

How to draw a star



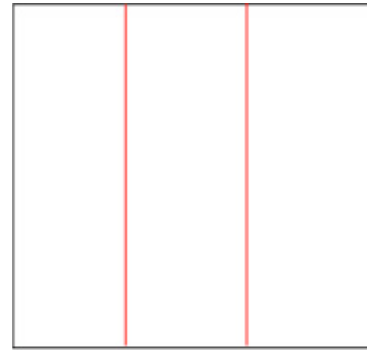
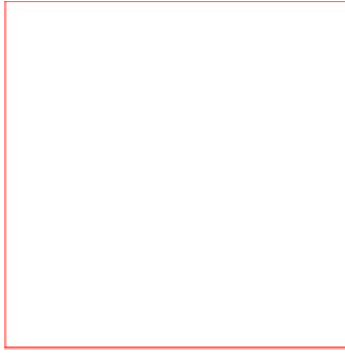
Stars are among the most common motifs found on pysanky. They are the ancient symbols of Dazhboh, the god of the sun, and of the life-giving properties of the sun. Pysanky with such sun motifs were said to have been especially powerful, because they could protect their owner from sickness, bad luck and the evil eye. In Christian times the sun symbol has come to represent life, warmth, and the love and eternal existence of God.

They are not easy to draw free-hand – the points often end up being of different lengths and sizes. How to make a symmetric star? Geometry. You must divide your space into even sections and, using lines and circles, connect the dots. You need to learn to look at a shape, see its constituent shapes, and learn how to build complex shapes from simple ones.

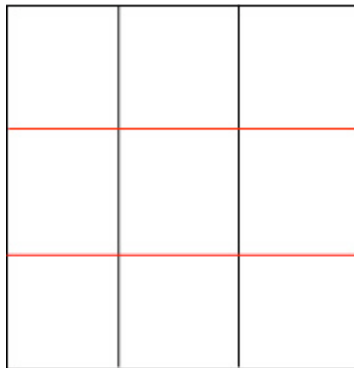
“Square” Stars

But that comes with experience. There are several ways to make a simple eight-pointed star. The simplest is one that is found in a band or a diamond.

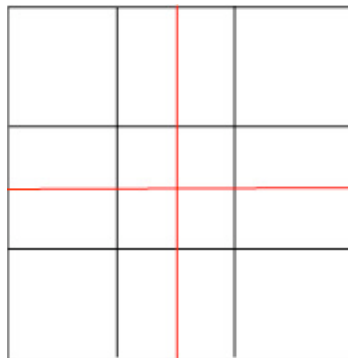
You start with a square, and divide it *with pencil lines* into three sections:



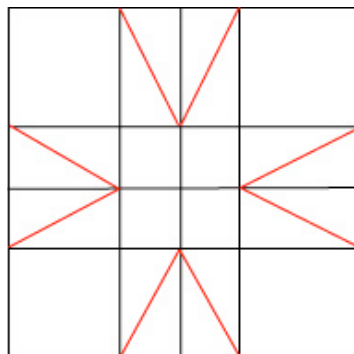
Now divide into nine sections by adding two more lines:



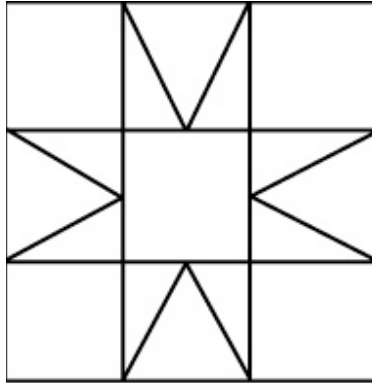
Add a guide lines dividing the square into halves:



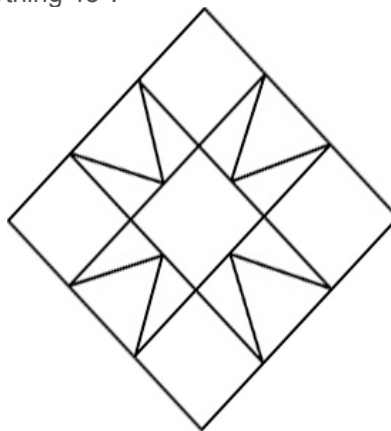
Now draw in the points as shown:



You have the basic architecture of a star. It is now time to write in the star with wax. If you do so, you will get this star:



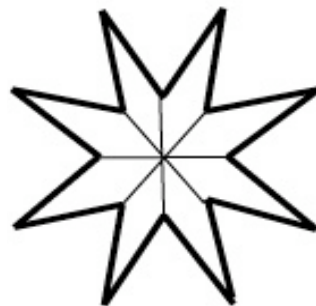
(To create stars in diamonds, just tip everything 45°!



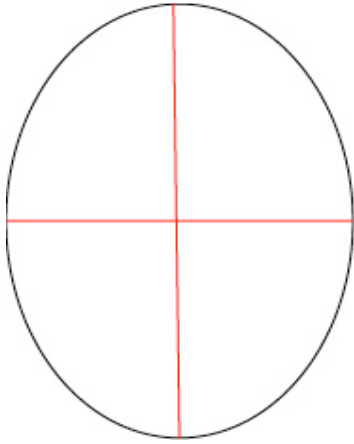
Stars based on squares or diamonds, such as the ones above, are relatively easy to make, and are probably the most common ones found on pysanky. Once you have mastered the basic pattern, you can draw them in quickly with wax, using only minimal (or no) guide lines.

“Circle” Stars

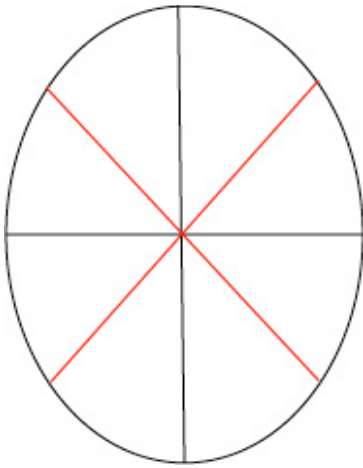
Stars based on a circle, like this one, are a bit more difficult, but not by much.



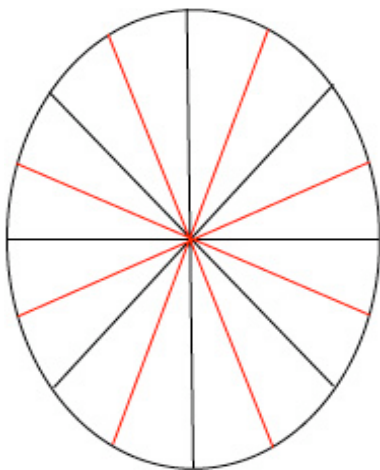
To create such a star, follow these directions: First, you must divide your egg into sections. Use a **pencil** to draw these guide lines. **DO NOT WAX** until you have drawn all of the guide lines!



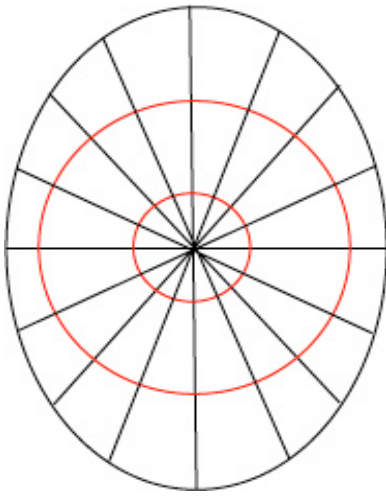
1. Using a lathe (or a good eye/tape measure), divide your egg in half horizontally and longitudinally. The red lines here are your pencil lines.



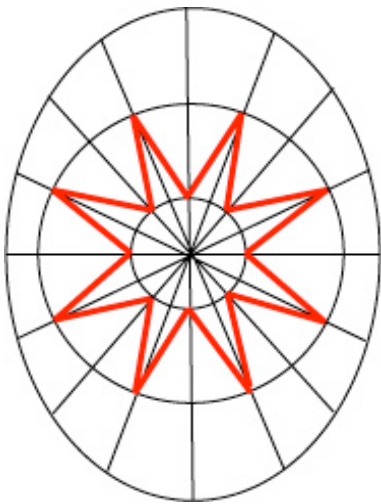
2. Now add in the lines shown, dividing each of the segments in half at a 45° angle. This will give you your basic star division.



3. Divide each of the resulting segments in half with a line. You now have 16 segments.

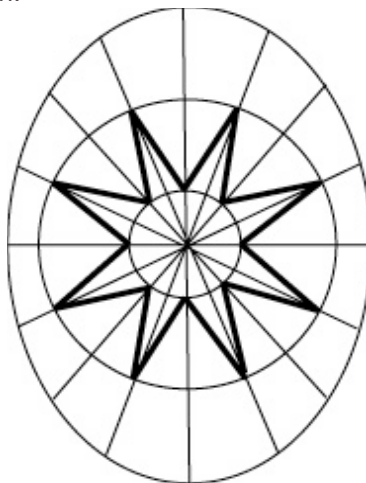


4. You will now need to draw two circles, one inside the other. The size of the outer circle will determine the size of your star; the size of the inner circle will determine the length of the arms of your star. I use templates to draw my circles, or you could measure equal distances along the lines, and then connect the dots.

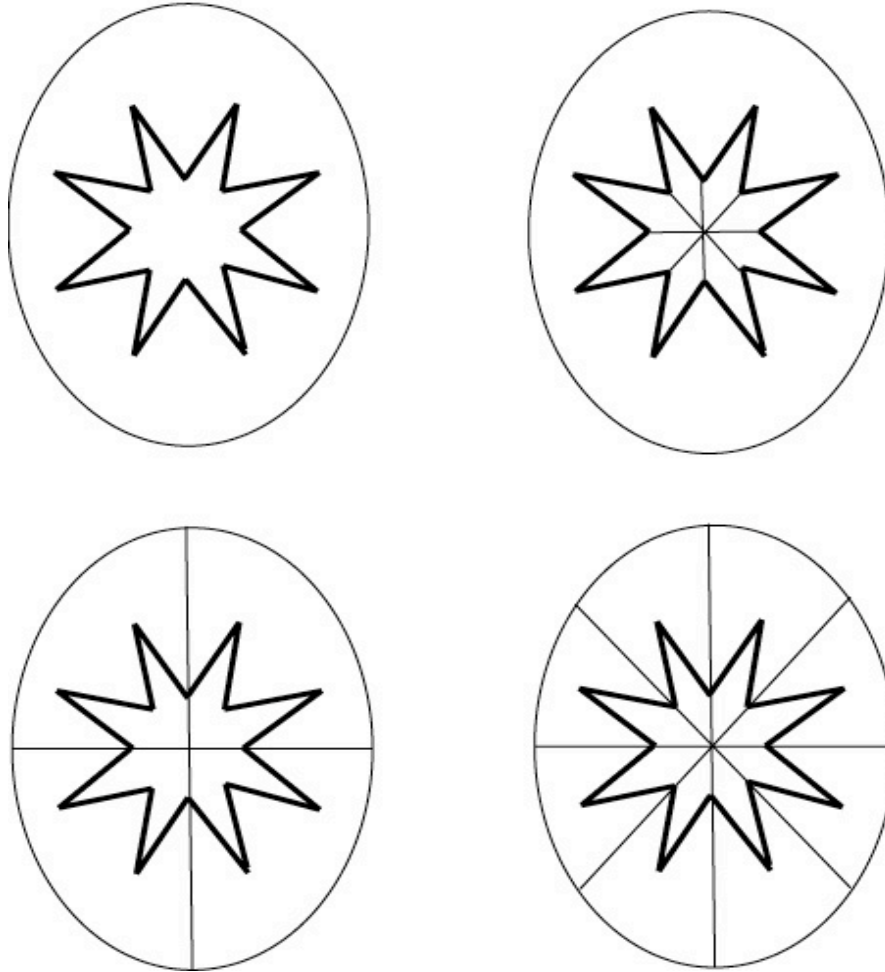


5. You are now ready to actually draw your star. It is quite easy –draw lines from the outer circle to the inner circle, as shown. The result should be a nicely symmetric star.

You are now ready to start writing with WAX. Which of these lines should you wax in? It depends upon what the pattern calls for. Do you want just an isolated star? Or do you want other lines as well? Depending on the designn you choose, you could use this basic pattern:

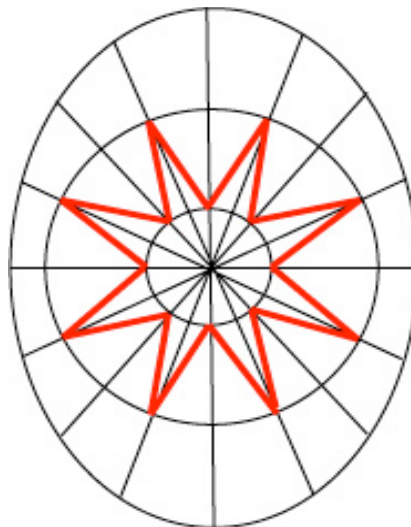


and create any of the following designs:

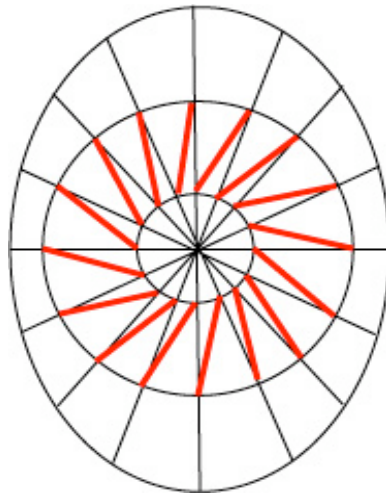


As you gain experience, you may find that you can do with fewer and fewer guide lines; I use only a few straight lines and one circle, and draw the star directly in with wax. But then I've been making pysanky since the 1960s.....

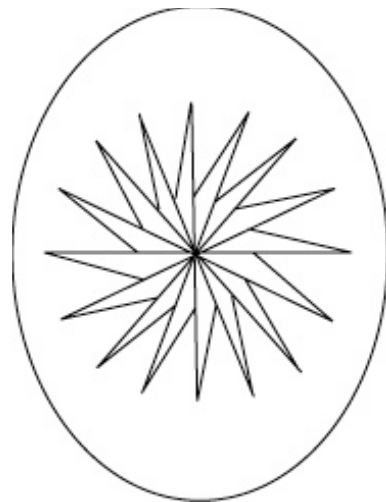
To create a 16- pointed star (similar to one pictured in the photos at the top of the page), in Step 5 above, instead of drawing this:



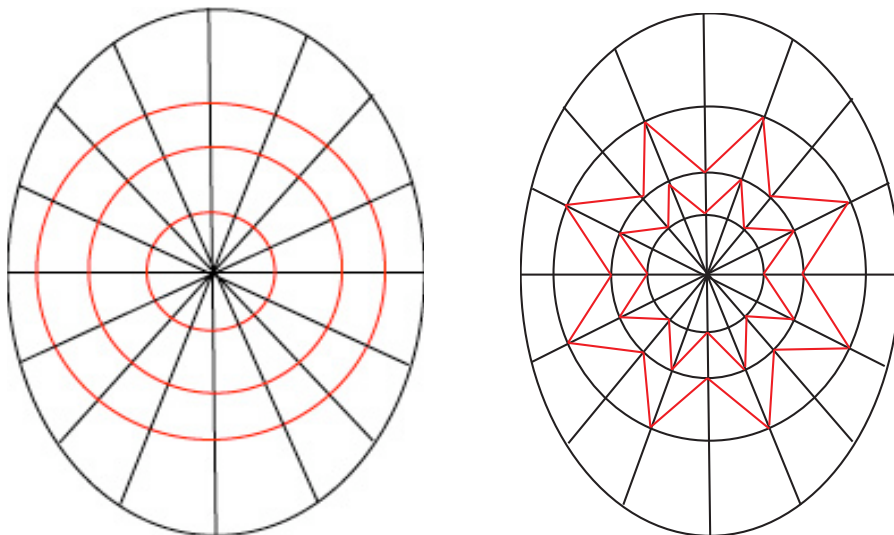
draw this:



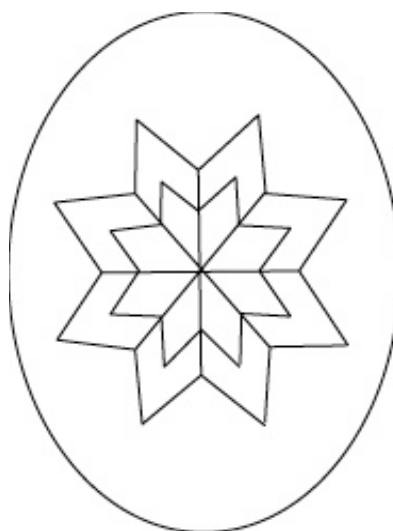
This will give you a sixteen-pointed star (of the “bent star” or windmill variety associated with Svaroh) that looks like this:



You can also create concentric stars. Follow the instructions above but, in Step 4, you will need to add another circle, and then, in Step 5, and draw in TWO stars:



This will, depending on which lines you wax in, a concentric star similar to this:



These basic instructions can also be extrapolated to create true 16-pointed stars, all sorts of concentric stars, and many other variations on a simple star. Use the basic steps outlined above, but modify them by adding a few extra divisions here, another circle there, and you will be able to create all sorts of wonderful stars!