

# Laura Kemshall's

# Ruby Star

# Quilt Project

Free video  
workshop!

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Paper Pieced Stars with  
Laura Kemshall

The Ruby Star quilt is hand sewn with the English paper piecing method. This is a great technique for accurate patchwork using minimal supplies and perfect for beginners and experienced quilters alike! I'd love for you to give it a try. Here's what to do...

You will need:

Paper templates (cut out the ones below)  
Cotton fabrics in two colours. We're using red and black.  
Matching sewing thread, scissors and hand sewing kit.

## Cutting out:

Carefully cut out the diamonds below.

Place the paper shape onto your fabric and cut out a fabric diamond adding a seam allowance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on all sides. You'll need to cut six red fabric diamonds and six black ones.

## Tacking/basting:

Place a paper diamond onto a fabric diamond with the wrong side of the fabric facing the paper.

Fold the seam allowance over the paper shape and tack in place through the fabric and paper shape. The fabric should be folded around the shape snugly, but not too tight so as to distort the paper template. Do this for all your diamonds.

## Piecing:

Our stars are red with a black background. To do the same, take two red diamonds and place them right sides together aligning the edges.

With matching thread, oversew along one of the edges.

Your stitches should be quite small and only go through the fabric, not the paper.

Open out the diamonds and you've sewn the first seam! Repeat this process sewing all six diamonds together to form a star.

Next add the black diamonds with just the same oversewing technique, aligning the edges and stitching nice and neatly.

## Finishing:

As soon as a shape is joined to its neighbours on all sides, you can snip out the tacking stitches and remove the paper. (The papers can usually be used a number of times). In this instance, you'd be able to remove the papers from the red diamonds, but leave the black ones in until you've joined this unit to others. Give your star unit a little press and you're done!

Make lots of these units and sew them all together and you'll have a cushion, a wallhanging, a quilt, whatever you choose!

