

Checkered Past

Top finishes at 99.5" x 99.5"

To make the quilt pictured



You need:

- 16 shirt pockets from men's and ladies' shirts cut 8.5"x8.5" in autumn colors. Cut 8 from lighter fabrics and 8 from "darker" fabrics. Center the pockets in the 8.5" square if necessary, add pieces around the pockets to make an 8.5" square (pics later). *Ruler demo at the very end of the pattern.
- ¼ yard of 20 different fabrics for outer 9 patches. (I made 2 out of each color—total 40 double 9 patches)
- About 3-4 yards of various light and dark shirtings for the checkerboards around the pockets – half light, half dark – I was using scraps and various pieces from leftover other projects—this measurements seems too high but it takes more than you'd think.
- 1 7/8 yards of white for cornerstones, white in double 9 patch border blocks, and narrow white border
- 1 5/8 yards of tan for sashing strips

- ½-5/8 yards for the binding (I use 2.5" scrappy strips from my bag of 2.5" strips if I can)

Cut:

- 16 pockets – 8.5"x8.5" centered
For cutting pockets, center the pocket in the 8.5" square as best as you can. Depending on the size of the shirt, you may need to add some around the pocket in order to get an 8.5" square. Here's one I did that shows up well. I sewed more fabric on these two places and then trimmed back down to 8.5



I "eyeball" the centering of the pocket. Sometimes the pockets weren't exactly centered if it meant I didn't have to add more fabric.

- 960 2.5" blocks – 480 light and 480 dark. *I strip pieced these, using various lengths of cut strips from shirtings. I made sets of "light/dark"—I did not work with individual 2.5" blocks for the most part. See below for pictures.*
- For sashings: You will need 40. For EACH:
From tan: 2 -- 1.5"x16.5"
From colorful – (I used 10 different colors, making four of each): – 1 – 1.5"x16.5" . *I strip pieced these, using 2 very long tans (about 68" – I was using a recycled sheet) and a colorful in the center. After*

sewing all three strips together, I subcut into 16.5" lengths. I pressed towards the tan because it wasn't a see through fabric. Diagrams under sewing blocks section.)

- For 9 patch border blocks – see cutting directions under the block instructions

Make blocks: *The blocks finish at 16.5"x16.5". Always use ¼" seam allowances.*

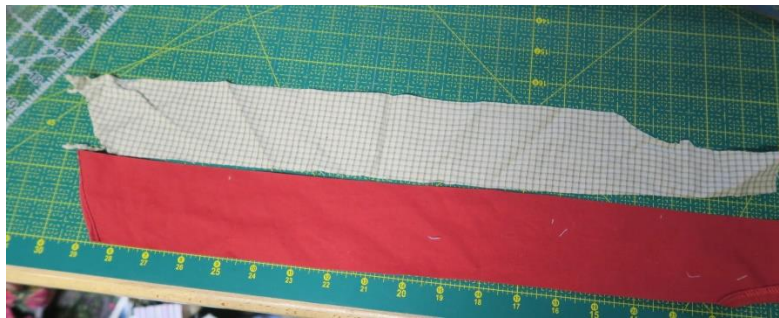
First.....

How to strip piece:

I used strip piecing, meaning that I sewed light 2.5" strips to colorful 2.5" strips and in the format light/colorful, pressed, and then sliced off strip sets.

Here are some pictures demonstrating how I constructed this block using strip piecing:

1. Sew 4 strips together white/colorful



2. Press towards the colorful.



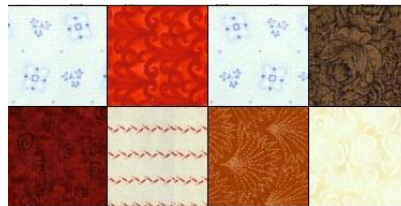
3. Cut off 2.5" segments.



4. Do this many times with a wide variety of fabric combinations!

Main pocket/checkerboard blocks:

1. Using your sets of light/dark strips, arrange a set of 4 of around your center pocket so that you like the colorway. Sew segments together, nest seams and alternating light and darks until they look like this:
Do this two times.



2. Attach to the right and left sides of your 8.5" pocket square. It will look now like this:



3. Now, make a set of strips that are arranged colorways like this:



4. Attach to the top of the block. It will look like this:



5. Repeat steps 3 and 4, only add to the bottom. Now the block will look like this:

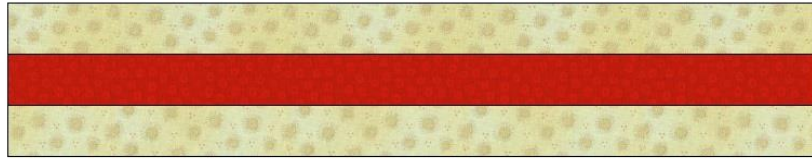


Admire.

Do this 15 more times for **a total of 16 blocks**. I used half with light colored pockets and half with darker pockets.

Sashing sets:

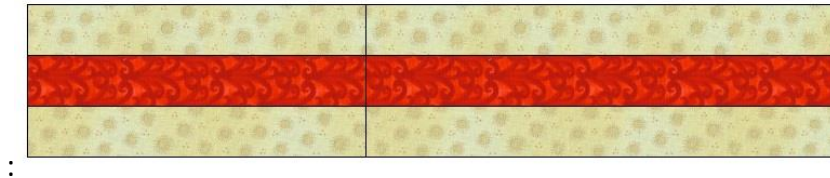
Each sashing set finishes at 3.5"x16.5" It will look like this when finished:



1. I sewed 2 1.5"x 68" strips of tan to a pieced 1.5"x68" piece of colorful fabric. Sew together. Press. Cut off into 16.5" segments. A 68" strip will make 4 segments with a little leftover (I prefer to have a little leftover in case I need to straighten ends. Since I often work with little pieces or shirt pieces, this is handy.)



Cut off 16.5", for example, like this (pic is not to scale)



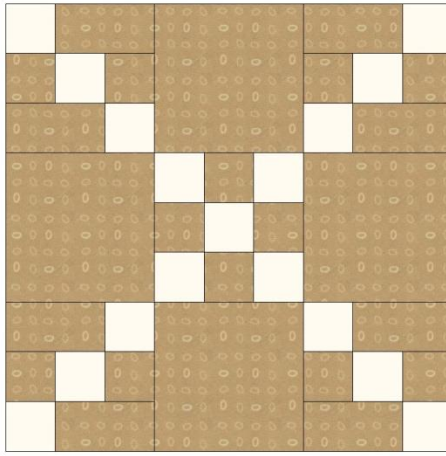
But doing this 10 times, with 10 different colors in the middle, I had 40 sashing sets with a variety of fall colors. Of course, you may use fewer (or more) colors, or even make them all one color.

Make 40 sashing sets.

Double 9 patch blocks (for border):

***For variety, I made 10x, 2 identical blocks from light and then 10x, 2 identical blocks, from darks.
Total: 40 blocks.***

The block looks like this and finishes at 9.5"x9.5".



1. For two identical blocks:

Out of **one color**: cut:

8– 3.5" x 3.5" squares

1 strip – 2.5" x 26"

2 strips - 1.5 x 16"

1 strip – 1.5" x 7"

Out of **white**:

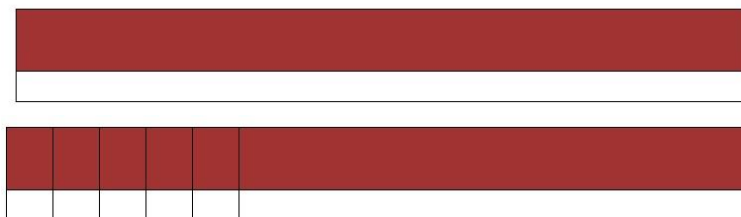
1 strip – 1.5" x 26"

1 strip – 1.5" x 16"

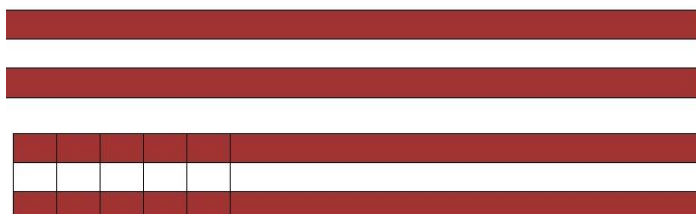
2 strips – 1.5" x 7"

Strip piece:

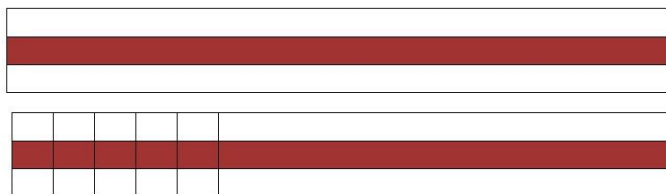
Sew the white 1.5" to the colorful 2.5" strip. Press towards the dark. Subcut into 16 1.5" pieces as in diagram:



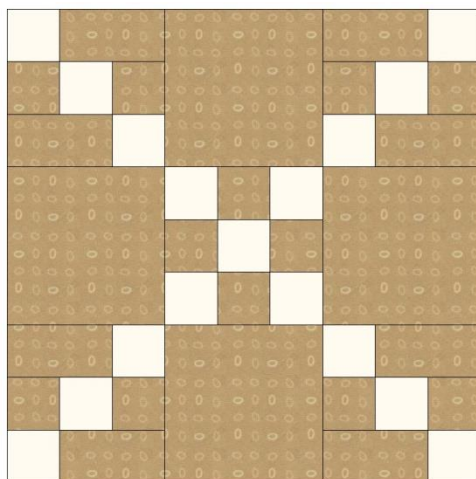
Sew the two colorful 1.5" x 16" strips to the 1.5" x 16" white strip. Like this: Subcut into 10 1.5" strips as in diagram:



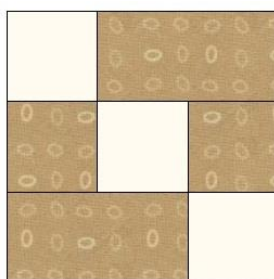
Sew the two white 1.5"x7" pieces to a colorful 1.5"x7" piece. Subcut into 4 1.5" pieces like this diagram:



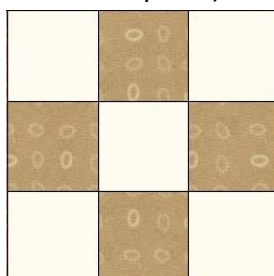
Now: to make this 9 patch block:



You need 4 9 patch blocks that look like this: (3.5"x3.5") **9 Patch A:**

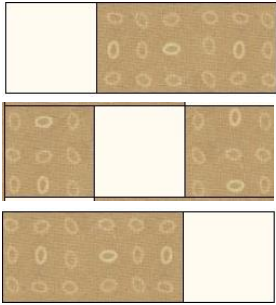


And one block that looks like this: (3.5"x3.5" at this point) **9 Patch B:**



To make 9 Patch A:

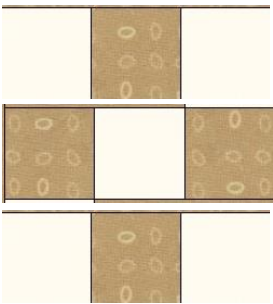
Using your previously cut off segments (as above in red and white drawings), combine the following strips:



Sew together, nesting seams were applicable. For each 9 patch border block, make 4 = Total, make 8 of this colorway since we are making 2 9 patch border blocks in this colorway.

To make 9 Patch B:

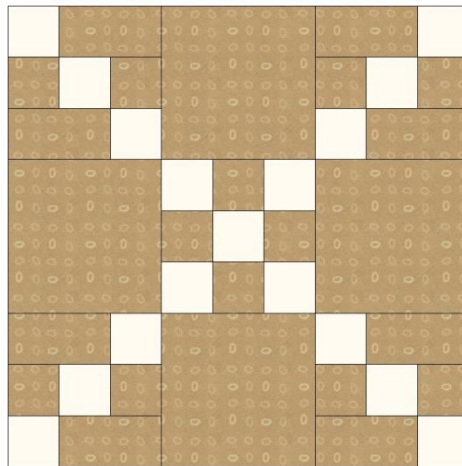
Using your previously cut off segments (as above in red and white drawings), combine the following strips:



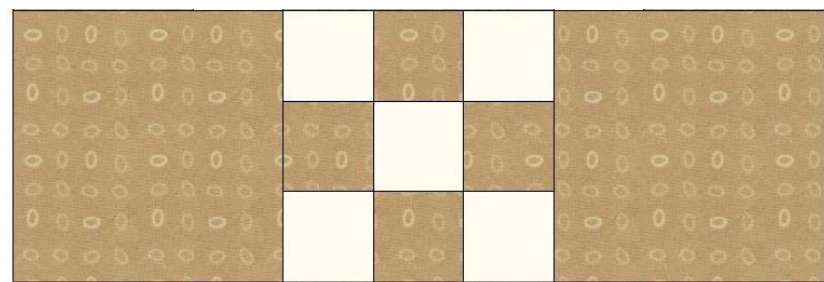
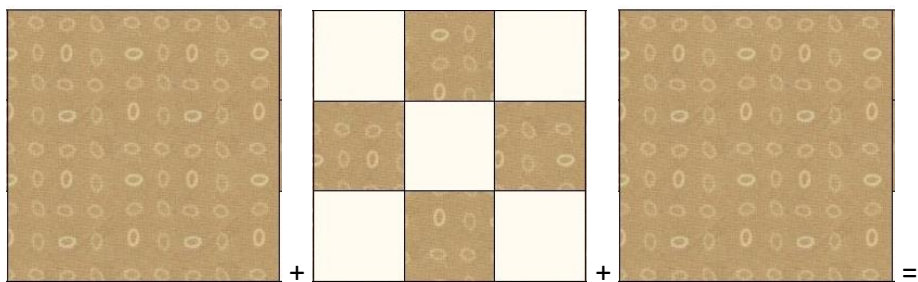
Sew together, nesting seams. For each block, make 1 = Total, make 2 of this colorway.

Now that you have all of the finished pieces, put together the 9 patch border block, using your previously cut 3.5"x3.5" squares and these very small, but cute, little 9 patches.

Remember... this is your block! (it should finish at 9.5"x9.5")



First, make the center strip:



Press seams towards the unpieced squares.

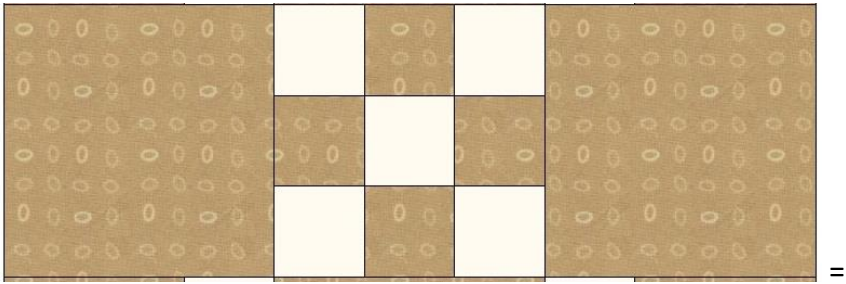
Then, make the top and bottom strips: Using the 9 patch As with a plain square, lay them out as follows:



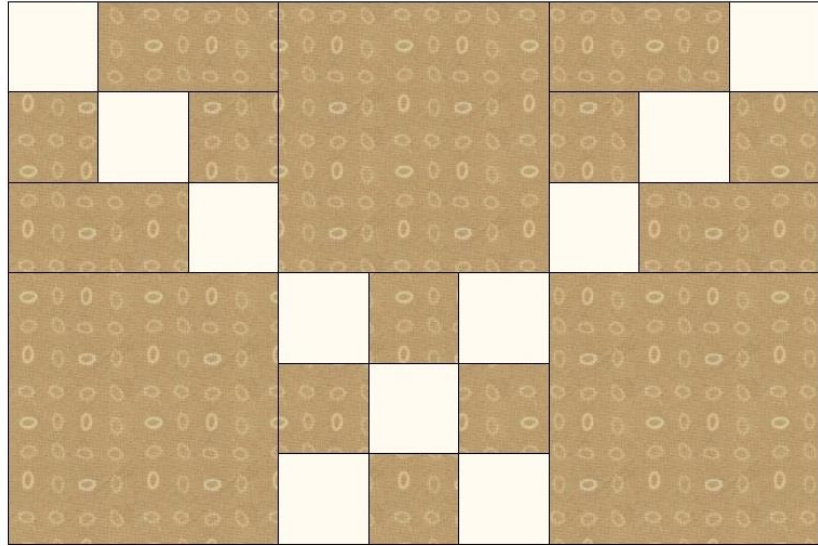
Press seams towards unpieced squares.

Now, combine all strips like this:



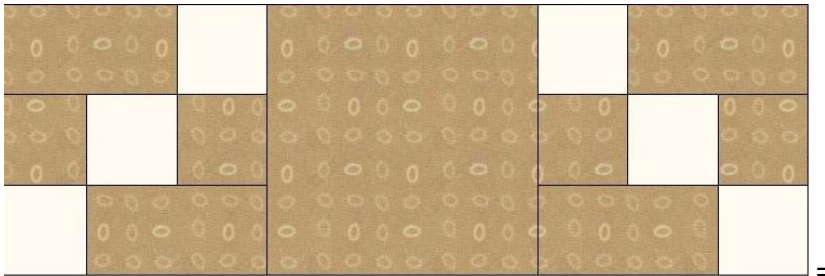


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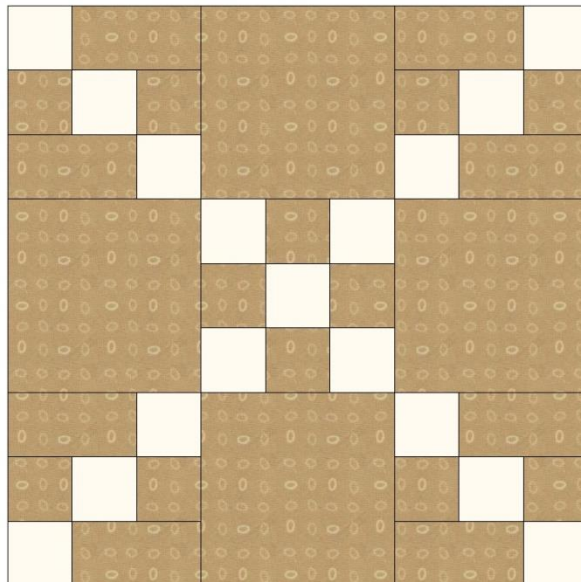


Then, add the last strip and it will be a finished block,

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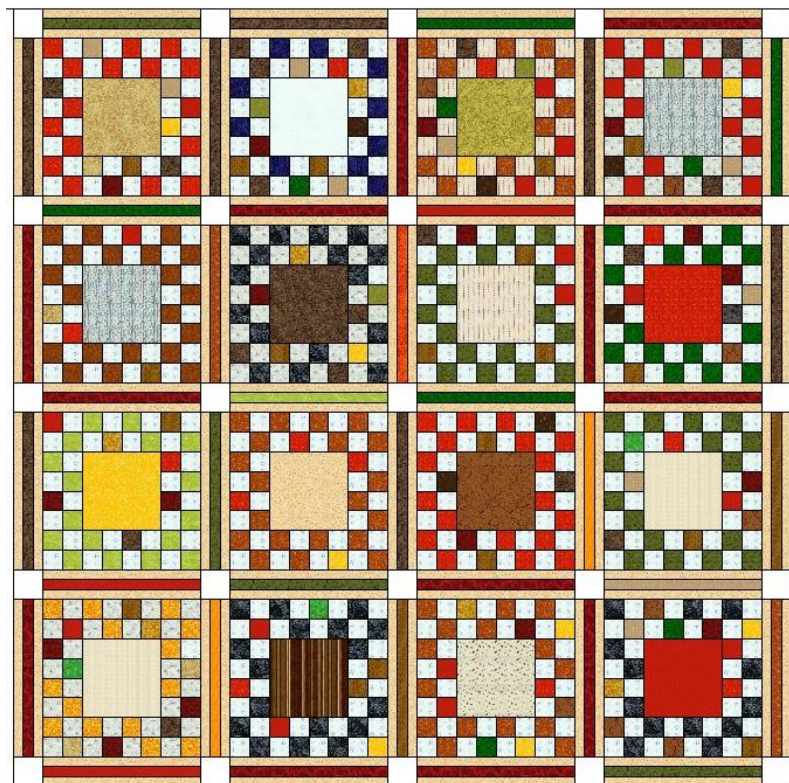


Once I made 1 set of these blocks and “got it”, I made several groups at one time.

Make a total of 40 blocks for this size of quilt.

How to make this quilt:

1. After making all the blocks as directed above, **follow this diagram** to lay out the blocks in rows with sashing strips, arranging colors as pleases you, placing cornerstones, sashing strips, and checkerboard pocket blocks in the correct places. Sew rows together and then sashing rows, until it is all sewn together as in diagram.



2. Add Borders:

A. Add white border:

Cut 2 – 1.5"x79.5" white pieces. Sew to sides.

Cut 2 – 1.5"x81.5" white strips. Sew to top and bottom. Press well.

B. Add 9 patch blocks border.

First, lay out in an arrangement that pleases you color wise. Here's mine as I was laying it out on the floor: I put mine in a dark/light/dark/light formation, using darks in the corners.



When arranged as they please you, sew the individual blocks together, carefully keeping the right order as you designated. I sewed my 9 patches on the right together first, then on the left, then I sewed the top and bottom together into strips. Nest your seams as best as you can. (Nesting worked fine for me except for the last four corner blocks.) Attach the strips of 9 patches as you would any border to your center.

3. **Press** well.
4. **Sandwich**, using whatever type of batting and backing you prefer.
5. **Quilt** as desired. I did a lot of straight line quilting on it.



6. **Bind**, using whatever method you wish.

Congratulations! Your quilt is finished!

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*I have a nice 8.5 ruler that helps me cut things like the pockets.

First, here's the pocket (I'd make sure it was ironed first if I were actually going to cut it, but this is just for demonstration purposes-the quilt top is already finished:



Secondly, I put the ruler over the pocket and center it as best as I can. Cut.

