

Tips and Tricks to help you with your Block 6 – Eight Pointed Star and Borders

1. Now is the time to finish our Block number 6 and get the borders all ready. So, you have now completed all your blocks and are ready to square them up to 12 ½". OH NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!! There is a malfunction of the navigation tools! For some unknown reason, one of your blocks is only measuring 12" x 12 ¼"...oh no! Call the Captain, man the life boats! Your Captains say "Stay calm, there is a fix if your blocks are smaller than what they should be. You have a couple of solutions:
 - a) Re do your block....ummmm, not unless it is really off in size.
 - b) Block your block and using a spritz bottle of water, pins and a 12 ½" square grid, block your block, let it dry, press and voila, you have the correct size.

Procedure to follow when you need to block your under sized block:

- i) I use my ironing board to block my blocks, but you can use a design wall if it is made from a styrofoam board or some material that allows you to push pins in. A wool pressing mat also works well.
 - ii) Mark off a 12 ½" square. I use painters' tape and my 12 ½' square ruler. I put the painters' tape along the edge of the ruler.
 - iii) Spritz your block with water.
 - iv) Use strong straight pins. I use the ones that have a flower top on the pin. Florists' pins are also very good.
 - v) Lay the top of your block along the top of your square that you've marked out. Start by pinning each of the corners. Pin every 2 or 3 inches making sure the edge of the block is just at the bottom of the painters' tape. Put your pins in at an angle so they don't pull out. Work your way across to the right-hand corner. Then start down the right-hand side of the block, pulling the edge of the block out to meet the edge of the painters' tape. Continue along the bottom, again pulling the edge of the block down to that line. Finally, go up to the top on the left hand side of the block. Check to see that there are no gaps that are not stretched up to the edge of the painters' tape. Pull the edge out and add another pin if needed.
 - vi) Let dry, then iron.
2. SewVeryEasy, on YouTube has an excellent tutorial. Google "How to Block a Quilt Block SewVeryEasy" YouTube
 3. You can also block an entire quilt. Google "Blocking a Quilt with Alex Anderson on YouTube"

