

**SINGER® PROJECTS**

**Tossed 9-Patch Beginner Piecing and Quilting: Part 1 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, February 1st 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 either a table runner or a 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 measure 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.
  - 4 different small prints (fat quarter x4)
  - 1 contrasting solid color for the center square (fat quarter)
  - 1 background fabric (3/4 yard)
- Inner Border fabric (1/3 yard) (Part 2)
- Outer Border (1/2 yards) (Part 2)
- Backing fabric, ( 3 ¾ 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)
- Quilting 80/11 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
- Basting Temporary Adhesive Spray (Part 3)
- SINGER® SteamCraft or SteamCraft Plus Steam Iron
- Clear Spray Starch

### Cutting Summary for Tossed 9-Patch Block (Part 1)

Fabric	Block Info	Lap or Crib Quilt
4 small prints	5" strips cut into 5" squares (2)	9 squares of each of the <u>4 fabrics</u>
Background Fabric	5" strips cut into 5" squares (5)	36 squares
Center Square Fabric	5" strips cut into 5" squares ( <u>2</u> )	9 center squares



### Block Summary (Parts 2 and 3)

Block	Block Info	Throw
	13.0" Block Finished	9
	1.0" Inner Border Finished	1.25" x WOF 6 strips
	3.0" Outer Border Finished	3.25" x WOF 6 strips



## Preparing Your Fabrics

Preparing your fabrics for cutting and sewing is extremely important. It has a great impact on the quality of cutting and the quality of your finished project, so while you are tempted to jump in and start sewing, please take the time to prepare your fabrics properly.

1. Use your SINGER® SteamCraft Plus Steam Iron to press your fabrics free of wrinkles. Once the fabric is wrinkle free, lightly spray clear spray starch and iron your cotton fabrics before cutting. The spray starch will add firmness to the fabric and prevent the fabric from stretching out of shape as you cut and sew.
2. When cutting fabric for your quilt top (front of quilt) it is important to accurately cut strips and squares. Measure twice, cut once! I highly recommend using a straight edge quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and cutting mat to cut all of your quilt top pieces.

## How to layout the fabric and cut:

1. Make sure you have a new rotary blade in your rotary cutter. Dull blades cut poorly and inaccurately. Always roll the rotary cutter away from your body and follow any safety guidelines that came with your rotary cutter. Close the rotary cutter to retract the blade when you are not actively cutting. Never use a rotary cutter on any surface other than a rotary mat.
2. Cutting your 5" squares:
  - a. Fold the ironed and starched fat quarter in half along the grain. It can either be wrong sides together or right sides together.
  - b. Lay the fabric on the cutting mat with the open edges facing left. Place the quilter's ruler on this open edge with the 5" mark aligned with the edge of the fabric.

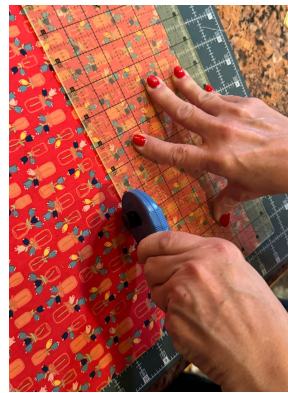


- c. With your free hand on the ruler to hold it in place, use the rotary cutter to cut the 5" strip along the edge of the ruler. This should be done standing up, not sitting, for an accurate cut.

Right handed cut



Left handed cut



- d. Rotate the strip for cutting 5" squares from the 5" strip. Align the ruler along the edge at the 5" mark and cut with the rotary cutter. Continue to work left to right across the fabric making 5" cuts.

Right handed cut

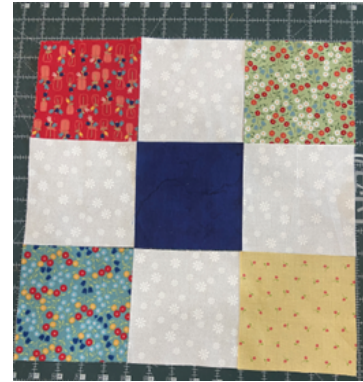


Left handed cut



**Piecing It All Together:**

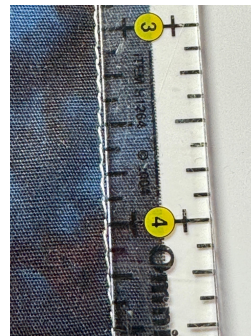
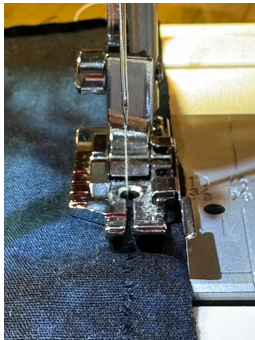
1. Lay out your 5” squares for your nine patch blocks to decide how you want to arrange them. This is my layout to the right. The squares are arranged in three rows, each row with three squares. Place the dark square in the block's center position. Place the small print squares in the block's four corners. Fill in the midpoint gaps with the background squares.
  - a. **PRO-TIP:** Take a photo of your layout to reference back to just in case they get mixed up or you forget the order.



2. Prep your sewing machine:
  - a. Thread it with the same thread for the top and bobbin.
  - b. Attach the 1/4” piecing foot.
  - c. Insert a new Titanium Universal 80/12 Needle . The very slim acute point creates beautiful stitches and perfectly straight stitches for piecing.
  - d. Set the machine to a 2.0mm - 2.5 mm straight stitch in the center needle position. The slightly shorter stitch length causes the feed dogs to pull fabric under the machine between each drop of the needle that results in a better seam.



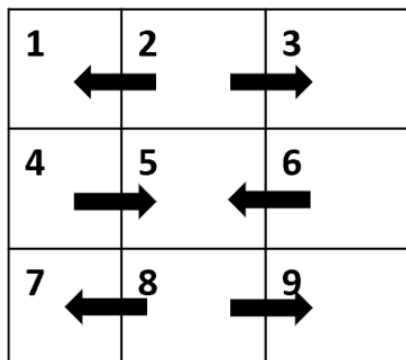
3. Testing your 1/4” seam is important. Unlike in clothes sewing where the seam is 5/8”, piecing for quilts is a 1/4” seam. Sew a seam with scrap fabric and then measure with your 1/4” ruler to check your accuracy. It may take a few tries to figure out the “sweet spot” for the perfect 1/4” seam. If you don’t get it exact, it will cause issues when piecing your quilt top together later and your seams from block to block won’t line up perfectly.



4. Construct the 9-patch by sewing the squares to each other as illustrated to the right.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>

- a. Place two 5” squares right sides together making sure they are perfectly lined up on all four sides. I like to work left to right when sewing my blocks together. I recommend sewing 1 to 2, 4 to 5, and 7 to 8 as illustrated on the right. Then sew 3 to the 1-2 piece to complete the first row. Do the same for squares 6 and 9.
  - b. Optional: Use a straight pin or clip to hold the two squares together in place. Do NOT sew across the pin as it dulls the needle.
  - c. Line the edge of your fabric up with the right edge of your ¼” piecing foot and sew a 2.0mm straight stitch from one end to the other of the square. Check your seam to ensure it is a proper ¼” seam.
5. With your steam iron, press your ¼” seam allowance to one side, alternating sides as illustrated below. It is important to follow the direction of the arrow so that “nesting of the seams” can occur when you sew the rows together in a later step.





6. Once the three rows are constructed, lay out your blocks to form the square.



7. Place the top and middle rows right sides together. The seams that you ironed will nest together to give you a proper lineup of the squares with each other. Place straight pins on one side of the nested seams to hold the rows in place while sewing



8. Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to join the top and middle squares making sure to remove your straight pin before sewing over it. On the back, press the seam open.
9. Sew the third row to the two rows just constructed, nesting seams. Press seam open. Your block should measure 14" square. If it is a bit off, no worries! We will address this

in Part 2 of the series Tossed 9-Patch Beginner Piecing and Quilting!



10. Make a total of 9 blocks for the lap sized quilt top.

**Congratulations!** You are well on your way to making a beautiful quilting project with a set of new skills you will be able to use on other projects. Next month we will learn how to create the “Tossed 9 Patch” and construct the top of the quilt. Your homework is to complete these blocks and gather your fabrics for the inner and outer borders. I will discuss how to measure your quilt top for borders and the proper way to cut and sew on your borders.

**Happy sewing!**