draw from, the pieces you'll need for the rings can easily be cut from jelly roll strips or charm squares. One 5" x 5" charm square will yield 4 squares 2¹/₂" x 2¹/₂" or 2 pieces 2¹/₂" x 3¹/₄" and 2 pieces 2¹/₂" x 1³/₄".

Solid Background	Inner Ring	Middle Ring	Outer Ring
8 pieces 3 ¹ / ₄ " x 3 ¹ / ₄ " 2 pieces 6" x 6"	16 pieces 2 ¹ / ₂ " T x 1 ³ / ₄ " W 8 pieces 2 ¹ / ₂ " x 2 ¹ / ₂ "	24 pieces 2 ¹ / ₂ " x 2 ¹ / ₂ "	8 pieces 2 ¹ / ₂ " x 2 ¹ / ₂ " 16 pieces 2 ¹ / ₂ " T x 3 ¹ / ₄ " W

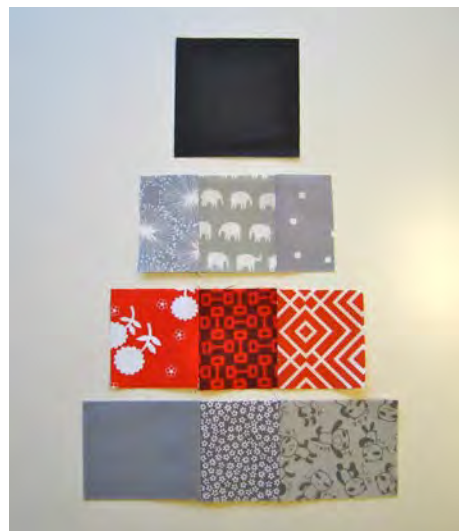
You'll also need an 8¹/₂" x 11" piece of translucent template plastic.

Print the pattern on Page 5, making sure that you print at actual size with no scaling. Place a quilting ruler over the 1" square on your printout to verify that the size is correct.

Use a permanent marker to trace the pattern markings onto your template plastic and cut out the template using craft scissors.



Making the Blocks *Note: All seams are sewn with a quarter inch seam allowance and pressed open.*



1. Arrange the following pieces on your table:
Row A: $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ " piece of background fabric.
Row B: $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces of Inner Ring Fabric
Row C: $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces of Middle Ring Fabric
Row D: $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", pieces of Outer Ring Fabric

2. Sew the pieces in Rows B, C, and D together, matching the $2\frac{1}{2}$ " sides.



3. Sew the rows together, centering the background fabric square in Row A on top of Row B and matching the seams in Rows B, C, and D to make a pieced unit with graduated-size layers, like a wedding cake.

4. Place your template on top of the pieced unit, lining up the seam marking with the seam between the background fabric and Row B (Inner Ring). The dashed lines on the pattern (which indicate the finished size) should line up with the top corners of the center square in Row B.



5. Use your template as a guide to cut the pieced unit into a 45° triangle.



6. Repeat Steps 1 – 5 to make 7 more (8 total) pieced triangles. Arrange the triangles with points together, as you would like them to be in the finished block.



7. Sew pairs of adjacent blocks together, matching seams and creating 4 quadrants.



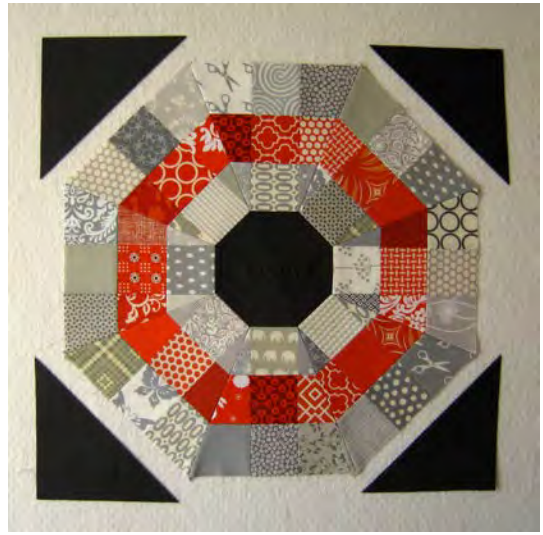
8. Sew adjacent quadrants together, creating 2 halves.

Press and square up the inside edge (where the 2 halves will be sewn together) of each half, trimming away any excess or warped fabric.



9. Pin and carefully sew the 2 halves together, matching seam allowances and being careful to keep your seam allowance consistent.

Carefully press open the seam, pressing gently and with little to no steam to avoid warping at the point where all of the seam allowances meet.



10. Cut the 2 squares 6" x 6" of background fabric in half diagonally, creating 4 right triangles.

Center the long/bias side of one of the triangles along one of the corners of the block. Pin and sew in place. Repeat with the other 3 triangles, creating a squarish block.



11. Use your ruler to measure 2 1/4" from the seam between Rows C and D (Middle and Outer Rings) and square up the top, bottom and sides of the block.

In theory, the block should now measure 17 1/4" x 17 1/4". However, the way we're making the template and the bulky seam allowances at the center of the block can easily throw this off a bit. Instead of hitting exactly 17 1/4", focus on making a square block and on making multiple blocks the same size.



12. Enjoy your finished block!

Octagonal Orb Template

1"

