

SINGER® PROJECTS

Tossed 9-Patch Beginner Piecing and Quilting: Part 2 of 3

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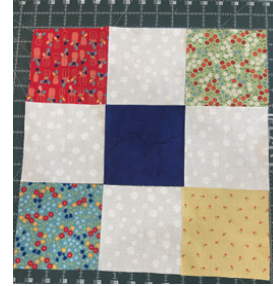
A “Tossed Nine Patch” quilt is a great project for a beginner sewer and quilter. It looks impressive but is very easy to construct making it a great project for new sewists. In this three part series, you will learn the basic steps for constructing a lap size quilt.

Join Singer Educator, Rebecca Seibert, on a live zoom class Thursday, February 29th 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.
 - 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

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



Rotary Cutter Do's and Don'ts:

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.

Sub cutting your 9 patch blocks for the quilt top construction:

1. We are starting with nine of these blocks, prepared in part 1 of this series. Be sure they are pressed and free of wrinkles. You will cut each one at a time. Do not stack to cut multiple blocks at once as it will result in less accurate cuts.



2. Place the 9 Patch on a cutting mat. Using a quilter's ruler, measure $2\frac{1}{4}$ " across the middle column of squares as shown in this photo. It should be the halfway point on the middle row of squares.



3. Starting from the bottom, cut the block in half along the $2\frac{1}{4}$ " measurement line. Be sure to hold the ruler in place with one hand and rotary cut with your dominant hand.



4. Rotate the block 45 degrees to the right. Again, measure $2\frac{1}{4}$ " across the middle row of blocks using your quilter's ruler. With your free hand on the ruler to hold it in place, use the rotary cutter to cut the block in half.



The result will be 4 blocks as pictured:



5. Now it is time to “toss” your blocks! I chose to rotate the left block in the top row (the light blue one) 90 degrees so that the blue square is in the center of the block. Then I rotated the right bottom row block (green fabric) 90 degrees so that the green fabric is in the center. You can rotate the blocks in different ways to create different designs. Experiment and see what you like.

6. Continue cutting the remaining 8 blocks in the same way.



Piecing the Tossed Blocks Together:

7. Lay out your stacks of blocks in the orientation you will be sewing them together. This is my layout.

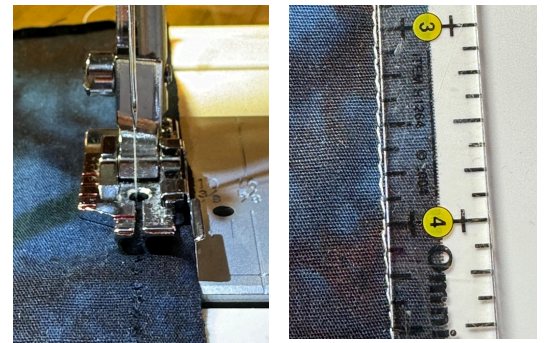
PRO-TIP: Take a photo of your layout to reference back to just in case they get mixed up or you forget the order.



8. 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.



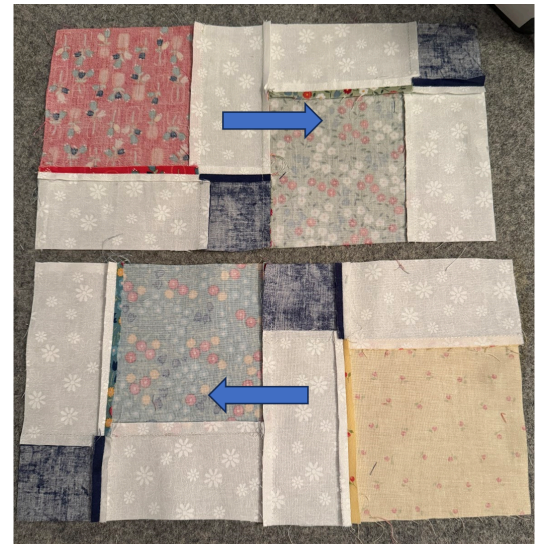
9. Testing your 1/4" seam is important. Unlike in clothes sewing where the seam is 5/8", piecing for quilts is a 1/4" seam. Sew a seam with scrap fabric and then measure with your 1/4" ruler to check your accuracy. It may take a few tries to figure out the "sweet spot" for the perfect 1/4" seam. If you 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.



10. Construct the tossed 9-patch by sewing the top two pieces to form the top row, then sew the bottom two pieces to form the bottom row.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Line the edge of your fabric up with the right edge of your 1/4" 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 1/4" seam.



11. With your steam iron, press your $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to the side of the blue or green squares. This will result in seams going opposite directions when you sew the top row to the bottom row, allowing for nesting of the seams. 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.



12. Once the top and bottom rows are constructed, sew them together, nesting the seams to form a perfect bow tie intersection of the dark blue blocks. Use straight pins to secure the pieces in place, using a pin on each side of the center intersection and two pins near the ends of each side. Remember to remove the pins as you sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, taking care not to sew over the pins. Repeat to make 9 total blocks.

ProTip: You can use a wooden dowel or a curved piece of wood to more easily iron your seams open. Do not "slide" the iron across the block as it will lift up previously pressed seams. Instead, press in place, lifting the iron to move it to a new spot to press.

13. Once 9 blocks are made, lay out your blocks on a table top, the floor or a design board as follows:



14. Starting with the top row, join the three blocks with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams, pressing the seams. Do the same with the second row and the third row.
 - a. Use straight pins to hold the pieces in place while you sew.
 - b. Lay the three rows out and step back to view the whole quilt top. Make sure you have sewn the rows together in the correct orientation. It can be helpful to take a picture at this point and look at the photo. Sometimes people see errors in a photo that they do not see looking at the actual fabric.

15. Now it is time to sew the three rows together.
 - a. It is important to use straight pins to join the rows carefully. You should be able to nest seams where the center dark blue squares join, ensuring a proper "bow tie" intersection.
 - b. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to join the top and middle row, making sure to remove your straight pins before sewing over them.
 - c. On the back, press the seam open.
 - d. Sew the third row to the two rows just constructed, nesting seams. Press seam open.



Adding the Borders

16. Measure your quilt top width at three locations, the top, middle and bottom. If these measurements are not the same, average the three measurements to determine the length of your border needed across the top and bottom.

a. Cut your 1.25" 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.



b. 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.

c. Join them at a 45 degree angle, sewing directly on the drawn line. Trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press to one side.



d. Measure the strip and cut into two pieces to the average width of your quilt top and bottom.

17. Pin the inner border to the top and bottom, adjusting to fit properly from end to end. Carefully sew your best $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, removing pins as you go. Press the seam toward the border.

18. Now measure the length of the quilt in three spots as you just did. Join two 1.25" border pieces for each side at a 45 degree and cut to the average length of the quilt left to right. Pin and sew the two borders on to the quilt and press towards the newly added border.

19. For the outer border, repeat steps 16-18 using the 3.25” strips cut from your outer border fabric. When you are done, it will look like the below photo:



Congratulations! You have constructed the quilt top! Next month we will learn how to create the quilt “sandwich”, options for quilting it and applying the binding. Your homework is to complete these blocks and construct your quilt top. **Happy sewing!**