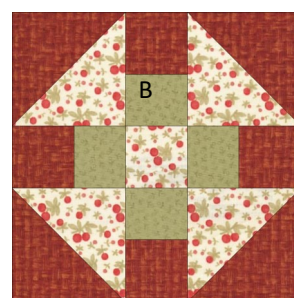
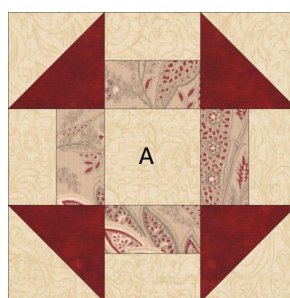


### Back to Basics—Churn Dash & Variable Star

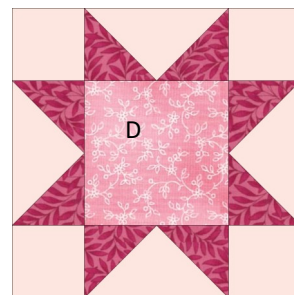
After a discussion in class, it seems a number of quilters have not made many of the basic block traditional blocks, so for this month I have chosen 2 different blocks to play with. I had the Churn dash in my July stripe quilt, so that is one of the two, the other is the variable star.

Both of these blocks can be coloured in many ways. Here I have shown the basic Churn Das (A), a narrowed version (B) and a stretched plus the variable star (D)



#### Basic Churn Dash—6" finished block

1. For the corners make Half Square Triangles—cut 2 squares cream and 2 of burgundy of 3" then draw 1 diagonal on the wrong side of both cream.
2. Place each right side with a burgundy, sew both sides of the drawn line (scant seam), cut apart on the line, press then trim to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.
3. For centre cut a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square.
4. For the side sections cut a strip in cream and print  $10\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", sew together to form a band, then cross cut 4 pieces of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.
5. Sew the units to for the block—use picture a guide for placement. Block measures  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " including seams.
6. To make a stretch version (7" block), alter the length of the strips need in step 4 to accommodate the change, and alter the size of the centre to match the change. (eg: to make a 7" block keep the corners the same, change the centre to cut  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and the strips cut  $14\frac{1}{2}$ " strips and cross cut them  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". Block will be  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " including seams.
7. To make a narrowed version (5" block, shorten the strips  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " and to cross cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". The centre will be cut as  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " square, the corners stay the same.
8. OR: Make your own size block with different variations.



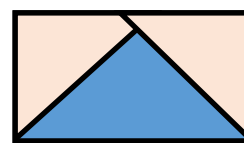
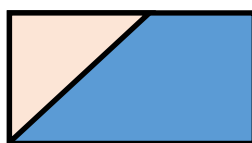
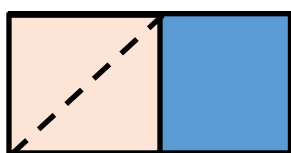
Have fun playing with the theme this month.

Jan P

## Back to Basics—Churn Dash & Variable Star cont.

### Variable Star: 8" block in quilt

1. Cut the centre  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".
2. Cut the corner squares  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".
3. The four start point units are flying geese. For each ( need 4) Cut the background as  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle and the dark points cut  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares, draw 1 diagonal on wrong side of each.
4. Place a square right side to one end of the rectangle, sew on the drawn diagonal, flip to check the shape is still a rectangle with seam into a corner, trim back seam allowance.



5. Place the second square on other end of the rectangle so the drawn diagonal crosses the first seam, sew on the line and trim away extra seam allowance. The unit measure  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".
6. With all units ready, use the picture as a guide and construct the block.

Have fun designing your project around these basic blocks.

Jan P.