## 9-Patches and Snowballs

By Teresa Turrentine Ess

## Fabric Requirements

|  | Lap/Baby Size |
| :--- | :--- |
| Block Layout | 4 by 6 |
| Total Blocks | 12 of each |
| Finished Size | $45^{\prime \prime} \times 63^{\prime \prime}$ |

Fabric (and placement)

| Focus Fabric (snowball centers) | $7 / 8$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Light (9 patches) | $5 / 8$ |
| Medium (9 patches) | $1 / 2$ |
| Contrast (snowball corners) | $5 / 8$ |
| Borders* (Cut borders for Baby or Lap 4-1/2" wide. <br> Cut borders for Full, Queen and King 6-1/2" wide) | $3 / 4$ |
| Binding | $5 / 8$ |

* Amount for pieced border. If not pieced, measure long edge of quilt to determine yardage required.



## Supplies

In addition to your usual sewing supplies, the following tools are recommended:

- 12-1/2" square ruler
- 24-1/2" long ruler
- Pencil or fine erasable fabric marker


## Nice to have

- 9-1/2" square ruler
- Add-a-Quarter ruler ( $6^{\prime \prime}$ or 12 ")
- Stripology Ruler


## Instructions

The following instructions are for lap size and will make 12 of each block. For larger quilts repeat the process below for additional blocks. See table on page 1 for total blocks needed for each size.

## Nine Patch

1. Cut five $3-1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ strips of light fabric.
2. Cut four 3-1/2" strips of medium fabric.
3. Lay out strips in three sets as shown below. Two sets should have a medium in between two lights. One set should have a light between two mediums.

4. Sew the strips together in sets. Sew all strips in a set in the same direction, lining up the raw edge at the top.
5. Press all sets to the medium fabric.
6. Trim off selvages and straighten up ends. Subcut sets into $3-1 / 2 \times 9-1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ sections.
7. Lay out in 9-patch layout and sew sections together into blocks, nesting seams. Press to center row. Make 12 blocks.


## Snowballs

1. Fold focus fabric in half lengthwise so the fold lines up with the selvage. Using your 12$1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ square ruler, cut focus fabric into three 9-1/2" strips. Subcut into twelve 9-1/2 by 9-1/2" squares.
2. Cut contrast fabric into five $3-1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ strips. Subcut into 48 squares $3-1 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 3-1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$.
$\qquad$
3. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the contrast squares.
4. Sew a contrast square to the corner of each $9-1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ square, stitching just inside the drawn line making room for the fabric fold.
5. Trim the corners $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ from the seam. Press to the outside.


## Assembly

1. Follow the diagram on page 1 to layout the snowballs and nine patches in an alternating pattern. The diagram shows a full size.
2. Sew together in rows and press toward the snowballs.
3. Sew rows together, making sure the snowballs and 9-patches alternate.

## Borders

For one border: $\quad$ Cut five border strips $4-1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ by WOF.

For two borders: $\quad$ First border - Cut five strips 2-1/2 by WOF and complete steps 1 to 5 . Second border - Cut six strips 4-1/2 by WOF. Repeat steps 1 to 5 for second border.

1. Sew all border strips together end to end. Press seams to once side.
2. Measure long edge of quilt and cut side border strips from the length of the fabric.
3. Pin on side borders starting at the outside, then center to make sure it fits correctly. Sew and press out toward the border.
4. Measure the short edge of the quilt, including the added side borders. Cut borders from the length of the fabric.
5. Pin on side borders starting at the outside, then center to make sure it fits correctly. Sew on the top and bottom borders and press to one side.

Samples


One border. Border is the same fabric as the contrast fabric.


Two borders. First border is the same fabric as the contrast fabric.


Fabrics requirements for larger sizes.

|  | Lap/Baby | Full | Queen | King |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Block Layout | 4 by 6 | 8 by 9 | $9 \times 10$ | $10 \times 10$ |
| Total Blocks | 12 of each | 36 of each | 45 of each | 50 of each |
| Finished Size | $45^{\prime \prime} \times 63^{\prime \prime}$ | $81^{\prime \prime} \times 90^{\prime \prime}$ | $90^{\prime} \times 99^{\prime \prime}$ | $99^{\prime \prime} \times 99^{\prime \prime}$ |

Fabric (and placement)

| Focus Fabric (snowball centers) | $7 / 8$ | $2-1 / 2$ | $3-1 / 4$ | $3-1 / 2$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Light (9 patches) | $5 / 8$ | $1-3 / 4$ | $2-1 / 8$ | $2-1 / 4$ |
| Medium (9 patches) | $1 / 2$ | $1-3 / 8$ | $1-3 / 4$ | $1-7 / 8$ |
| Contrast (snowball corners) | $5 / 8$ | $1-3 / 8$ | $1-3 / 4$ | $1-7 / 8$ |
| Borders* (Cut borders for Baby or <br> Lap 4-1/2" wide. Cut borders for Full, <br> Queen and King 6-1/2" wide) | $3 / 4$ | $1-1 / 2$ | $1-3 / 4$ | 2 |
| Optional second border | 1 |  | $2 / 4$ | $7 / 8$ |
| Binding | $5 / 8$ | $2 / 3$ | $3 / 4$ |  |

* Amount for pieced border. If not pieced, measure long edge of quilt to determine yardage required.

