Blue Aster is Block 11 of the Round the Year Quilt. The 15” pieced circle is inset in an 18” square.

The foundation paper pieced block is very quick to piece. The centre introduces inset or y seams for the first time in this BOM.

**Fabric Requirement**
The block uses 4 shades of blue for the petals besides some small scraps of yellows and oranges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>For Petals</th>
<th>For Centre ( for pieces# 3 and 4)</th>
<th>For Edges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Light Blue</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.25” x 7.5” ( 8 pieces)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Light Blue</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.25”x 6.5” ( 8 pieces)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Dark Blue</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5”x 7.5” ( 4 pieces)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Blue</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5”x 6.5” ( 4 pieces)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Orange</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.75” x 5”</td>
<td>1.75” x 2.5” ( 8 pieces)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Orange</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.75” x 5”</td>
<td>1.75” x 2.5” ( 8 pieces)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.75” x 5”</td>
<td>1.75” x 2.5” ( 8 pieces)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.75” x 5”</td>
<td>1.75” x 2.5” ( 8 pieces)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Printing Instructions
1. Print the Templates File with your printer settings at 100% or actual size in portrait mode.
2. Print and keep a copy of the Instructions File for ready reference.
3. Cut out the paper piecing templates.

Piecing and Assembly Instructions
1. Follow the step by step Instructions for best utilization of your fabric to piece templates A to H.
2. Piece templates I to L.
3. Follow the Master template to join the templates as follows:

Join A to B; Join C to D; Join E to F; Join G to H. You can press seams open to reduce bulk.  
We now encounter inset ot ‘y’ seams at the next step. You may refer to the step by step instructions if you are uncertain how to proceed.  
**Begin at the pointed end of the wedges, leaving ¼” for insetting seam and move towards circumference.**

Note that Template I lies next to A, J lies next to C, K lies next to E and K lies next to G template.  
Now match the seams at the centre and join IAB to JCD.  
Similarly, join KEF to LGH.  
Finally join the two halves to make your full flower.  
Applique the circle to an 18.5” background square to complete your full block 11, Blue Aster.
Step by Step Instructions
Pin the Fabric#1 strips on the templates I, J, K and L and keep aside.
Prepare templates A to H for piecing.

Pin Fabric#3 on piece A1, C1, E1 and G1, aligning one edge of the fabric ¼” beyond seamline between piece#1 and #3 on the template(s).

Trim the excess fabric piece.
Pin the excess pieces of fabric at piece #1 on templates B, D, F and H.

Fold the template at seam line between pieces #1 and #2 on all the templates A to H and trim the fabric beyond the seam line towards circular edge (adding ¼” seam allowance).
We are ready to start piecing templates A to H. Remember the wrong side of the fabric should touch the paper. Also, travel ¼” beyond the seam line when piecing.

Initially, I used strips of the yellow-orange fabrics to piece the small wedge to the ‘petals’, but later concluded that piecing with the 1.75” x 2.5” rectangles was more efficient and facilitated chain piecing.

Chain piece all templates A to H up to piece #4.
Add the fifth piece only to templates A, C, E and G, aligning one edge of the fabric as we did for piece #1.
Now fold back the paper on the incoming seam line like in the picture below. Do not worry about the paper getting torn at the seam.

Trim, allowing for a ¼” seam.
This excess fabric piece will be used for piece#5 on templates B, D, F and H.

Add piece#6 on all the templates A to H. With this, templates B, D, F and H are pieced and can be kept aside. Proceed to finish piecing templates A, C, E and G; and I to J.
When piecing I to J templates: first sew the respective 1.75” x 5” strip at piece #3 on each of the templates. Trim off and keep the excess fabric piece for sewing at place #4 on the other templates as required.

Assembly Instructions
Flip the pieced templates to the printed side and arrange the templates using the Master Template as a guide.
Pin templates A to B; C to D; E to F and G to H, taking care to ensure you have the right edges together...

...and sew. I pressed open the seams, but you could also press them downwards, towards the edge.
Remove the excess paper from the seams. It has been easy so far. Now comes some not-so-simple sewing!

We are ready to join AB to I, CD to J, Ef to K and GH to L.

Pin the edges on the alignment markers. Begin the seam, sewing from centre to edge, on the seam line, leaving the ¼” seam allowance at the top unstitched.

This is how it looks from the other side...

At the end of this, you will have 4 joined templates, IAB, JCD, KEF and LGH. We are ready to join these in pairs.

Again we begin sewing at the centre. If your centre looks good, the rest of the block looks good too!
Start sewing from the corner of the centre and stop short of the end by $\frac{1}{4}$".
Now align the ‘petals’ and sew the straight edges.

...as seen from the other side...
Similarly join the other pair KEF to LGH.

Now to join the two halves...again we begin at the centre, matching the centre seams, and leaving \( \frac{1}{4}'' \) at both ends.

We are down the last two seams!
Turn it around!

...then the petals on either side

Press the seams.
Flip over and admire your Blue Aster.

Applique your circle to an 18.5” square.