

Star of the New Morning

A warm little star for a brand-new beginning



Star of the New Morning — A warm little star for a brand-new beginning

Crib-size quilt made from 12-inch Sawtooth Star blocks alternating with square-in-square blocks. Stars and low-volume snowflake/dot prints are separated by wide pale oatmeal flannel sashing. Hand-quilt with a soft fan motif and finish with a narrow raspberry binding.

1. Finished size

Finished quilt size: 48" × 60" (crib-sized drape)

Block/module approach: 12" finished blocks (Sawtooth Star) alternating with square-in-square blocks in a row-by-row layout.

Sashing: 4" wide oatmeal flannel between each row of blocks.

Quilt borders: None beyond binding; the outermost oatmeal sashing frames the outer rows.

2. Materials and yardage

All yardage is for 44" wide fabric. If your fabric is directional or has a large repeat, buy a little extra.

Fabric role	Color description	Yardage (approx.)	Notes
Flannel A	Cream (star background / inner units)	1 1/4 yd	Includes snowflake/dot low-volume accents
Flannel B	Dove grey-blue (star points)	1 1/2 yd	High-contrast for crisp star points
Flannel C	Soft sage (star framework)	1 1/4 yd	Used in Sawtooth Star center triangles
Flannel D	Muted raspberry (binding only)	3/8 yd	Use a stable flannel or tightly woven fabric
Flannel E	Pale oatmeal (wide sashing + outer frame)	2 1/4 yd	4" finished width between rows
Backing	Warm oatmeal print	2 1/2 yd	Backing is cut to ~52" × 66"
Batting	Warm/crib loft	About 52" × 66"	Choose a crib-appropriate loft (low/medium)
Thread	Creamy quilting thread	1 spool	For piecing + hand quilting

Optional yardage shortcut: If you prefer to cut more buffer pieces for flannel bias edges, add 1/8–1/4 yd to your main star fabrics (cream, dove grey-blue, sage).

3. Cutting

This quilt uses:

- **12 blocks total:** 6 Sawtooth Star blocks alternating with 6 square-in-square blocks.
- **3 block rows** across and **4 block columns** down.
- Each block is **12" finished** (14" sewn square including seam allowances).
- **Wide sashing** between block rows: 4" finished (4 1/2" cut, for seam allowances).

3.1 Sawtooth Star block (make 6)

Each Sawtooth Star block finishes at 12" × 12". Construct using an 8-point star layout with small triangles that create the sawtooth effect.

Piece	Finished role	Cut quantity (per block)	Cut size (inches, WOF=44")
Outer "sawtooth" triangles	Dove grey-blue	8	3" × 3" squares → subcut to triangles
Star corner units	Cream low-volume (snowflake/dot)	4	2 1/2" × 2 1/2" squares
Center star triangles	Sage	4	2 1/2" × 2 1/2" squares
Block inner square	Cream	1	3 1/2" × 3 1/2" square
Background stitch/setting pieces	Cream (or low-volume)	4	2 1/2" × 4 1/2" rectangles
Border assembly strips (optional)	—	—	Use precuts if you have a trusted template

Tip: For the sawtooth look, you will pair a small square with an angled triangle and trim to a precise finished unit size. If you prefer, use a triangle ruler/template to speed trimming.

3.2 Square-in-square block (make 6)

Square-in-square finishes at 12" × 12" with two frames. Alternate the cream and dove grey-blue for a gentle rhythm between star rows.

Layer	Fabric	Cut quantity (per block)	Cut size (inches)
Inner square	Sage	1	3 1/2" × 3 1/2"
Middle frame	Dove grey-blue	4	2 1/2" × 6 1/2" rectangles (cut into corners)
Outer frame	Cream low-volume (snowflake/dot)	4	1 1/2" × 6 1/2" rectangles

3.3 Sashing and outer frame (cut to layout)

Arrange in 3 columns of blocks. Sashing runs *between* block rows and around the outside.

- **Sashing width finished:** 4" (cut 4 1/2" wide strips for 1/4" seams)
- **There are 5 sashing bands across the quilt vertical dimension** (top outer band, 3 internal bands between block rows, and bottom outer band).

Cutting list for oatmeal sashing (Flannel E):

- **Long vertical sashing strips** (between columns of blocks): cut 2 1/2" (finished 2") strips only if you choose to frame columns; in this design, the main separation is done by row bands. To keep the described look, we omit narrow vertical sashing and rely on the block-to-block seam.
- **Row sashing bands:** cut 4 1/2" × (total quilt width). Total quilt width is 48" finished.

Calculate band length as follows:

- Quilt width finished: 48"
- Each block finished width: 12" × 3 blocks = 36"
- Remaining for seams + outer frame: 12" allocation is provided by oatmeal side "frame" pieces included in the band length.

Practical approach: Cut each row band to **48 1/2"** long (includes seam allowances). Make 5 bands total in oatmeal flannel. Subcut if you prefer strip piecing for matching prints.

3.4 Binding

Use raspberry binding. For flannel, a slightly wider binding gives a clean edge.

- **Binding strip width (cut):** 2 1/2"
- **Need total:** ~240" linear
- **Cut strips:** 6–7 strips from raspberry flannel (44" usable width → ~44" per strip; join to reach length)

4. Piecing / block construction

4.1 Piecing guidance

- Use a **1/4" seam allowance** consistently.
- Flannel can shift—press with a steam iron and **finger-press first**, then final press.
- When combining triangles, pin at the seam intersection and use a shorter stitch length (about 2.0–2.2) for accuracy.

4.2 Assemble the Sawtooth Star blocks (6 blocks)

The goal is crisp points with low-volume snowflake/dot tucked where star points meet background.

1. **Make the sawtooth units:** Pair each dove grey-blue 3" square with a cream low-volume 3" square if you are using square-to-triangle methods; stitch diagonal, cut apart, press, and trim to form 2 1/2" finished triangle units (adjust slightly to match your trimming preference).
2. **Create a 4-point star ring:** Arrange 4 sage center triangles around the center cream square. Stitch to form a pinwheel-like inner ring.
3. **Add the corner accents:** Place the cream low-volume 2 1/2" squares at the four star corners. Sew and press to reveal the snowflake/dot at the low-volume "valleys" so the sawtooth points look clean.

4. **Attach the remaining 4 sawtooth points:** Sew the dove triangle units around the inner ring, maintaining orientation so point tips radiate correctly.
5. **Square to finish:** Trim the completed block to **14" × 14"** including seam allowance pieces (so it finishes to **12"** after quilting and binding).

Check: Each block should measure exactly 14" raw (unfinished with seam allowance) before assembly into the quilt top.

4.3 Assemble square-in-square blocks (6 blocks)

1. **Build the inner frame:** Sew four dove grey-blue rectangles to the sage center square, forming a 8 1/2" unit.
2. **Add the outer frame:** Stitch cream low-volume rectangles to extend to **14 1/2" raw** (adjust to end at 14" raw after trimming).
3. **Square:** Trim each block to **14" × 14"**.

Orientation note: For the alternate rhythm, rotate every other square-in-square block 90° so the seam lines don't all "march" the same way.

5. Quilt top assembly

5.1 Layout

Arrange blocks in a grid of **3 columns × 4 rows** (12 blocks). Alternate across the row/column as follows to match "stars alternating with square-in-square blocks."

Row plan (left → right):

- **Row 1:** Sawtooth Star, Square-in-square, Sawtooth Star
- **Row 2:** Square-in-square, Sawtooth Star, Square-in-square
- **Row 3:** Sawtooth Star, Square-in-square, Sawtooth Star
- **Row 4:** Square-in-square, Sawtooth Star, Square-in-square

5.2 Sew block rows

1. Place three 14" blocks in each row. Sew blocks together with 1/4" seams. Press seams toward the darker fabric when possible.
2. Repeat for all 4 rows.

5.3 Add oatmeal sashing bands

1. Cut 5 oatmeal sashing bands (4 1/2" wide × 48 1/2" long each) as described.
2. Attach the **top outer band** to Row 1, right sides together. Press away from blocks.
3. Attach the **inner band** between Row 1 and Row 2, then again between Row 2/Row 3 and Row 3/Row 4.
4. Attach the **bottom outer band** to Row 4.

5. Final measure: top should be about **48 1/2" × 60 1/2"** before quilting (minor variations are normal).

Flannel pressing tip: If you find flannel seams want to ripple, use starch lightly (or add a thin press cloth) and re-press after bands are sewn.

6. Basting, quilting and binding

6.1 Basting

- Trim backing to at least **52" × 66"**.
- Trim batting to the same size.
- Layer: backing (right side down) → batting → quilt top (right side up).
- Baste with safety pins or hand basting stitches every 6–8".

6.2 Hand quilting: soft fan pattern

Thread: creamy quilting thread. Use a 3–4 yard length per needle threader to avoid tangling.

- **Motif idea:** Quilt a gentle fan that opens toward each star center. Fans echo the star radiating points without over-stiffening flannel.
- **Stitch length:** about 6–8 stitches per inch.

Step-by-step fan approach:

1. Start in the center of the top quilt. Mark light quilting lines with a removable pencil or water-erasable pen (test on a scrap).
2. For each **Sawtooth Star** block: quilt fans that curve from the outer point areas inward, spaced evenly. Aim for 5–7 fan ribs per block.
3. For each **square-in-square** block: quilt the outer ring as a slightly larger fan, then stitch a softer inner fan (so everything stays cohesive across rows).
4. **Sashing bands:** Quilt a very light meander or short fan arcs across the oatmeal sashing. Keep it delicate so the star points look crisp.
5. Quilt until the surface is evenly stabilized; avoid pulling fabric into waves.

6.3 Binding

1. Join binding strips on the diagonal to form a long strip. Press seams open.
2. Fold binding in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press.
3. Attach binding to the quilt top with a 1/4" seam allowance. Miter corners carefully.
4. Hand stitch binding to the back using a ladder stitch.

Raspberry binding width finished: ~1/2" (creates a narrow, crisp frame).

7. Finishing notes

- **Pressing:** Press quilt flat after quilting. If needed, use a warm iron and steam to encourage flannel to relax.
- **Wash expectations:** Flannel pre-wash is recommended. If you didn't pre-wash, plan for a small shrinkage (often 1–2%).
- **Trim after quilting (optional):** If the quilt edges are uneven, trim to a straight perimeter before binding.
- **Label:** Add a quilt label to the back near the bottom binding seam.

Design intent: Low-volume snowflake/dot pieces sit strategically so the star points read crisply. The wide pale oatmeal sashing creates the “frosty” grid between warm stars and keeps the quilt drape for a brand-new beginning.

Pattern inspiration: “Star of the New Morning” — warm flannel palette with hand-quilted fan motion.