Seymour Quilters' Guild Block of the Month - October 2026

Balkan Puzzle (1927)

Fabric Requirements to make one 10" finished block:



Colour 1 (white background):

Cut (2) 7" squares for HST

Colour 2 (in my block, I used pink):

Cut (1) 7" square for HSTs

Colour 3 (in my block, I used yellow):

Cut (1) 7" square for HSTs

This block was popular around 1927 and was featured in a newspaper quilt column. It was also referred to as the Windblown Star.

Instead of making the Balkan Puzzle with flying geese and the "stitch and flip" method, I have assembled an easier version using HSTs. The advantages of making this block with HSTs is that there is no waste. We will be making 8-at-a-time HSTs. I previously demonstrated making the 8-at-a-time HSTs in October 2025. The Balkan Block is basically a 4-patch unit. See photo below.



It is really important that you pay extra attention to this orientation, otherwise you will end up with your own "special" block.

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Step 1 (making the 8-at-a-time HSTs):

Draw two diagonal lines (corner to corner) on each of your white background squares. Take one background and place it on top of your Colour 2 square (right sides together).

Sew 1/4" on each side of both diagonal lines.

Cut your square in half, and then half again. Then you will cut each quadrant along the drawn diagonal lines. This will give you 8 HSTs using Colour 2.

Open up and press the 4 of the HSTs to the darker fabric, and the other 4 of the HSTs towards the background fabric. This will make the seam allowance nest when sewing two HSTs together.

After you have pressed the 8 HSTs, trim to 3" square. NOTE: You will have very little to trim.

Step 2:

You are going to repeat Step 1 using your remaining 7" white background and 7" Colour 3 fabric.

Draw two diagonal lines (corner to corner) on each of your white background squares. Take one background and place it on top of your Colour 3 square (right sides together).

Sew 1/4" on each side of both diagonal lines.

Cut your square in half, and then half again. Then you will cut each quadrant along the drawn diagonal lines. This will give you 8 HSTs using Colour 3.

Open up and press the 4 of the HSTs to the darker fabric, and the other 4 of the HSTs towards the background fabric. This will make the seam allowance nest when sewing two HSTs together.

After you have pressed the 8 HSTs, trim to 3" square. NOTE: You will have very little to trim.

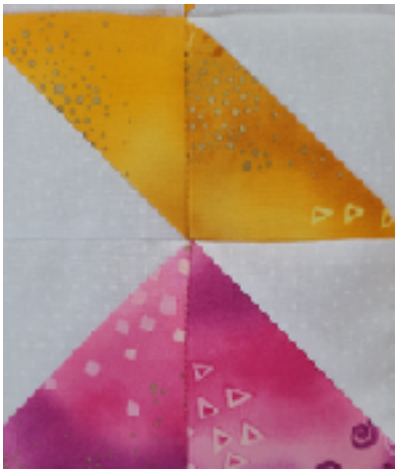
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Step 3 (Layout of the quadrants):

Assemble one quadrant at a time for this block as the remaining three quadrants will be the same layout. The magic happens when we rotate each quadrant.









Each quadrant will measure 5½" x 5½". Accordingly, once all your quadrants are sewn together, the unfinished block should measure at 10½" x 10½" (which is 10" finished).

Happy Quilting!

Susanne Dickenson

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