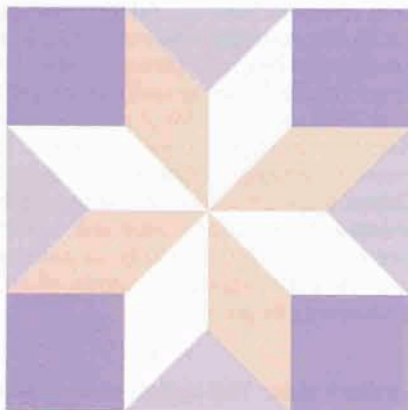


# Pattern Drafting 101

## Part Eight: Eight-Pointed Stars

by Marie Shirer and Kathryn Wright

*This series of lessons has covered many kinds of traditional blocks, including those based on grids as well as Log Cabin and Pineapple blocks. Another category of favorite block patterns is eight-pointed stars. These blocks may look complex, but they actually are among the easiest of patterns to draft. As with most drafting, you'll find that the basic block is just the beginning. Countless variations are just a few lines away.*



Arrow Star



Two Colors

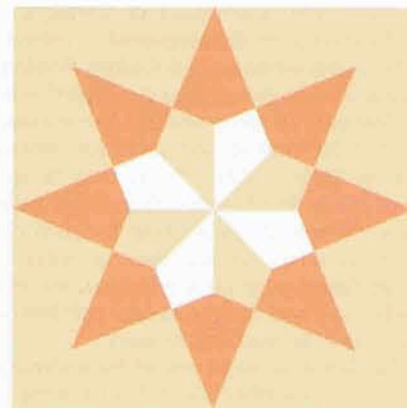
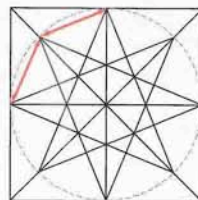
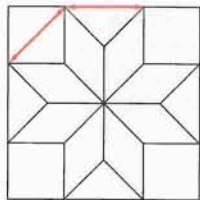


Rising Star

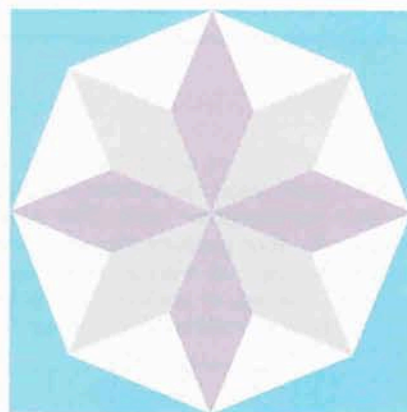
There are two basic types of eight-pointed star blocks: one type has the star standing on two points (as at the left), and the other has the star standing on one point (as at the right). They are both very easy to draft—perhaps even easier than many of the block patterns we have discussed so far in this series of lessons. Best of all, drafting these blocks does not require any arithmetic.

While you are setting aside your calculator, get out your compass. Not the kind for locating due North, though. Instead, find or purchase a drafting compass. The inexpensive kind sold in most discount stores can work well for you if the angle is secure (does not shift) and if the pencil can be sharpened. You will know you have a problem with shifting if you draw a circle and the end of the line does not match the beginning. If that happens, you might want to treat yourself to a compass that can be tightened with a screw for maximum accuracy and consistency.

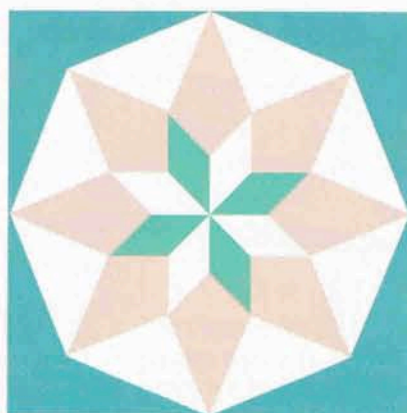
The two basic types of eight-pointed stars we are working with have an important characteristic: the distance from point to point is equal all around the star.



North Star



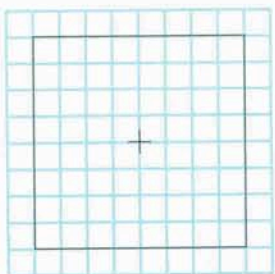
Octagon Star



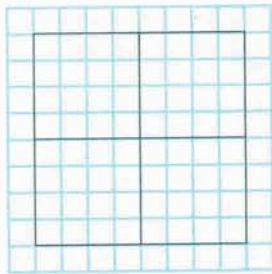
Pole Star

With eight-pointed stars, you can draft blocks of any size (a block that measures  $11\frac{3}{16}$ " is no more difficult than a block that measures 12"), and any kind of paper will work. Graph paper is probably still the best choice, mainly because it will be very easy to draw the finished square.

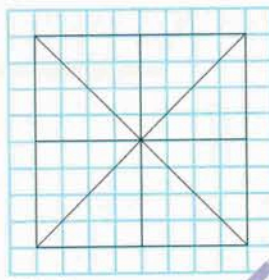
Let's work through the simple steps for drafting both types of basic eight-pointed stars. Notice that the steps for both types are very similar. You'll also find that this kind of drafting relies mostly on connecting points or marks instead of on measuring. As always, use a sharp pencil and a straight ruler.



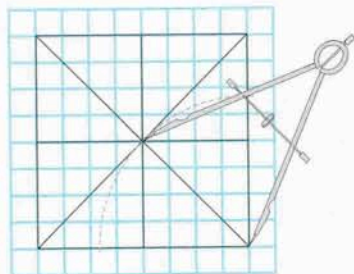
Steps 1 and 2



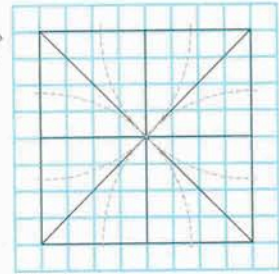
Step 3



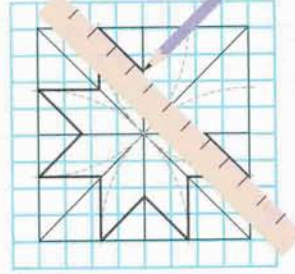
Step 4



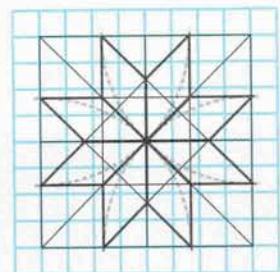
Step 5



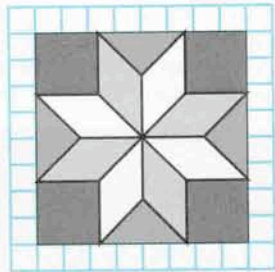
Step 6



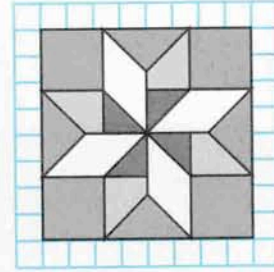
Step 7



Step 8



Arrow Star



Two Colors

### ❖ Steps for Drafting Blocks ❖ That Stand on Two Points

1. Draw a square of any size.
2. Find and mark the center. One way to find the center is to fold the paper in half both from side to side and from top to bottom. Or you can measure to find the center.

3. Mark horizontal and vertical center lines.

4. Mark both diagonal lines by connecting the block corners.

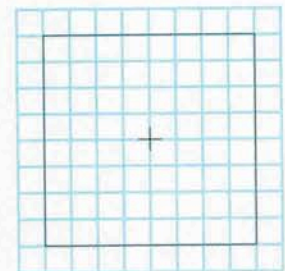
5. Open the compass to exactly match a diagonal line from the center to one corner. Be sure the compass stays set at this opening.

6. Use the compass to mark this distance from all corners. You will have eight marks on the block edges (two marks made from each corner).

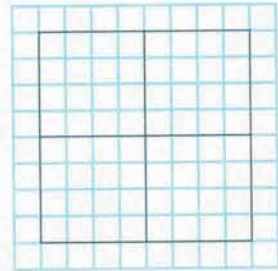
7. Connect the marks as shown.

8. Darken portions of the horizontal, vertical, and diagonal lines to complete eight diamond shapes, four corner squares, and four edge triangles.

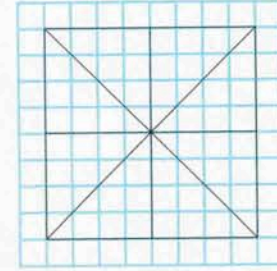
9. Erase lines or add lines as shown for block variations. Many other variations can be easily drafted simply by adding more lines.



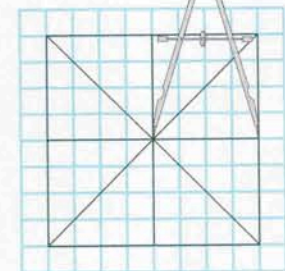
Steps 1 and 2



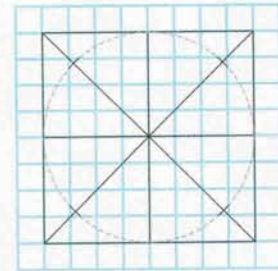
Step 3



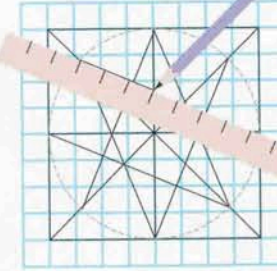
Step 4



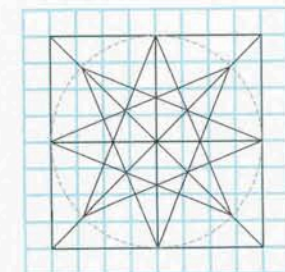
Step 5



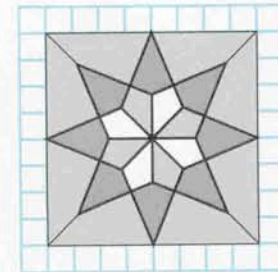
Step 6



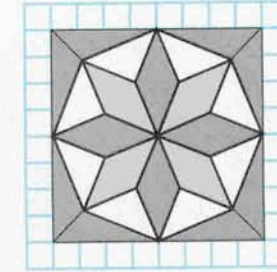
Step 7



Step 8



North Star



Octagon Star

### ❖ Steps for Drafting Blocks ❖ That Stand on One Point

1. Draw a square of any size.
2. Find and mark the center as in step 2 above.

3. Mark horizontal and vertical center lines.

4. Mark both diagonal lines by connecting the block corners.

5. Open the compass to exactly match a horizontal or vertical line from the center to one side. Be sure the compass stays set at this opening.

6. Use the compass to mark this distance on each diagonal line. The easiest way to do this is to lightly draw a circle and darken the circle as it crosses the diagonal lines. You will have four darkened marks.

7. Connect the marks and other points as shown.

8. Darken portions of the horizontal, vertical, and diagonal lines to complete four large kite shapes, four small kite shapes, plus eight background pieces.

9. Erase lines or add lines as shown for block variations.

**Next month:** Hexagons and six-pointed stars.