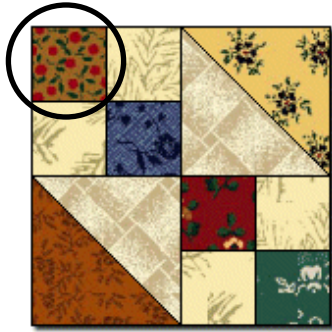


Resizing Blocks & Quilts

Number 1 rule to remember when resizing a block or a quilt: Always work with **finished** sizes when calculating new sizes. Seam allowances are added after the finished sizes have been calculated.

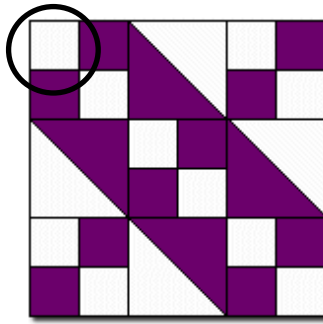
- There are three easy ways to resize a quilt: Add/delete borders, change the number of blocks, or resize the blocks.
 - **Add/delete borders.** Whether sizing up or down, changing the number and width of borders is one of the easiest ways to alter a quilt's size. A border can be plain or pieced in one or more sections to reach the desired finished size. A common combination is a narrow inner border surrounded by a wider outer border; for example, 1-inch inner border and 5-inch outer border, resulting in 12 additional inches in each direction.
 - **Change the number of blocks.** Although this is an easy way to change the size of a quilt, the disadvantage of this method is that it only works in increments of the block's size. If a quilt is made up of 12-inch blocks, the width/length can only be changed in 12-inch increments.
 - **Resize the blocks.** Changing the size of the block can give the maker more flexibility by reducing the amount of alteration in each block.
 - **Combining all of the methods described above.** An example of this approach is to enlarge a quilt by reducing the size of each block but making more blocks, and then add an extra border. The possibilities for combining these three methods are endless.
- When **resizing a block**, it's helpful to determine if it is designed on a grid system. The most common grids used for traditional quilt blocks are four-patch, nine-patch, 16-patch, and 25-patch.
 - Locate the smallest unit in the block and determine its relationship to the other pieces (other pieces can be twice or three times as large or long as the smallest one).
 - Starting with the smallest piece, assign a new size and work outward to the larger pieces and their new sizes.
 - This method yields a new block that looks exactly like the original one except for its size.
- Sometimes a new block size doesn't lend itself to the original design. Example: An original nine-patch block is 6 inches square, which calls for 2-inch units. However, I might want my finished block to be 10 inches square, which is a size not easily divided by 3.
 - I could compromise and make my new block 9-3/4 inches, which translates to 3-1/4 inches for the individual units.
 - Or, I could make the center square 3-1/2 inches and the corner squares 3-1/4 inches, resulting in a total of 10 inches across. The center blocks on the outer edges would be 3-1/2 inches X 3-1/4 inches. Although not all of the units inside the block are the same size, the viewer's eye will still see the nine-patch design.
- Applique blocks and blocks with curved piecing are more complex to resize. The easiest method is to make a full-size drawing of the block and use an office copier or scanner to change the size. A copier might have limitations on the percentage of change in the size, while a scanned digital file must be manipulated in an appropriate software program. However, both methods should produce a useable version of the block in a new size.

Finding the smallest unit in a pieced block:



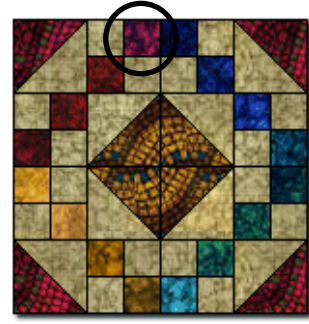
Buckeye Beauty

Four-patch



Jacob's Ladder

Nine-patch



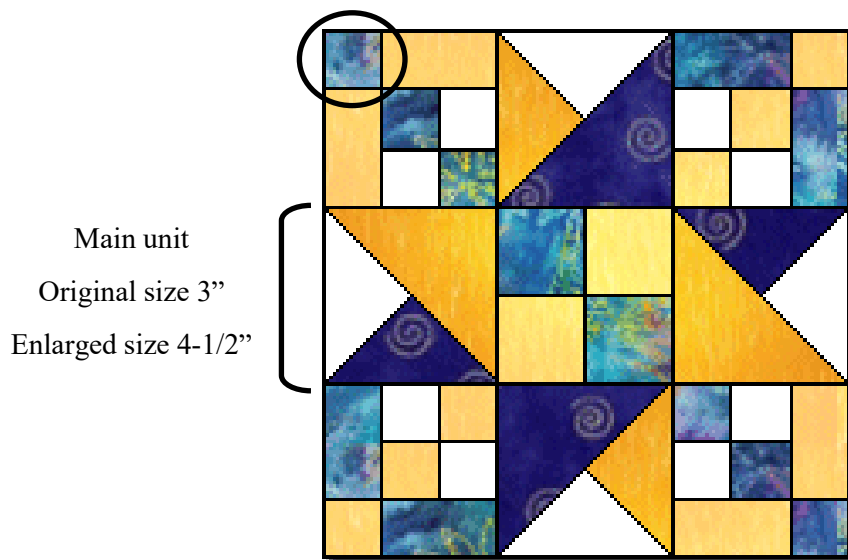
Jewel Box

16-patch

Resizing a sample block:

Checkerblock Star, original finished size 9"

- Nine-patch construction with nine-patch and four-patch inside the main units
- Main units: 3" square ($9''$ divided by $3 = 3''$)
- Smallest square: 1" square ($3''$ divided by $3 = 1''$)
- Square inside the center four-patch: $1\frac{1}{2}''$ square ($3''$ divided by $2 = 1\frac{1}{2}''$)



Enlarging the Block:

- I want to make this block larger, so I start with the smallest unit (circled in the drawing above). It's 1" square in the original size; I choose to make it $1\frac{1}{2}''$ in the new, larger size.
- Units in the larger nine-patch design will be $4\frac{1}{2}''$ ($1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3 = 4\frac{1}{2}''$).
- Smallest unit in the center four-patch will be $2\frac{1}{4}''$ ($4\frac{1}{2}''$ divided by $2 = 2\frac{1}{4}''$).
- New block size is $13\frac{1}{2}''$ ($4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3 = 13\frac{1}{2}''$).

Enlarging Three-Yard Quilts

Quilt designs from the “Three-Yard Quilts” books are in the size range of 50” X 64”, a size that isn’t quite big enough for clients of Ashland Area Cancer Association (ACCA). Some of the designs don’t work well for our purposes, but many of them do. Here are four designs that do enlarge well:

- **Porch Rails**

- * Original block size: $7\frac{1}{2}$ ” square
- * New block size: 9” square
- * Same number of blocks: 35 (5 X 7)
- * Original borders: $2\frac{1}{2}$ ” + $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” = 4”
- * New borders: 3 ” + $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” = $4\frac{1}{2}$ ”

- **Brick Street**

- * Original block size: 10” square
- * New block size: 9”
- * Original number of blocks: 20 (4 X 5)
- * New number of blocks: 35 (5 X 7)
- * Original borders: 1 ” + $2\frac{1}{2}$ ” + 1 ” = $4\frac{1}{2}$ ”
- * New borders: 1 ” + 4 ” = 5”

- **Picture Perfect**

- * Original block size: $7\frac{1}{2}$ ” X 11”
- * New block size: $7\frac{1}{2}$ ” X $11\frac{1}{2}$ ”
- * Original number of blocks: 25 (5 X 5)
- * New number of blocks: 30 (6 X 5)
- * Original borders: 1 ” + $2\frac{1}{2}$ ” = $3\frac{1}{2}$ ”
- * New borders: 1 ” + $4\frac{1}{2}$ ” = $5\frac{1}{2}$ ”

- **Suite Times**

- * Original block size: 13” square
- * New block size: 11” square
- * Original number of blocks: 12 (3 X 4)
- * New number of blocks: 20 (4 X 5)
- * Original borders: $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” + 2 ” + $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” = 5”
- * New borders: 1 ” + 2 ” + 3 ” = 6”