

stranded

by christine stainbrook



Hey, NASA! Ever seen this constellation hanging around the night sky? Just imagine this fine quilt edging into your telescopic sights. Its two blocks give the illusion of squares hanging in space, sorta like a fabricky black hole (only with more fabric and less hole). This quilt features fabric from RJR Fabrics' line *Cold Spring Dream* by Mary McGuire. We've given you the identification numbers for each print, in case you want to make one just like the sample, but this quilt will totally soar with many different fabrics.

overall materials:

- 1 ⅞ yards cream solid background (9617-111)
- 1 ⅞ yards dark pink solid (9617-287)
- 1 yard pink solid for inner border and circles (9617-217)
- 1 ½ yard stripe for outer border and binding (1413-01)
- ¼ large floral print (1409-01)
- ¼ yard small floral print (1411-01)
- ¼ yard multi print (1410-01)
- batting: 56" X 79"
- backing: 3 ½ yards
- template plastic or compass for circle

cutting:

- Cream solid: cut (4) 8½" x WOF strips; then cut (34) 4" X 8½" rectangles for Block B.
- Dark Pink Solid: cut (3) 8½" x WOF strips; then cut (36) 1½" x 8½" rectangles for Block A, and (17) 1 ½" x 8 ½" rectangles for Block B.
 - ♦ Then, cut (2) 6½" x WOF strips; then cut (36) 1½" x 6½" rectangles for Block A.
- Pink Solid: cut (7) 2½" x WOF strips for inner border.
 - ♦ Then, cut (17) 3" (or 3¼" if turning edges under for appliqué) circles using template made with a compass and template plastic.
- Stripe: cut (7) 4½" x WOF strips for outer borders.

designed by:
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 skill level: intermediate
 finished size:
 52" x 75"
 finished block size: 8"

- ♦ Then, cut (7) 2½" x WOF strips for binding.
- From each of the three prints: cut (1) 6 ½" x WOF strip.
 - ♦ Then cut strip into (6) 6 ½" squares of each print for a total of (18) squares.

piecing:

Block A:

- Sew a 1½" x 6½" rectangle to opposite sides of each 6 ½" square for a total of (18). Then, sew 1½" x 8½" rectangle to the remaining sides of each square to completely border the print fabric square with dark pink solid fabric. Repeat for all (18). Press towards dark pink strips.

Block B:

- Sew the (17) 1 ½" X 8 ½" dark pink rectangles to (17) 4 ½" X 8 ½" cream rectangles; add the remaining (17) 4 ½" X 8 ½" cream rectangles to the opposite side of the pink rectangles; press to the pink rectangle.
- Find center of block and applique pink circle to square center. Repeat for all (17).

stranded, continued

putting it together:

- Lay blocks out, alternating the A blocks and B blocks and creating a pattern with three different print fabrics. Sew together.
- Sew (2) pink inner border strips to (2) striped outer border strips along long sides. Center new combined border along top and bottom of quilt and pin at center. Measure 20¼" from center to both ends of border fabric and mark with a pin; pin into quilt top leaving ¼" seam allowance. Pin border fabric onto quilt top. Sew in place by easing border fabric.
- Sew remaining pink inner border strips together, end-to-end. Sew remaining striped outer fabrics together, end-to-end. Then, sew inner border to outer border together along long sides. Cut in half to create (2) combined border strips for long sides of your quilt. Fold each long combined border strip in half and pin at center of quilt. Measure 28¼" from center of border fabric to ends and mark with a pin. Pin border fabric to long sides of quilt leaving a ¼" seam allowance at each end. Sew border strips to long sides of quilt. Miter corners of borders. Repeat for all (4) corners.

- Layer, baste and quilt. Bind with striped fabric. ✨



Christine Stainbrook has been designing and making quilts for more than 30 years and teaching classes for almost ten years. She likes using traditional blocks and patterns, modifying them to show off current fabrics. Contact her at www.projecthouse360.com.

Block A



