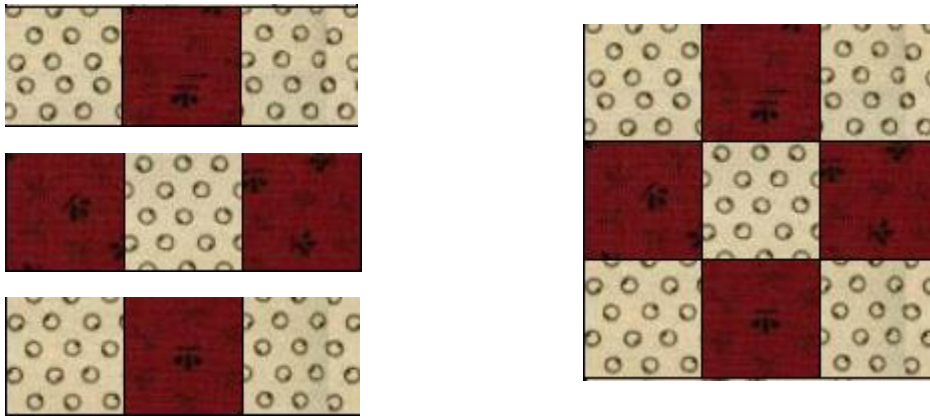


# ★ *Fourth of July Mini Mystery Quilt – Step 2* ★

By Kathleen Tracy

In Step 1, you should have cut your pieces. Now we'll sew them together.

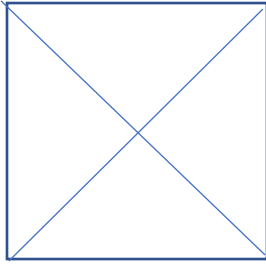
1. Make a nine-patch block from the red and light 1 ¼" squares.



I like to press the seams open on these tiny blocks. Dab a drop or two of water along the opened seam as you press and the block will lie flat.



2. Cut the 3 ½" dark blue squares and the 3 ½" light squares **twice** on the diagonal, corner to corner, to make 8 blue quarter square triangles and 8 light quarter square triangles.



3. Sew a light triangle together with a dark blue triangle, placing the triangles exactly as shown. Make 8 triangle units.





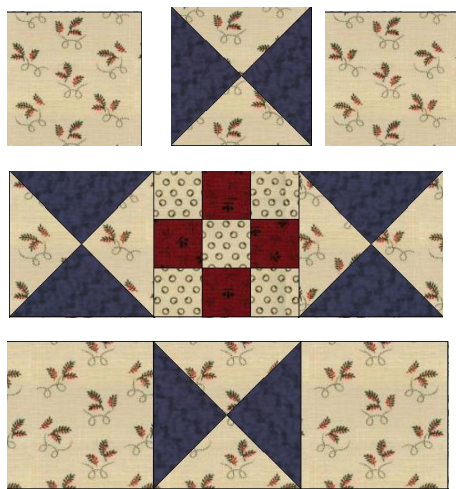
4. Sew two triangle units together as shown to make an hourglass unit. Make 4.



5. Trim each unit to  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ".



6. Using the red and light nine patch, the hourglass units and the  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " light squares, sew the block together as shown below. Trim block to  $7\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $7\frac{1}{4}$ " and press.



This cute block is called the **Dolly Madison Star** block. Dolly Madison was the much-loved wife of the fourth president of the United States, James Madison. She was noted for her gracious Washington social events in which she opened the doors of the White House to all. Inviting members of both political parties, including her husband's enemies, she promoted the concept of bipartisan cooperation to help support unity in the country. The term "First Lady" was coined in reference to her after she died. (But she is probably best known because the Hostess Co. named snack cakes after her. Go figure. I imagine it was because she was considered a wonderful "hostess.")

Next week I'll give you several options for borders so you can finish this little quilt. If you're interested in making a larger quilt or a runner, just make a few more of these blocks.