

Measure up to Fall!

UPDATED DIRECTIONS!!!



This block is quite simple – but offers some good practice in precise cutting and sewing. The center of this block is a traditional “Nine-Patch”. The 9-Patch is a standard in quilting and appears in many forms, in many blocks and therefore is a good technique to master. Follow the directions and measure along the way to ensure that you end up with a ‘perfect’ 8” x 8” block.

Material required: Two “fall themed” fabrics with high contrast – we’ll call them print and solid here – but yours can be any two that you choose!

You need at least 37” of 2” wide Print fabric cut:

a. (1) 5” x 2” pieces c. (2) 3” x 2” piece e. (2) 5” x 2” pieces f. (2) 8” x 2” pieces

You need at least 13” of Solid fabric cut:

b. (2) 5” x 2” piece d. (1) 3” x 2” pieces

After you cut the pieces, measure them again. If you are precise at cutting it makes the sewing easier.

Construction Steps:

1. Sew pieces “b-a-b” (print in the center) together with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seams. If you have done this properly you should have a 5” x 5” unit. Press seams towards piece “a”. From this unit, cut (2) 2” wide strip (across all three fabrics so you have two 2” x 5” pieces).

2. Sew pieces “c-d-c” (print on each side) together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. If you do this properly you will have a 5” x 3” unit. Press seams towards piece “c”. From this unit cut (1) 2” wide strips (across all three fabrics so you have one 2” x 5” piece).

3. Sew a piece from step 1 on either side of the piece from step 2. This should make a checkerboard effect and is the “nine patch”. Refer to the picture above and sew the three pieces together with $\frac{1}{4}$ seams. If you have pressed properly the seams should “nest” together easily for pinning, so that when sewn they are perfectly aligned. Press the seams away from the center and measure the nine-patch. It should be exactly 5” x 5”!

To determine the finished size of the block, the math is pretty easy when using strips of the same size. The width at any time should be:

$(\text{number of strips}) \times (\text{width of strip}) - (\text{number of seams}) \times (\frac{1}{2} \text{ inch}) = \text{finished block size}$

So each side of the 9 patch should be: $(3 \text{ strips}) \times (2”) - (2 \text{ seams}) \times (1/2”) = 6” - 1” = 5 \text{ inches}$

4. Place one piece “e” on each of the opposite sides of the nine-patch. Sew with $\frac{1}{4}$ seam and press seams towards piece “e”. This piece should be exactly 5” x 8”.

5. Place the remaining pieces “f” on the remaining opposite sides of the nine-patch and sew with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. Press towards piece “f”. The completed block should be exactly 8” x 8”!