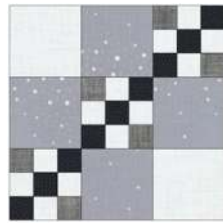
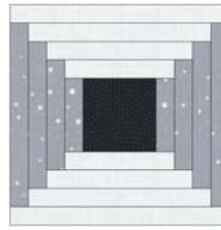


Skill Builder Block Of The Month

Month 3



9-Patch Chain



Courthouse Steps

Skill 6: 9-Patch Blocks

Nine Patch blocks are a fun and easy way to add interest to a quilt and by putting 9-patch blocks within a larger 9-patch block you can create fun movement.

Block 6: 9-Patch Chain Blocks:

For this block we'll make the smaller blocks using strip piecing and then assemble them into the larger 9-patch block. You can also just create all the 9-patch blocks (large and small) by sewing together individual pieces (a great way to use up scraps).



9-patch blocks: Create 12 of these for the 4 larger 9-patch blocks.

Block size: 4 ½" (4" finished)

While you can make this block by cutting 9 squares and sewing them together, we'll use a strip set approach for efficiency.

Strip set A – this will be used for the top and bottom rows in the block.

Cut 2 strips of each of the three fabrics 25" long 1 ⅞" wide.

Alternate: if using Fat Quarters, cut 3 strips of each fabric 18" long, 1 ⅞" wide

Sew together your strip sets remembering to alternate the direction of your stitching left to right/right to left to prevent your strip set curving.

Pressing Direction – press seams away from the center fabric to make nesting easier.

Your strip set should be 4 ½" wide and 25" or 18" long. Do a clean up cut on one end to make sure you have a straight edge before sub cuts (the strip set is a bit longer than needed)



Sub Cut your strip sets into 1 ⅞" pieces – you will need 24 pieces.



Skill Builder Block Of The Month

Strip set B – this will be used for the middle row in the block.

Cut 2 strips of the fabric used for the top & bottom (same as the middle fabric for Strip set A) 24" long 1 7/8" wide.

Cut 1 strip of the fabric used for the middle (same as the top fabric for Strip set A) 24" long 1 7/8" wide.

Alternate: if using Fat Quarters, cut 4 strips of the top/bottom fabric and 2 of the middle fabric 18" long, 1 7/8" wide

Sew together your strip sets remembering to alternate the direction of your stitching left to right/right to left to prevent your strip set curving.

Pressing Direction – press seams toward the center fabric to make nesting easier.

Your strip set should be 4 1/2" wide



Sub Cut your strip sets into 1 7/8" pieces – you will need 12 pieces.

Sew the sub cut pieces together to make the block – sew the top to middle, press (direction of pressing is your choice) making sure to nest the prior seams together. Then sew the bottom sub cut piece to complete the block.

You should have 12 blocks when done each measuring 4 1/2".



9-Patch Chain Blocks – you will be making 4 of these larger blocks

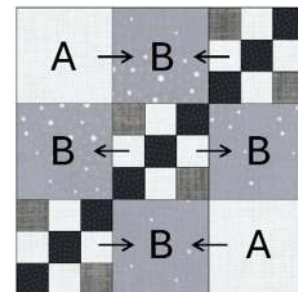
Block size: 12 1/2" (12" finished)

You will use the 12 blocks created above plus the following two fabrics.

Fabric A – cut 8 squares measuring 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" each.

Fabric B – cut 16 cut 8 squares measuring 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" each.

Assemble in rows as shown alternating direction of pressing seams, as shown by arrows, so each row can nest (like the smaller 9-patch blocks).

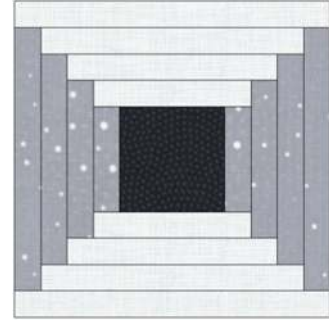


Skill Builder Block Of The Month

Block 7: Courthouse Steps:

The Courthouse Steps block is a traditional block that can be traced back to as early as the 1700's. It can be done as a foundation pieced block (paper or muslin foundations) but we'll be practicing our seam allowance skills with traditional tiny piecing (we'll be dealing with 1" wide strips that finish at ½" – see Alternative below for a version with bigger pieces).

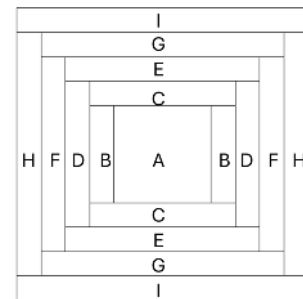
The quilt layout calls for two of these blocks, but you can make more if you want to swap out any other 6" x 6" block for more Courthouse Steps blocks.



Block size: 6 ½" (6" finished)

Fabric Cuts: (number to cut in [])

A:	2 ½" x 2 ½" [1]	F:	4 ½" x 1" [2]
B:	2 ½" x 1" [2]	G:	5 ½" x 1" [2]
C:	3 ½" x 1" [2]	H:	5 ½" x 1" [2]
D:	3 ½" x 1" [2]	I:	6 ½" x 1" [2]
E:	4 ½" x 1" [2]		



Sew together in the following order pressing toward the center:

A – B; B – AB

BAB – C; C – BABC

CBABC – D; D – CBABCD

Continue adding in alphabetical order until complete.

Alternate Strip Size:

Fabric Cuts: (number to cut in [])

A:	2" x 2" [1]	E:	5" x 1 ¼" [2]
B:	2 ½" x 1 ¼" [2]	F:	5" x 1 ¼" [2]
C:	3 ½" x 1 ¼" [2]	G:	6" x 1 ¼" [2]
D:	3 ½" x 1 ¼" [2]		

Sew together in the following order pressing toward the center:

A – B; B – AB

BAB – C; C – BABC

Continue adding in alphabetical order until complete.

