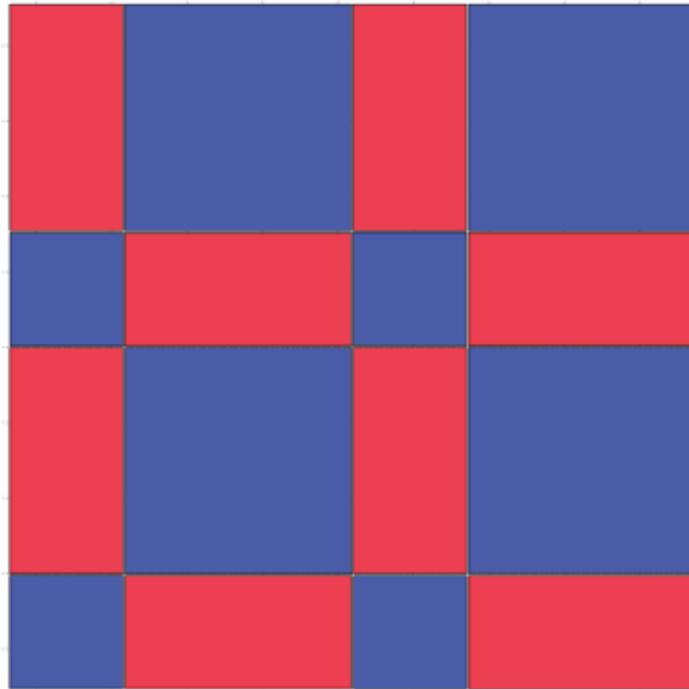


Disappearing 9-Patch



It's the new year, and many of us are making the resolution to use more of the fabric that we have in our stash. One of the hardest fabrics to use is that really ugly stuff that somehow ended up in your stash. So this month, let's make it disappear into a disappearing 9-patch block.

This block can be made up from between 2 and 9 different fabrics. So, if there is more than one ugly fabric in your stash, now is the chance to use it all!

Also, the finished block does not need to match the layout that I am using in these examples. Arrange your final blocks in any fashion that looks pleasing to you. Whoever wins the blocks in the raffle will have an interesting chaos quilt to start out the new year!

Fabric Required:

There are two different ways that you can piece this block.

Method One: This will create a single 9-patch block

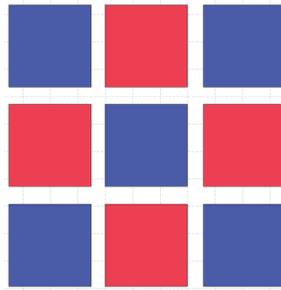
9 - 5" x 5" square blocks

Method Two: This will create two 9-patch blocks that are inverted from each other.

6 - 5" x 15" strips

Construction:

Method One:

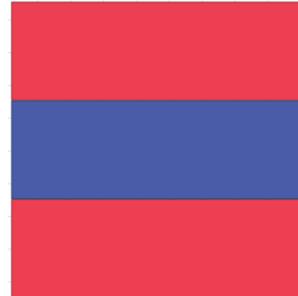
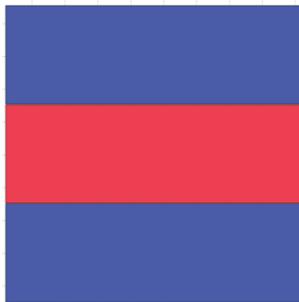


Standard 9-patch construction which we should all know how to do. Use a 1/4" seam allowance.

Method Two:

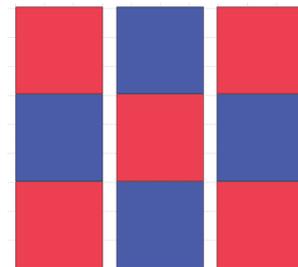
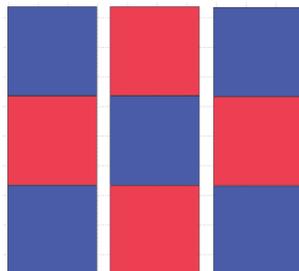
Strip Construction. Lay out two groups of three strips each. In this example I am only using two colors of fabric, but with this method you could use up to six different colors.

Sew each group of strips along the long edge using a 1/4" seam allowance. Your group block should measure approximately 14" x 15"



In my example, each block group is the inverse of the other.

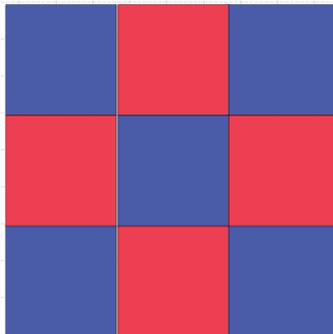
Sub-cut your blocks into strips that are 5" wide. Swap the center strip on each group.



Sew the strips together with a 1/4" seam allowance to finish the 9-patches. Your 9-patch block should measure approximately 14" x 14" square.

Make the 9-patch disappear, both methods:

Start with a 9-patch block that you created using either method one or method two.

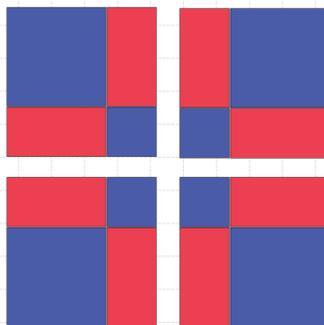


Measure the center block of your 9-patch. It should be close to 4 ½” x 4 ½” square.

Divide the width by 2. Align your ruler vertically at the half-way mark and cut your 9-patch along that line.

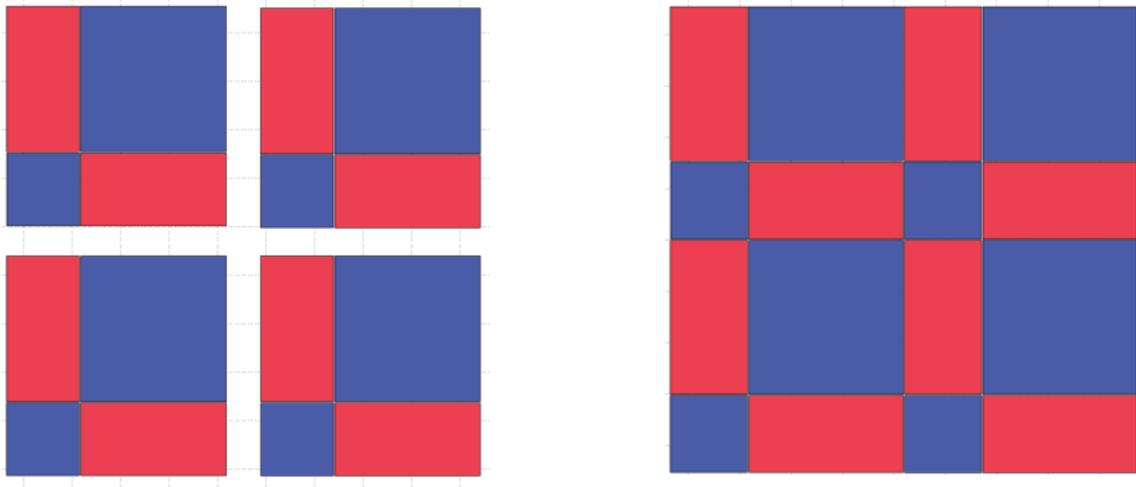
Divide the height by 2. Align your ruler horizontally at the half-way mark and cut your 9-patch along that line.

You should have four blocks that look like this:



Rotate each block until you get a pattern that looks pleasing to you. We are not going for consistency in block looks this time, it does not have to look like my examples. When you have a pattern that you like, sew the blocks together using a ¼” seam allowance.

If you did the strip method, follow the same procedures with the remaining block.



Your completed block should measure approximately 13 ½" x 13 ½" square.