

## Snowball/Nine Patch Blocks Combo

For this month's block we're combining two traditional blocks, the Nine Patch block and the Snowball block, for a fresh, new look.

### Block basics:

- Finished (finished = when you hand it in, before it is incorporated into a quilt) block size is **6 1/2"** square for each of the two blocks.
- Use a neutral color thread such as beige or gray.
- **All seams are scant 1/4" seams.**



### Select the following fabrics:

- Solid white or white on white fabric for the snowballs.
- A variety of jewel toned solid, batik, or small print fabrics for the corners of the Snowball block and for all the pieces of the Nine Patch block. We've used bright fabrics a lot lately so for this one we'll go to the other end of the spectrum. Think of "winter" hues, navy blue, pine green, burgundy, etc. You will need thirteen different fabrics total, nine for the Nine-Patch and four for the Snowball. No repeating within a block!

### Cut your fabric pieces:

1. Cut one 6 1/2" square of your white fabric.
2. Cut one 2 1/2" square from each of your thirteen colored fabrics.

Before you start, you may want to divide your thirteen colored squares between the nine to be used for the Nine Patch and the four to be used for the Snowball. Make sure you have a variety of fabrics in both places (e.g., if you have three blue fabrics, make sure they don't all end up in the Snowball block).

### Construct your Nine Patch block:

1. Lay out the nine colored fabric squares picked for your Nine Patch in a 3 x 3 "random design" you like.
2. Sew the left and center squares of each row together; then sew the right hand square of each row to its correct pair.
3. Press the top and bottom row seams **towards** the center. Press the middle row seams **away** from the center. From the back, your block should look like *Figure 1*.
4. Sew the top and middle rows together, then sew the bottom row onto the middle row. The pressing pattern will make all your seams nest nicely.
5. Once the block is completed, press all horizontal seams downward and double-check that the block is 6 1/2" square. Make adjustments if necessary. Your block should now look like the Nine-Patch at the top of this page.



*Figure 1*

### **Construct your Snowball block:**

1. Draw a diagonal line from one corner to another on the back of each of your four colored squares.
2. Lay your white fabric square in front of you, face up. Lay one of the colored squares over the corner of the white fabric square, face down, so the line you just drew goes across the corner (not from the corner of the white square inward). Pin into place, keeping your pins away from the drawn line. See *Figure 2*.
3. Repeat with the three remaining colored squares. Your block should now look like *Figure 3*.
4. Sew along the lines you drew on all four corners of the square. Note: To get a scant 1/4" seam, sew one or two threads away from the line you drew, on the side closer to the corner of the block (not closer to the center).
5. Cut away the corners of the block, 1/4" from the seams you just sewed. Your block should now look like *Figure 4*.
6. Press your seams towards the corners of the block (away from the white fabric). Your block should now look like the picture at the top of page 1.
7. Double-check that your block is 6 1/2" square. This is where scant seams really come in handy, sewing directly on top of your drawn line would have made it hard to not be short when the corner pieces are pressed. Make adjustments if necessary.



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**

### **Finish your blocks:**

1. Once you have both the Nine Patch and Snowball blocks completed, you are finished. DO NOT sew the two blocks together, being able to mix up blocks from different people will probably make the quilt look more cohesive.



How will it look when the blocks are put together? Kind of like <— this. But with more variety, of course.

Bring your finished blocks to the Holiday Luncheon on December 9 to participate in the drawing. Remember, you get one raffle ticket for each pair of blocks you turn in, so the more blocks you complete, the more chances you have to win them all!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions for future blocks? Feel free to email me at [smclarkson@gmail.com](mailto:smclarkson@gmail.com).