

# HOW TO MAKE THE AMERICAN FLAG

25¢

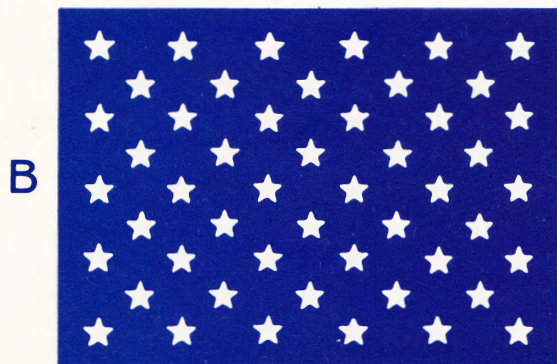


## A Bicentennial Project

Make a handsome 3x5-foot display flag to celebrate the 200th birthday of the United States. Complete directions from the Education Department of J. Wiss & Sons Co., leading American manufacturer of shears and scissors.

As seen in  
Joanne Schreiber's  
**STITCHIN'**  
T.M.  
column.





B



A



C

## Materials Needed

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  yards red polyester/cotton broadcloth  
 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  yards white polyester/cotton broadcloth  
 $\frac{7}{8}$  yard blue polyester/cotton broadcloth  
 2 packages large size iron-on white muslin  
 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  yards gold fringe, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide  
 Red, white, blue and gold thread  
 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  yards white tape, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide  
 2 large eyelets, with eyelet tool  
 White tailor's chalk  
 Contura-lite lightweight shears by Wiss.

### Note:

This flag also may be made of 100 percent polyester fabric, available in the lining section of your fabric store. However, since flat fell seaming is required for this project, polyester/cotton broadcloth is recommended because it is easier to handle.

## The Pattern

Mark and cut out:

### FOR PART A

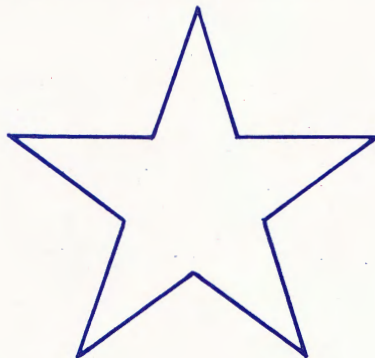
4 red stripes 4 x 37  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches  
 3 white stripes 4 x 37  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches

### FOR PART C

3 red stripes 4 x 61  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches  
 3 white stripes 4 x 61  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches

### FOR PART B

blue rectangle 25  $\frac{1}{4}$  x 22 inches  
 Trace this pattern onto acetate, light sandpaper or cardboard. Use pattern to cut 100 stars from iron-on muslin.



## Directions for Assembling

To clarify the instructions, the flag is divided into three sections as shown:

A B C

1. Read instructions for seaming below.
2. Seam stripes together for sections A and C.
3. Stitch together sections A and B, joining shorter edges. Match tops and trim excess blue fabric so it is even with bottom red stripe in part A.
4. Seam white stripe of section C to sections A and B.
5. Turn under and press raw edges all around. Top stitch gold fringe to edges, using double row of stitching. Leave left edge unfringed.
6. Read instructions for placing stars, below. Iron stars in place on both sides of field. Try to position each star exactly over its mate on the other side. Work carefully and follow package directions. Stitching is not necessary.



7. Stitch tape to left side of flag. Using eyelet tool, make an eyelet at each end of tape.
8. If you do not use gold fringe, turn under raw edges on three sides for a hem.

## Seam Instructions

Flat felled seams are used in this flag, as they give trim, flat seam finishes with no raw edges. To make a flat felled seam, join fabrics right sides together and stitch with a  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch seam. Trim the seam allowance of the lower section to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. Turn the remaining  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch seam allowance down over the narrower seam allowance and turn in its raw edge. Press and stitch. Always turn each seam down toward the stripe below.

To avoid repeated changes of thread color in the sewing machine, stitch together all the stripes in part A and all the stripes in part C with red top and bobbin threads. Make flat felled seams first where a white seam allowance is

top stitched onto a red stripe. Change top thread to white, keeping red bobbin thread. When a red seam allowance is topstitched over a white stripe change to red top thread and white bobbin thread to complete seaming. Use blue thread top and bobbin to join parts A and B and turn seam toward blue material. To join sections A and B to section C use red top thread and white bobbin thread, turning the flat felled seam down toward the white stripe.

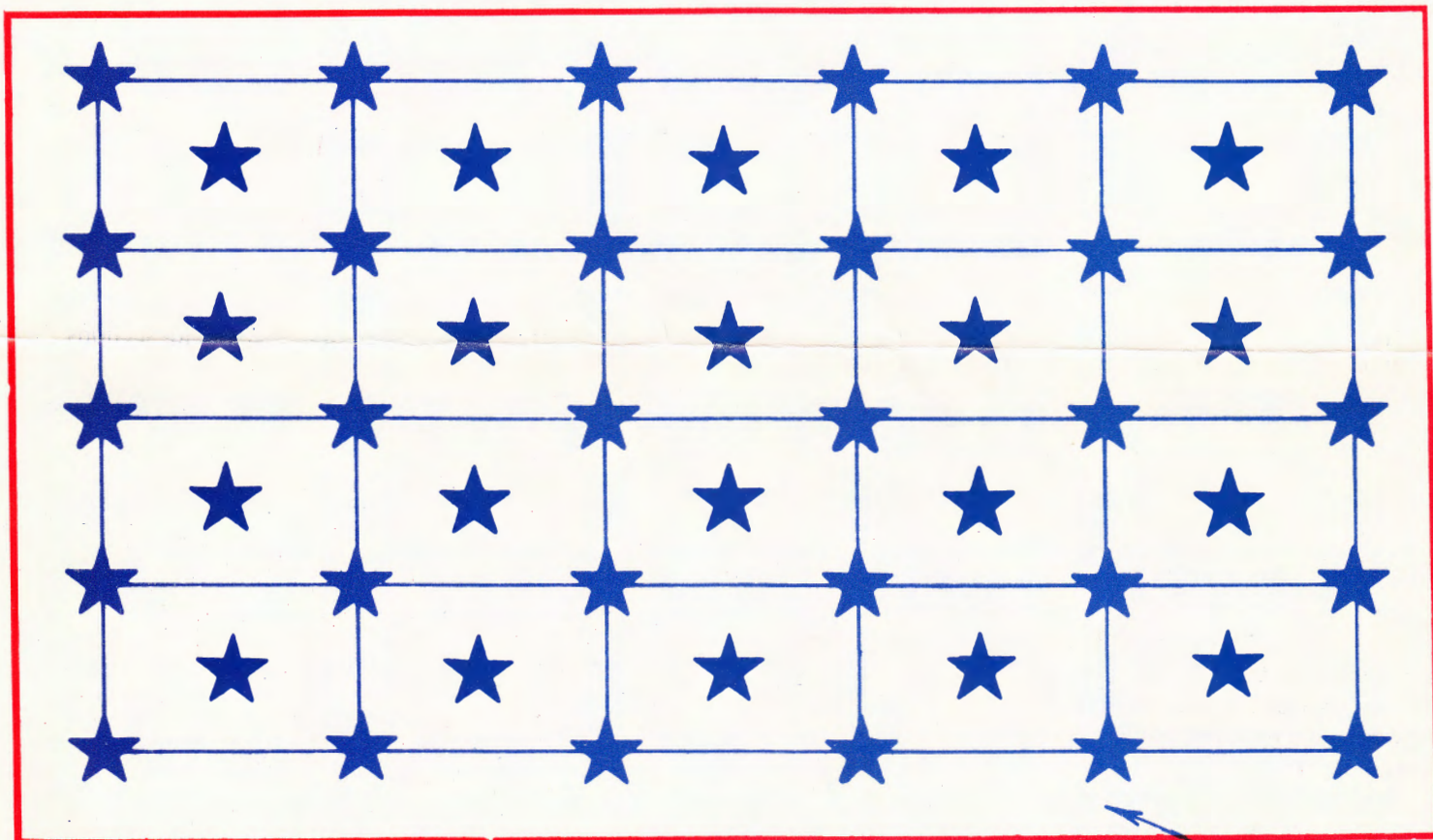
## Seam Construction for 100 per cent Polyester Fabrics

When working with sheerer materials use a version of the French seam to avoid having the red part of the seam show through to the white side. Make  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch seam and press open. Press seam allowances in half so raw edges are at the stitching line. Press folded

seam allowances down, folded edges together and topstitch onto the stripe below.

## Instructions for Placing Stars

1. With tailor's chalk, mark a frame  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from all edges of the blue field.
2. Mark off field into 20 equal squares as shown. Do this by dividing horizontal measurement by 6 and vertical measurement by 5. Squares will be approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches on each side.
3. Place a star at the crossing of all the lines. Then place a star in the center of each square. Press-baste each star in place with tip of iron. When placement is perfect, iron stars in position.
4. Repeat for opposite side.

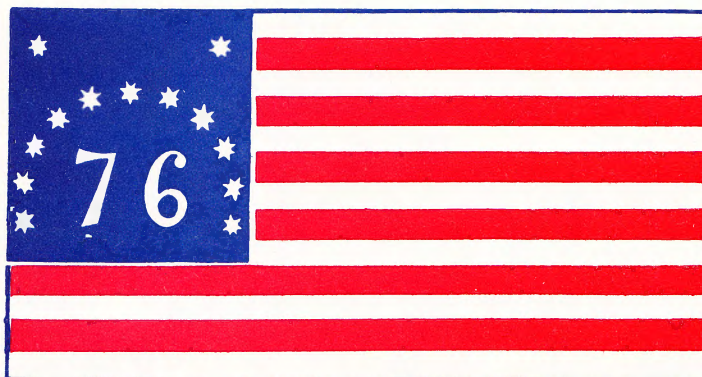


$1\frac{1}{2}$ " frame  
all around

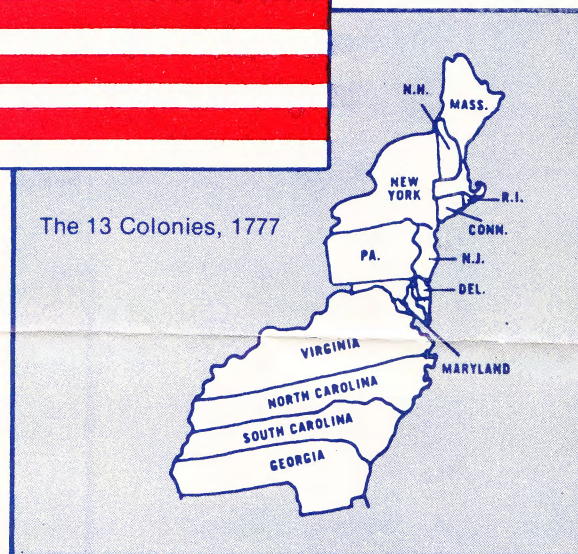


## The First Stars and Stripes

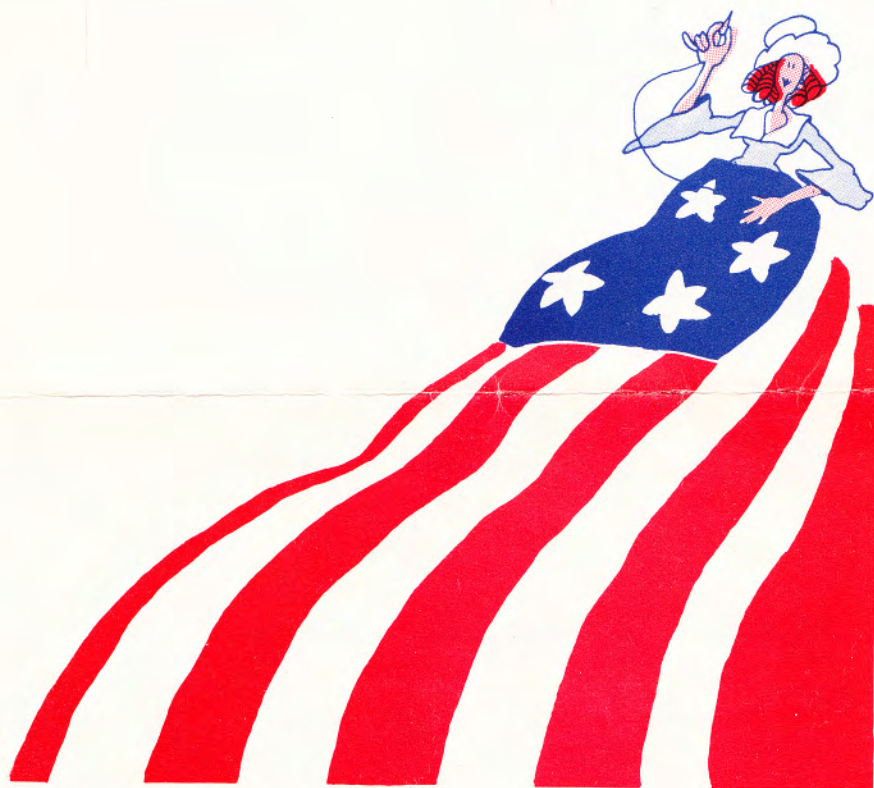
On June 14, 1777, The Continental Congress passed this resolution: "Resolved: that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." The stars were arranged in various ways, including the design of the famous Bennington Banner, carried August 16, 1777, at the Battle of Bennington. This flag lasted until 1795, when two more states were admitted to the Union.



**FAMOUS  
BENNINGTON  
BANNER**



The 13 Colonies, 1777



## Did Betsy Do It?

There's no proof that Betsy Ross actually made the first American flag. However, she was a seamstress who made flags in Philadelphia at the time of the Revolution and she was official flagmaker for the Pennsylvania navy. She received 14 pounds, 12 shilling and two pence for making ships' colors in 1777.