

# StarBuilder Basics presented by Laura Murray

## Preparation

- Cut one strip approximately 6" wide x length of fabric using dark, medium and light color values.
- Cut approx 12" square of fabric for background.

## Step One -- Practice your rubbing technique

Practice rubbings, until the paint coverage is consistent and you can achieve good results.

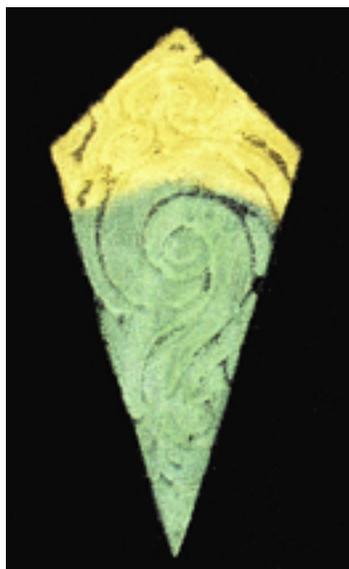
- Keep paintstik tip free of skin.
- Hold fabric securely, firm grip on paintstik. Avoid placing hands on freshly painted shapes.
- Maintain rounded tip on the paintstik. Hold the paintstik at an angle, rubbing **away from your body in one direction**.
- Rub with very short (about 1/2"), **never rub back and forth**.
- Make sure that paint covers all edges of the shapes. If you "fall off the edge", no worries (this part will be discarded later).



### Pressure makes the difference



**Too little pressure** = background clearly shows thru paint



**Too much pressure**= excessive buildup of paint, blurry image



**Just right** = 2-3 layers of color applied to same area builds up consistent, solid coverage.

## Color Strategies



**One color  
(Kite shape)**



**Highlighting-** gold added by painting over the curved shape



**Parfait layers  
(Arrowhead shape)**



**Outlining  
(Necktie shape)**

### Step 2- Paint multiple, identical shapes

Paint a minimum of **four kites, four arrowheads, and/or four neckties**. Choose your own colors, always looking for a good color contrast between your shapes. If time permits, make additional shapes -- this allows for more design variations.



Align shapes closely when painting to minimize fabric and fusible web waste.

### Step three - Apply fusible



Place the unpainted side of the painted fabric on sticky side of Steam-a-Seam2. Discard the top layer of paper from the fusible (it has tiny bits of web which will stick to fabric/iron). Cover the entire top of the fabric and exposed web with parchment paper.



Flip **all** layers over, and press on the reverse side with hot, dry iron. A thin web of film will remain on the fabric.

### Step Four - Cut out shapes

Cut out the painted shapes following the outside edges. Do not remove the paper liner from the back of each shape until you are ready to assemble as it will cause the web to dry out and loose the capability



## Step Five - Assemble design

Always begin with the center of the background fabric when making stars or kaleidoscopes. Shapes can be layered one on top of the other, flipped around, and fit together in various ways. When you are in your home studio, you may want to mark orientation points to ensure points will be evenly spaced. Choose from the following designs or invent your own:

### Option A

4 kites  
4 neckties



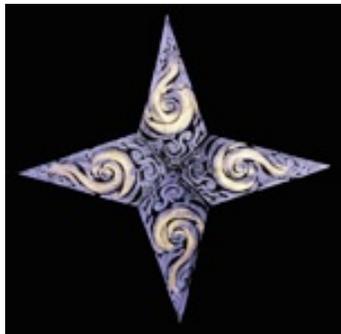
Step 1- kites



Step 2- Add neckties

### Option B

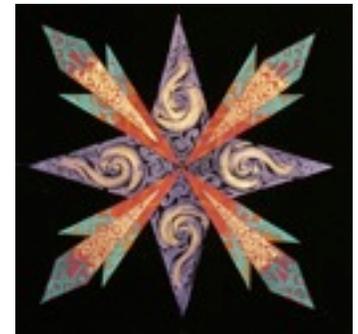
4 kites  
4 arrowheads  
4 neckties



Step 1-kites



Step 2- Add arrowheads



Step 3 - Add neckties

### Option C

8 kites  
8 neckties



Step 1 - kites



Step 2 - add 8 neckties in the spaces between kite shapes.



OR layer neckties on top of kites.

