

# Tantalizing Tile Blocks with Laura Murray

## Gathering supplies (you'll need more fabric for multiple blocks)

- 1/4 yard or fat quarter of solid black cotton and 1/4 yd of at least one other bright color such as red, turquoise, green, etc. Pre-washing is necessary only if you plan on laundering your project in the future.
- 1 yard of Light Steam-a-Seam2
- Rotary cutter, ruler, and cutting mat
- 8" scissors suitable for cutting both fabric and paper, steam iron
- Stamps -- Leaf Medley, *plus* either Zanadu *OR both* Circuits, and Spirals
- Iridescent paintstiks in a variety of light, medium and dark colors.

**Resources**-- if you are new to paintstiks and my layering techniques, you can learn more with these free resources:

**Learning Center** ([link to Learning Center](#))-- watch the Painted Quilt Block video, plus read the Paintstiks on Fabric PDF file.

**My Blog** ([link to blog](#))-- review the Structured Collaging series, which addresses the layering techniques used in both StarBuilders and Painted Quilt Blocks.

## Make your shapes (for one 5.25" block)

**Paint** ---Using the two shapes shown below from Leaf Medley, and a set of 4 1.75" squares from Zanadu, Circuits or Caboodles stamps. There are endless variations of colors/patterns, but the idea is to ensure contrast between adjacent colors.

**Apply Fusible Web** - Fuse Lite Steam-a-Seam2 to the back of the fabric shapes (I prefer to let the paint dry overnight if possible). **DO NOT** remove the paper backing at this stage.

**Cut out the shapes** -- Trim around all shapes, **leaving a narrow edge** of solid color around the outer edge.



Four Leaf Medley shapes,  
(gold, and turquoise on black fabric)



Four leaf Medley shapes  
(blue/gold on black fabric)



Set of four 1.75" blocks = 3.75"  
square. (Sapphire on black  
fabric, using Xanadu stamp)



Set of four 1.75" blocks = 3.75"  
square. (Light gold on red fabric,  
using Circuits stamp)

## Assemble the design

Cut a base fabric prior to assembly, 5.25" square or larger (if you want borders). The black base fabric here is approx. 8", which allows plenty of space to attach the block to a T-shirt, or frame as a wall picture. If you want to make a small wallhanging, select the background fabric, and draw a grid with 5.25" squares, plus the space between each square.



Follow this sequence:

1.



Remove the paper from back of blue/gold leaf shape, arrange on the red block, and fuse.. This creates a 3.75" block. Do not remove paper from back of red block.

2.



Create four triangles by cutting on each diagonal.

3.



Remove the paper from back of each triangle and position as shown into the corners of a marked 5.25" square

4.



Remove paper from back of sapphire colored block, and center as shown.

5.



Remove paper from remaining leaf shapes and position on the diagonals. Check for alignment and fuse.



**option** -- choose the sapphire 3.75" square with gold leaf shapes for step 1 and 2.

## Variations

The sample below features 12 different blocks, the result of my first round of experimenting with integrating the basic block from the Painted Quilt stacker technique with the Leaf Medley shapes. All are assembled directly on hand dyed fabric which was first marked with 5.25" squares with erasable chalk. You can see the basic blocks (cut into 4 triangles) in the outer corners in the top row second and third blocks. Hint: there are others on the second row). Just remember that two 3.75" blocks make a 5.25" block and have fun mixing and matching.



### Larger block

The block shown here measures 7.25", using the same approach as previously described, but with two 5.25" blocks, and a larger Leaf Medley shape.

