

Wonky Ribbon Stars



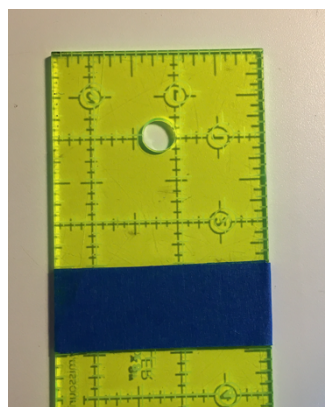
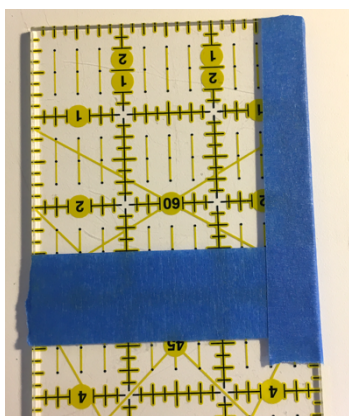
1. For each star you will need:

- One 2 ½-inch center square (my red-ish.)
- Four 2 ½-inch squares of ribbon fabric (my green.)
- One 2-inch wide strip of star point fabric (my white.)
- One 2 ½-inch strip of ribbon fabric (my green.)
- One 2 ½-inch of background fabric (my peach-ish.)

IMPORTANT: About these strips: I made all 6 of my wonky star blocks with the same fabrics, so I used at least 2 (possibly 3) strips of each fabric. If you are making them all different, you could do one star with 18 to 20 inches of each strip. Also, how you shape the units will make a difference. So, using fabrics that you can adjust the quantity without getting in trouble would be a good idea.



2. Sew the star point strip to the ribbon strip. Cut this strip into four 4-ish-inch long sections. Don't worry, they are not supposed to be square. This cutting is just to make later cuts easier; they don't have to be exact.



NOW THIS GETS INTERESTING...as in "May you live in interesting times...." Just hang in here with me.

3. You're going to need a very visible 2 ½-inch square marked on a ruler. Maybe you have a 2 ½-inch square ruler, but if you don't you're going to make one. So get out your blue tape, or post-its or something else sticky. We're going to define a 2 ½-

inch square on your rule. The clear ruler above is what the marking looks like on a ruler that is wider than 2 ½-inches. The yellow ruler above shows the marking on a 2 ½-inch wide ruler.

Doesn't matter what you start with. What DOES matter is that the marked area is at a corner of the ruler, NOT in the middle of a ruler, like a donut hole. Interesting, right?



Here comes more interest! **You want to read all the way through this next section before you do it.**

This is a way to not have to deal with fiddle-y little triangles as we make the wonky fiddle-y little star points. Instead of cutting out a separate little star point, and a separate little bit of a ribbon fabric and then sewing them together, we have sewn them together first and now we are going to cut them out as a 2 ½-inch square unit, containing our fiddle-y little star point.

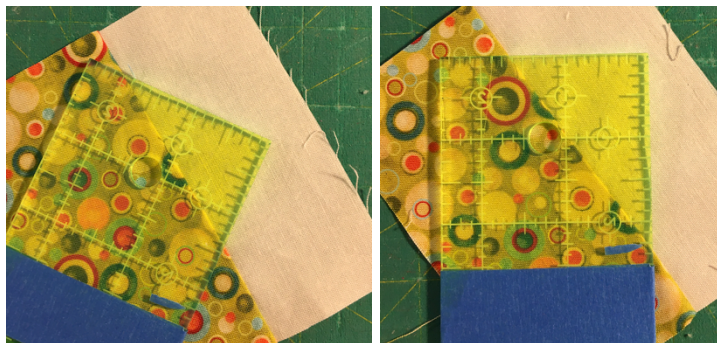
4. Now get one of your star point-ribbon units. (You don't have to set this up the way I do, but it's a real good idea to follow exactly until you get the idea.)

Place the fabric unit so that the star point fabric (white) is to the top and right of your ruler. If you are left handed, put the star point fabric so it is on the bottom and left sides of the ruler (I

think, I apologize if that's wrong!)

In the photo, I have set this up as if I was going to cut out a regular old half square triangle. (The seam runs exactly from corner to corner.) I am using a 2 ½-inch wide ruler, which has 3 available sides to cut along. If you are using a regular ruler and have 2 available sides to cut along, make sure those 2 sides are both on the star point fabric....so your first 2 cuts on the top and right (lefties: bottom and left) sides of the ruler, along with the sewn seam, will define the shape of the star point. Go ahead and cut the top and right sides of the shape. (Or bottom and left...maybe...for the lefties. Once you've got the 2 star point sides cut, flip the fabric and the ruler around and finish cutting the other 2 sides of the square. And there is a nice little half square triangle.

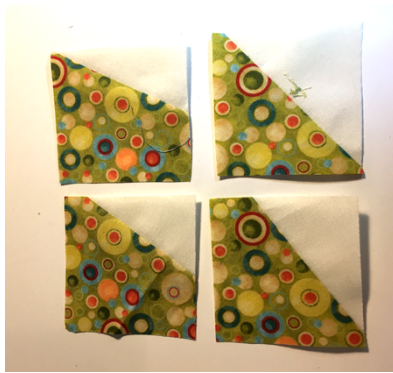
But this is a lot of shenanigans to get a half a square triangle. There are lots of easier ways to do it. But we're aiming for wonky and that's where the value of the technique is.



5. At the left are 2 photos that show how to make your star points wonky. In both, the white fabric (star point fabric) is still to the top and right of the ruler, but I've changed where the seam line runs, and in doing so I've changed the shapes of the star points.

As long as the seam line extends out of the top and right sides of the ruler, it will work.

(In reality, you can have the seam line run through the left and bottom sides of the ruler, you'll just get a wider, blunter star point shape. You can play with it later...)



At the left are my 4 star points. One of them is even pretty close to being a traditional half square triangle, which is fine too.

OK, now you can stop reading and go back to doing.

Go ahead and cut 4 of these guys out.



5. Lay the wonky star point units out with the center 2 ½-inch square and the four 2 ½-inch ribbon fabric squares you cut out.

Stitch them together like a 9 patch.



6. Now we add the background. Get the strip of background fabric. You can work with it as a strip, sewing a portion down and then cutting it off from the rest of the strip. Or you can cut off a section of the strip and then stitch it down to the star.

How much you will need is hard to say exactly. If you look at the finished block at the bottom of the page, you will see that some of my background sections are longer than others. Whatever you decide to do, it's going to be a guesstimate. Which is a component of wonkiness.



Lay the background fabric across one of the corners of the block, just to get an idea if it will fit.

Stitch and flip and press out.



The only semi-rule is you want to avoid cutting off your star points. Because your star points will all be a little different, where that seam line will actually run will be a little different for each of the corners.

Go all the way around the 4 corners with the background fabric.

Trim the whole thing down to 6 ½-inches square and there you go!

