

Erik's Tips:

Easier to construct than some of the blocks we have previously made, the half square triangle technique is the same as we have seen before: draw the line, sew 1/4-inch to both sides of the line, cut on the line, and press open. Each half square unit (**B** and **C**) measure 3 1/2-inch square when done correctly, so it is a good idea to check the measurement and adjust the unit before it is sewn into the block. We used **2** different **Blue** scraps for the **A** unit and another for the **C** units; **3** different **Reds** and only **1 Beige** for this block; not too scrappy. For the **B** and **C** units, we pressed all of our allowances to the same direction and, once we laid the block out, we re-pressed those that needed to be pressed in the opposite direction. It makes final assembly so much easier when the seams nest nicely! Refer to our on-line tutorial if you need extra help.

Notes about our (slightly modified) July Fourth Block:

Known widely as the July Fourth Block (N Page, 1934), this pattern falls into the ever-popular quilt folk motif of the pinwheel. A four point star is formed spinning from the center block and conjures up the bursting patriotism any Independence Day parade can muster. The block is quick and easy to construct and would make a lovely one-block quilt to drape across any bed or porch swing.

During our research, we found versions of this block with the center square set on-point as well as straight-set. We wanted our version to be rotary cut, updated, and easy to put together for everyone. Although the original pattern calls for a solid center (6 1/2-inch square) we broke ours into four squares for our scrappy style quilt. Similar to the King's Crown Block we made earlier, this block is made of even number pieces, we again kept it easy by using an even number of pieces as well, not wanting any leftover squares. If you want to use *more* scraps than we did, increase your number of 3 7/8-inch squares and make them as usual. You will certainly make more than you need, but again, the variety could be a lot of fun! You could also replace the center **Blue** units with **B** units done in just **Blue** scraps...let your creativity be your guide and do not be afraid to experiment! We found this block amusing and easy to piece. We hope you do as well!