

SINGER® PROJECTS

Tossed 9-Patch Beginner Piecing and Quilting: Part 3 of 3

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A “Tossed Nine Patch” quilt is a great project for a beginner sewer and quilter. It looks impressive but is very easy to construct making it a great project for new sewists. In this three part series, you will learn the basic steps for constructing a lap size quilt.

Join Singer Educator, Rebecca Seibert, on a live zoom class Thursday, March 28th at Noon CST to learn how to make this project. Becky will be featuring the SINGER® Fashion Mate™ 5560 Sewing Machine during this class that is available at Michaels.

PROJECT SKILL LEVEL: ■■■■□

3 Part Class Schedule:

Part 1, February 1: How to prepare and cut your fabric, then construct the starting nine patch block.



Part 2, February 29: How to cut and combine your nine patch blocks to create a lap size quilt top, then add an inner border and outer border.



Part 3, March 28: How to construct the “quilt sandwich”, quilt and bind it.

Not a quilter or have never tried quilting but have always wanted to give it a try? Then this may be the perfect project for you.

After completing this tutorial, you may find yourself returning to this pattern when you need a quick gift for someone. It is also a great stash buster project.

Starting with constructing a 13” x13 finished square, your project measures as follows once finished: Lap or Crib quilt: 47” x 47” (9 “tossed” blocks arranged 3 x 3 with borders)

PROJECT SUPPLIES:

Everything you need to complete this Parts 1-3 project in one place. Use this convenient checklist to ensure you have all required materials in your sewing room or take it with you while

you shop for supplies. When fabric amounts are given, the amounts are in parenthesis. Items not needed until Part 2 or 3 are noted.

- Sewing machine – We will feature the SINGER® Fashion Mate™ 5560 Sewing Machine in this project ([SINGER® Fashion Mate™ 5560 Sewing Machine | Michaels](#))
- 9 Patch Fabric:
 - Note:** A fat quarter is at least 18 by 21 inches in size. That means you should be able to get (12) 5” squares from one fat quarter.
 - o 4 different small prints (fat quarter x4)
 - o 1 contrasting solid color for the center square (fat quarter)
 - o 1 background fabric (3/4 yard)
- Inner Border fabric (1/3 yard) (Part 2)
- Outer Border (1/2 yards) (Part 2)
- Backing fabric, (3 ¼ yard), (Part 3)
- Binding fabric: (2/3 yard), (Part 3)
- Batting: (craft 60”x60” size) (Part 3)
- All Purpose Thread (40wt)
- Small scissors
- Titanium Universal 80/12 Needle for piecing (Parts 1 and 2)
- Titanium Quilting 90/14 Needle for machine quilting (Part 3)
- ¼” Piecing Foot
- ¼” ruler
- Even Feed/ Walking Foot (Part 3)
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Straight Edge Quilter’s Ruler
- Washable Fabric Pen or chalk pen
- Quilting pins or clips
- Temporary Basting Adhesive Spray (Part 3)
- [SINGER® SteamCraft or SteamCraft Plus Steam Iron](#)
- [Clear Spray Starch](#)
- Painters Tape (Part 3)



Congratulations on successfully creating your quilt top. Our next task is to select backing fabric and binding fabric for the back and edges of the quilt. Then we will construct the quilt back, quilt it and bind it.

Constructing the Quilt Back

You have choices when selecting your quilt back fabric.

1. The choice is “to seam or not to seam!” I really try to limit my quilt backs to one seam at the most.
 - The no seam choice: You could purchase a “wide back” which is a cut of fabric that is wider than the standard 40-44” quilting cotton sold in stores. They are typically about 108” wide and you purchase them by the yard. This quilt is 47” x 47”, so purchasing a wide back really is overkill for this project. You would be purchasing much more fabric than you need in order to avoid sewing a seam. If you want to go with a wide back, you will need 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ yard (60 “) and you would cut the wide back down to about 58” wide. The remaining fabric could be used for the binding or another project in the future.
 - The One Seam Choice: For a quilt this size, purchasing 3 to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards of a fabric is needed. The length of fabric is cut in half to give two pieces of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards that are each about 42 inches wide. You can even have the store you purchase the fabric in cut you two lengths of fabric 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards long. We will be sewing these lengths together to create a backing that is approximately.
2. How to seam the fabric
 - First, make sure your backing fabric is ironed with a light spray of starch. Then remove all selvages on both sides of the fabric. The edge of the fabric has a thicker weave than the main body of the fabric. This is known as the selvage. A seam that is made by joining two selvage edges will have very little stretch and can result in puckering at the seam and a thick area on the quilt back. When the selvage is removed and then the two pieces are seamed together, the seam will be



less visible after quilting. You should use a rotary cutter and quilters ruler to cut the selvage off and maintain a straight edge.

- Place the lengths of fabric right sides together and use several straight pins to hold the fabric in place with the edges lined up even with each other. Using a regular sewing foot, sew a half inch seam, removing pins as you go. You can reduce the stitch length to 2.0 for a stronger seam. Press the seam open.

Making the Quilt Sandwich:

(Note: Photos in this section are of a bonus project, a table runner using two of the tossed nine patches and the same quilt border. These are easier to get good photos to help explain the steps as compared to a large quilt.)

1. Gather the quilt top, batting and quilt backing. Make sure the top and back are wrinkle free. Please note that the batting should also be larger than the quilt front as it gets pulled into the quilt sandwich during the quilting process.
2. Place your backing fabric face down onto a large surface - the floor, a table or cupboard - making sure it can lay completely flat. If your table isn't big enough then you might want to lay it on the floor. Make sure to lay the backing fabric on the floor or table with the wrong side of the fabric facing up.



- a. Got pets? Children? Floor is not clean enough because life happens? Lay a sheet down on the floor and build your quilt sandwich on top of the sheet. This will protect your quilt back from getting dirty and it will also protect your floor from the basting spray. *Be careful not to pin through the sheet.*
3. Use painters tape to tape down my backing fabric so it doesn't move when creating the "quilt sandwich". It needs to lay completely flat.
 4. Place the cotton batting on top of the backing fabric. It should be laying on the wrong side of your backing fabric. The batting should be close to the backing fabric size and larger than the top of the quilt, with it being at least 3-4 inches bigger on each side of the quilt.
 5. Using a temporary basting adhesive spray, lightly spray the batting on the side lying on the backing fabric. Starting in the center and working outward, smooth the batting over the backing fabric until it lies flat with no wrinkles. If it is hard to center the batting on the backing fabric, try folding it in quarters and, starting in the center, unfolding each quarter towards the outside. If you don't want



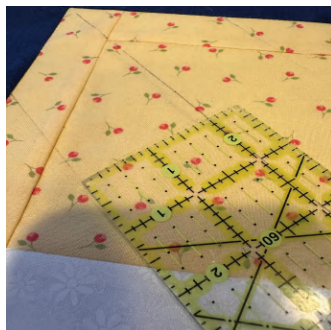
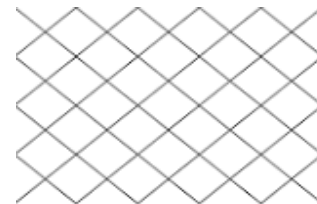
to use a basting spray, tape the edges of the batting down with a painters tape to hold in place.

- a. **IMPORTANT:** When using a basting adhesive spray it is important to follow the instructions on the can and do not use if you have any sensitivity to aerosol sprays.
 - b. Why use a basting adhesive spray? It helps hold the fabrics together so you don't have to use a bunch of quilting pins. Some quilters like to use both basting adhesive spray and quilting pins, especially on larger quilt projects.
6. Place the quilt top right side up on top of the batting. The quilt top will be smaller than the batting and backing fabric. Center the quilt top on the batting.
 7. If using the basting adhesive spray method, lift one half of the quilt top and spray the batting (not the quilt top). Lay the quilt top back down and, starting from the center, smooth out to adhere it to the batting. Repeat until the entire quilt top is adhered to the batting.
 8. If you don't want to use the basting spray method, place the quilt top face up on top of the batting in the center. Use quilting pins to secure all 3 layers of the "quilt sandwich" together. Quilting pins are like safety pins but with a slight curve making them easier to go through all the layers. Place a quilting pin about every 4 inches and in rows all the way across your quilt top and along the edges. (Note: If you do not have quilting or safety pins, you can use straight pins, but beware of getting poked by them during the quilting process.)
 9. Even if you used the basting adhesive spray you may still want to place a few quilting pins around the edges of the quilt top to keep it secure.
 10. Remove any painters tape used to hold the backing fabric in place once you've finished creating your "quilt sandwich".



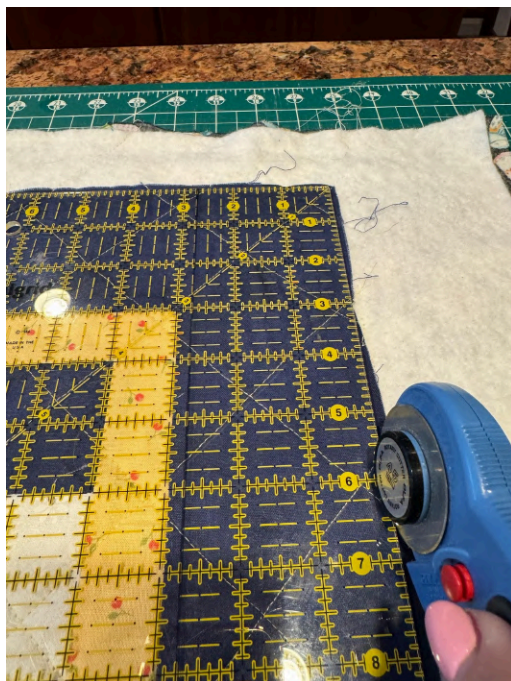
Quilting Time!

1. Before we start quilting we need to prep our sewing machine and work space.
 - a. Change out the needle for a Titanium Quilting 90/14 Needle. I selected this size needle because of the three layers I am sewing through and the thickness that I will need to sew through when putting on the binding.
 - b. Remove the ¼" Piecing Foot or regular sewing foot and attach the Even Feed/Walking Foot
 - i. Check out this [video](#) for assistance on attaching and using the Even Feed/Walking Foot. I found lowering the needle allowed me to put the walking foot on more easily.
 - c. Thread your machine with a color that matches your quilt and make sure you have the same color bobbin. This thread will be visible on both the front and back of your quilt so keep that in mind when choosing a color.
2. We are going to keep the quilting simple by using a 3mm straight stitch. If you are a more experienced quilter, you can use any quilting pattern you like or even try stipple quilting. Here's a [video](#) to learn more about the Free Hand/ Darning Presser Foot.
3. Lay your "quilt sandwich" flat on your table or floor with the quilt top facing up. We are going to create a crosshatch pattern on the quilt, meaning we will sew lines diagonally across the quilt in two directions creating the pictured design. Using a long straight edge ruler and washable fabric pen, draw diagonal lines across your quilt from corner to corner in both directions. The lines should be at the same distance apart. 2 or 3 inches is a good distance for this quilt. Continue to draw lines across the quilt from point to point. Once you have all of your lines drawn in one direction, draw lines in the opposite direction at a 90 degree angle to create the



crosshatch pattern. Space the lines the same distance apart in both directions, perhaps 2 or 3" apart.

4. Set your sewing machine to a 3mm straight stitch. We slightly lengthen the stitch when quilting to help the bulk of the quilt sandwich feed through the machine easier and the stitch becomes more visible giving it that quilted look.
5. You will quilt starting at one corner and stitch the line through the center of the quilt to the opposite corner. Then stitch parallel lines working from the center outward. Follow your line and sew across your quilt. Be sure to check the back of the quilt to make sure your sandwich is still flat and that you haven't developed any pleats while sewing.
6. Once all the lines in one direction are done, quilt the lines in the opposite direction, still working from the center out.
7. When quilting is complete, using your quilter's ruler and your rotary cutter, trim the extra batting and backing off the quilt. Measure 3 inches on the outer border, using the inner (yellow) borders the measuring line starting point. Take care to cut the quilt corners square.



Binding the Quilt

Note: We will be making binding from straight strips cut on the grain of the fabric. This is the simplest binding to make in my opinion. You may have heard of bias binding, which can be another option, but is more involved to make. Bias binding is essential for quilts with scalloped or curved edges. Cutting on the bias allows the fabric to stretch around the arcs and remain flat along the edges. As you advance in your sewing and quilting skills, learning to make bias binding is a good way to advance your skills,

1. The binding we will make from 2 ½" wide strips from your binding fabric. Cut your 2 ½" strips along the width of fabric. You will need 5-6 strips. Revisit the instructions in part 1 of this series for how to cut strips evenly using a quilter's ruler. Cut one strip at a time.
2. Take two strips and place them at a 90 degree angle to each other, right sides together. Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner.
3. Join them at a 45 degree angle, sewing directly on the drawn line. Trim the seam to ¼" and press the seam open.
4. Repeat until the binding strips are sewn into one long piece of continuous binding fabric.
5. Fold the strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press with your iron making it a 1 ¼" wide strip.
6. Flip your quilt over so you are looking at the backing fabric. Starting about one third of the way down the edge, pin or clip the binding 10 inches from the end of the binding strip to the back side of the quilt edge. The raw edge of the binding will be even with the raw edge of the quilt back.



7. We are going to start sewing the binding on to the quilt back leaving the 10 inch tail of extra binding loose for when we are ready to close up the binding. You want to make sure your binding strip is still folded in half and the raw edges of the binding are even with the raw edges of your quilt.

8. Sew the binding with a straight stitch length of 2.5 onto the quilt back using a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam or $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam, pausing when you are $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the first corner. Back tack a couple stitches and cut the threads. Lining the edge of the walking foot with the edge of the fabric gave me the perfect seam width using the SINGER® Fashion Mate™ 5560 Sewing Machine.



9. With your quilt on your table, fold the binding back at a 45 degree angle, then fold it back toward the side yet to be sewn, lining up the fold with the edge of the quilt. Clip or pin the fold of the binding to the quilt to hold in place.



10. Place your quilt back on your machine lined up with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance and begin sewing down the next side of your quilt. Be sure to always keep the raw edges of the binding strip in line with the raw edge of the quilt. You are not sewing on the fold you just made.
11. Before you get to the next corner, stop sewing at a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " or $\frac{3}{8}$ " in from that corner and repeat what you did to turn the corner in the previous steps. Continue repeating these mitering steps until binding has been sewn around all four corners.
12. Once you turn your last corner, continue sewing but stop about 8 inches from where you started sewing. Backstitch to secure your stitches and remove the quilt from the sewing machine. You should have extra binding strip leftover.



13. Place your quilt face down on a table so you are looking at the back of your quilt where you just sewed on the binding.

- a. You should have a significant gap- at least an 8" gap from step 12 where you stopped sewing -) between where you started and stopped sewing on your binding with extra "tails of binding" on both sides. Fold the first tail to make a point. Finger press the fold so that it is visible to your eyes.
- b. Place the other binding strip along the quilt edge. Place a pin near the edge to hold it in place. Overlap the pointed tail back over the top. Place a pin in the binding on the right hand side to mark where the tip of the binding point sits above it.



- c. Open the binding up, being sure the pin stays inserted in the fabric to mark the intersection for the binding strips. Open the pointed tail and turn it so that its right side is perpendicular to the other binding strip. Line up the top edge, so that the point is positioned exactly where the pin is placed in the binding. Remove that pin and then pin the two strips of fabric together. Trim any length past the

perpendicular pieces. Pin in place and sew on the diagonal fold line.



- d. Remove the pins and ensure that the joined binding strip is the correct length and not too loose. If it is, sew the seam again a bit to the side to shorten. Trim off the extra fabric on each side of the seam leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (5mm) seam allowance. Press open.



- e. Refold the seam and finish sewing to the quilt back.



14. Fold the binding over to the front of the quilt and pin or clip in place all the way around the quilt, carefully folding the mitred corners. Secure the mitred corners with pins or clips.



15. Change your stitch length to 2.0. Begin sewing the binding to the front of the quilt, sew *on the binding* close to the loose edge of the binding at a consistent distance so that your stitching will appear to be straight all the way around the quilt.



You can start sewing the binding at any point. Starting at the corner can be difficult. Sew slowly for more consistency. The binding is important as it frames your entire quilt. Take your time and don't be afraid to remove some stitches and start over if you get a little wobbly in the sewn seam.

- a. When you get to a corner, stop sewing when your needle hits that mitered seam intersection. Leave your needle in the *down* position, raise your presser foot, pivot your fabric 90 degrees, lower your foot and continue sewing.
- b. Corners can be challenging. A stiletto tool with a sharp point can really help hold the binding down when turning corners.
- c. Once you get all the way back around to where you started, do a few back stitches, remove from the sewing machine, and trim any threads.



YOU DID IT! You created a beautiful lap quilt! Now that you've learned the basics of quilting, don't stop there. Keep practicing. These quilting techniques can be used for making many different types of quilted projects including bigger quilts, handbags, zipper pouches, table runners, placemats, candle mats, bed runners, etc. I can't wait to see what you create.

Be sure to tag Singer Sewing Company on social media when sharing your makes and use the hashtag #singersewing.

