

Candlelight & Cedar

Sawtooth stars, pine, and cranberry for the coziest month of the year



1. Finished size

- **Finished quilt size:** 56 in × 70 in (lap/throw)
- **Quilt top thickness:** approx. 1/2 in when finished
- **Block size:** 9 in finished (each Sawtooth Star block)
- **Layout:** Alternating rows of Sawtooth Star blocks and simple four-patch squares

2. Materials and yardage

Choose fabrics you love together: deep pine green, cranberry red, creamy snow white, plus a slim antique-gold accent. Binding uses a red-and-white candy stripe. For fussy-cut cardinals, select a medium-scale print with clear birds.

Fabric yardage (for a 56 in × 70 in quilt top)

Fabric role	Color / description	Yardage	Notes
Background	Creamy snow white	1 1/2 yd	Main background for star points and four-patch squares
Secondary	Deep pine green	2 1/4 yd	Most pieced units; includes gold corner accents
Star color	Cranberry red	1 3/8 yd	Star arms and corner accents
Accent	Antique-gold (slim)	1/2 yd	Gold corner triangles / corner accents
Center motif	Fussy-cut cardinals (use scraps)	Fat quarter or scrap	Need 8–12 bird centers (small squares)
Binding	Red-and-white candy stripe	3/4 yd	Cut strips as directed
Backing	Coordinate (wide backing recommended)	3 1/2 yd	Back size approx. 60 in × 74 in
Batting	52–80% cotton blend or wool-cotton	58 in × 72 in	Choose low-loft for a cozy, not-stiff finish

Tip: Yardage varies with print repeat and how you cut. If your fussy-cut cardinals require extra trimming, add a few inches or use more centers per bird by choosing a slightly larger motif.

Other supplies

- Thread: warm cream (for piecing) and warm cream or light ecru (for quilting)
- Optional: thin batting spray (or basting pins/clips)
- Rotary cutter, ruler, cutting mat
- Sewing machine needles: Microtex/Sharp for crisp points

3. Cutting

All finished blocks are 9 in. The quilt uses **8 Sawtooth Star blocks** and **8 four-patch blocks** arranged in alternating positions to reach a lap size.

A. Units for the Sawtooth Star blocks (make 8)

Each star block is built from four quarter-circle “sawtooth” segments using half-square triangles (HSTs) plus a pieced inner square for the fussy-cut cardinal center.

- **HST pairs (pine green + cranberry):** Cut **96** squares at **2-1/2 in.** (This makes 192 HSTs; you’ll use 144 of them for the 8 blocks.)
- **HST pairs (snow white + cranberry):** Cut **64** squares at **2-1/2 in.**
- **HST pairs (snow white + pine green):** Cut **64** squares at **2-1/2 in.**
- **Inner corner triangles (antique gold):** Cut **32** squares at **1-7/8 in,** for corner accents.
- **Outer frame squares (snow white):** Cut **32** squares at **3-1/2 in.**
- **Outer frame squares (pine green):** Cut **32** squares at **3-1/2 in.**
- **Cardinal center pieces:** Cut **8** squares at **2-1/2 in.** (Fussy-cut from your cardinal fabric; choose a bird head/torso-centered motif.)
- **Center square background:** Cut **8** squares at **2-1/2 in** in snow white (if your cardinal squares need a border). If your cardinal squares fill the cut size, you can omit this.

How to set cardinal squares: For best accuracy, cut the cardinal fabric 1/2 in larger, fuse/interline if needed, then trim to exactly **2-1/2 in** squares after you place them. If your motif is directional, be consistent across all blocks.

B. Units for the four-patch blocks (make 8)

- **Four-patch corner pieces:** Cut **32** squares at **3-1/2 in** total per color plan:
 - **16** squares in pine green
 - **16** squares in cranberry red
- **Four-patch inner background pieces:** Cut **32** squares at **3-1/2 in** in snow white (to form the remaining quadrants).

These four-patch blocks finish at 9 in when pieced from four 4-1/2 in pieces with 1/4 in seams—see section 5 for assembly logic.

C. Quilt borders / setting (none; layout uses blocks only)

This design is block-on-block with crisp intersections. Narrow sashing is built into the block unit seams; there is no separate border band.

D. Binding

- Cut **7** strips of binding fabric at **2-1/2 in × width of fabric (WOF).**
- Join strips with diagonal seams.
- Trim to approx. **240 in** total binding length before attaching.

4. Piecing / block construction

A. Make the Sawtooth Star block (9 in finished) — make 8

Each block uses a snow-white “frame” around a cranberry/pine sawtooth ring with a fussy-cut cardinal center. Work slowly on point alignment.

Step 1: Prepare HSTs

- Using the squares you cut at **2-1/2 in**, pair them into three HST sets as listed in Cutting.
- For each pair, draw a diagonal line on the back of one fabric square.
- Stitch 1/4 in on both sides of the line, cut apart on the line.
- Press seam allowances toward the darker fabric.
- Trim each HST to **2 in × 2 in** unfinished (should be approx. 2 in after trimming; final HST unit will measure slightly under depending on technique—consistency matters).

Step 2: Build the sawtooth ring

To create “sawtooth” edges, you’ll set HSTs around the inner area so their long edges form the star’s points.

- Lay out HSTs into **4 identical quadrants**.
- Each quadrant uses a mix of HSTs from the (pine/cranberry), (snow/cranberry), and (snow/pine) sets so the quilt alternates deeply colored points with creamy breaks.
- Stitch HSTs into rows. Press seams in alternating directions for nesting.

Step 3: Add the antique-gold corner accents

- Take the **1-7/8 in** gold squares.
- Cut each square into 4 triangles by halving once diagonally (you’ll have enough triangles for 4 corners across each block as planned).
- Place gold triangles at each corner of the inner assembly where the outer frame meets the sawtooth ring.
- Sew and press carefully to keep the corner points crisp.

Step 4: Create the cardinal center

- Square up your fussy-cut cardinal to **2-1/2 in**.
- If you used a separate snow-white backing square, stitch cardinal square to the background to create a balanced inner center (or simply use the cardinal square directly).
- Place the center in the middle of the ring.
- Build any small framing seams needed using the surrounding ring edges; do not force placement—use the layout to verify.

Step 5: Outer frame assembly

- Use the **3-1/2 in × 3-1/2 in** snow-white and pine-green squares to form the outer frame around the sawtooth ring.
- Arrange colors for contrast at each side.
- Sew strips (or side units) to complete the 9-in block.
- Press block flat.
- **Final trim:** Trim each finished block to exactly **9-1/2 in** unfinished? (Sewn with 1/4 in seams, trimming should land at **9 in finished** if you started with correct unit sizes). If your measurements show you’re off, measure now and adjust future trimming.

Accuracy checkpoint: After trimming, each Sawtooth Star block should measure **9-1/2 in** if blocks are intended to be pieced together with 1/4-in seams to form a 9-in finished block. If you prefer to standardize, trim blocks to the value your piecing plan requires—consistency is what makes the overall quilt lay flat.

B. Make the four-patch square blocks (9 in finished) — make 8

Each four-patch block is a simple 2×2 arrangement designed to alternate with the Sawtooth Star blocks and echo the candy-stripe binding colors.

- Use one pine-green square, one cranberry-red square, and two snow-white squares to form the 2×2 layout.
- Stitch top row pieces together first, press, then stitch bottom row pieces together.
- Join top and bottom rows and press.
- Trim each block to its required finished size for assembly.

5. Quilt top assembly

Arrange blocks in alternating rows for a cozy, starlit rhythm.

A. Block grid

The quilt is built from a total of **16 blocks** arranged as follows:

- **Row 1:** Sawtooth, four-patch, Sawtooth, four-patch
- **Row 2:** four-patch, Sawtooth, four-patch, Sawtooth
- **Row 3:** Sawtooth, four-patch, Sawtooth, four-patch
- **Row 4:** four-patch, Sawtooth, four-patch, Sawtooth

This yields 8 Sawtooth Star blocks and 8 four-patch blocks.

B. Joining rows

- Place the blocks into **four rows**.
- For each row, sew blocks together using 1/4 in seams.
- Press seams toward the Sawtooth Star blocks.
- Join the rows with matching seam intersections; pin at block centers and at corners.

Pressing strategy: Use a dry iron and press firmly. For a crisp “loved” look, avoid scorching; just set seams well. When seams are nested correctly, the quilt top will align without force.

C. Measure before quilting

- Measure the quilt top length and width.
- Target top size before quilting: approximately **56 in × 70 in**.

6. Basting, quilting and binding

A. Basting

- Press backing fabric flat.
- Layer: backing (wrong side up) → batting → quilt top (right side up).
- Baste using pins/clips or spray (lightly) across the center and then outward.
- Ensure the sandwich is smooth with no puckers at block intersections.

B. Quilting (allover warm cream swirling snowflakes)

Quilt design: a continuous allover pattern of soft, swirling snowflakes. Use a warm cream thread so it reads like evening candlelight.

Recommended approach

- Mark a light quilting guideline using a removable marker or chalk.
- Work in sections (for example, one quarter of the quilt at a time).
- Stitch swirls in an S-curve flow; let the swirls form snowflake “nodes” at intersections.
- Keep stitch length around **2.2–2.5 mm** for stability without stiffness.

Thread & needle: Use a 80/12 or 90/14 needle depending on your machine. If quilting through seams feels thick, increase needle size slightly and keep tension balanced.

C. Binding (red-and-white candy stripe)

- Press binding strips in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.
- Starting 10–12 in from a corner, align binding raw edges to quilt raw edges.
- Sew with a 1/4 in seam allowance.
- Miter corners: stop stitching 1/4 in from the edge, fold binding up, then back down to create a crisp diagonal fold; continue sewing.
- Join ends with diagonal seams.
- Finish by hand-stitching or machine-stitching the folded edge to the back of the quilt.

Binding size note: The finished binding width target is ~1/4 in on the front. If you prefer a wider, more plush binding, use slightly wider cut strips (e.g., 2-3/4 in) and adjust seam allowance consistently.

7. Finishing notes

- **Final trim:** After quilting, trim batting and backing to match quilt top edges.
- **Pressing:** Press quilt top lightly before binding. After binding, press again using steam sparingly.
- **“Already loved” look:** For the lived-in feel, pre-wash your finished quilt if your fabrics tolerate it. If you’ve used wool/cotton batting, follow the batting care instructions.
- **Fussy-cut alignment:** Keep all cardinals oriented consistently. If you like variation, at least match cardinal direction (e.g., facing in toward the center star).
- **Storage/handling:** If storing long-term, keep the quilt dry and protected from pests; cedar sachets pair well with this design theme.

Block accuracy reminder: Quilt patterns stay beautiful when seams match and blocks are consistent. If your HSTs trimmed a little small or large, measure your first finished Sawtooth Star block and adjust by trimming or reworking one side of subsequent blocks to return to the intended block size.

QUILT SYMBOLISM (OPTIONAL, FOR YOUR OWN REFERENCE)

A star for every evening near the hearth: sawtooth points like pine needles, cranberry like candle-warmed berries, and gold corners like the first light on frosted windows.