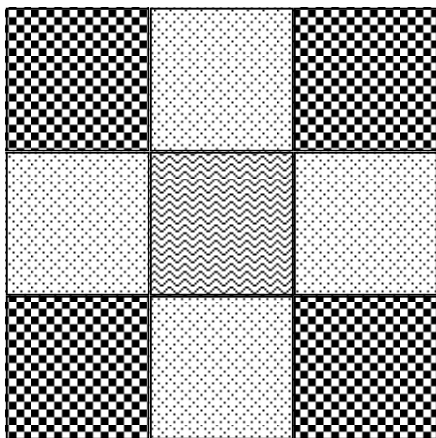


Disappearing Nine-Patch

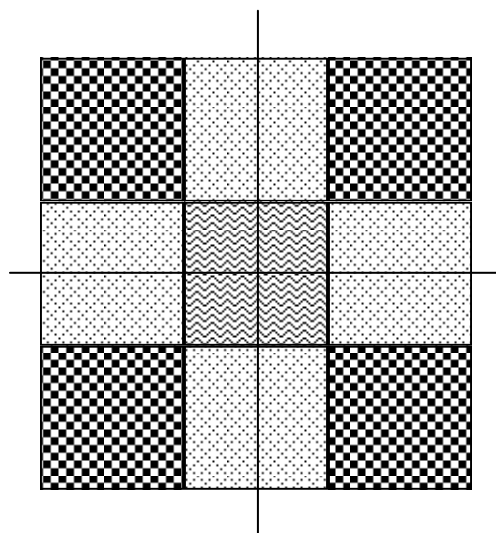
Old Uniontown Quilt Guild

The technique of Disappearing Nine-Patch is very simple.

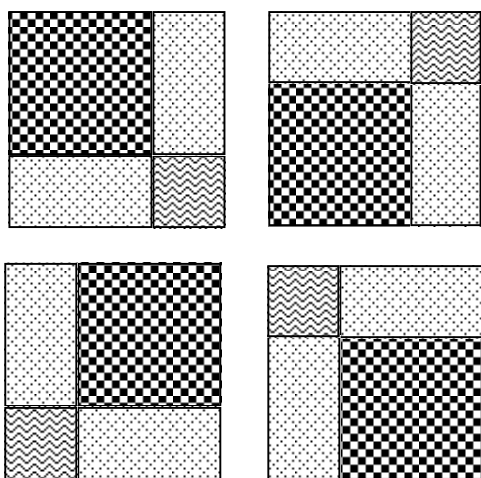
1. Make a nine-patch block.



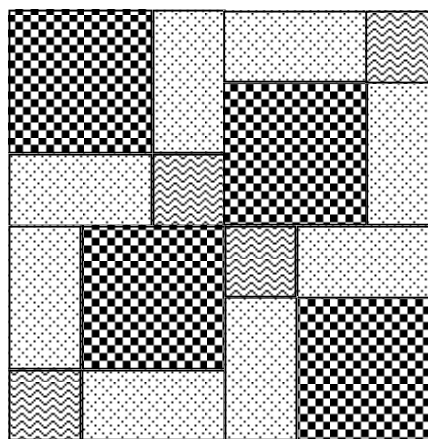
2. Cut the block into quarters.



3. Turn two diagonally opposite quarters so that the outside corners are in the center.

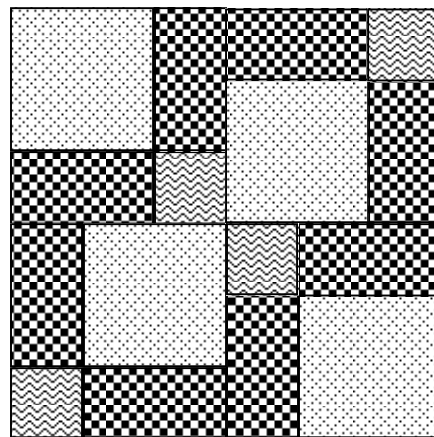
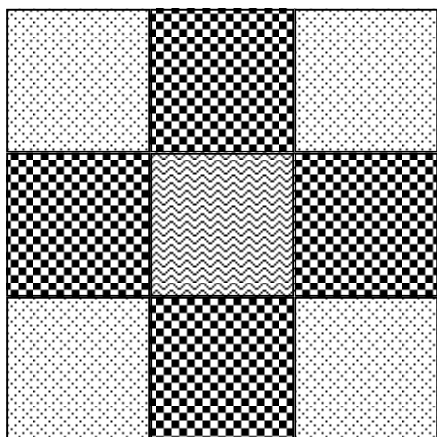


4. Sew the quarters back together to make the block whole again.

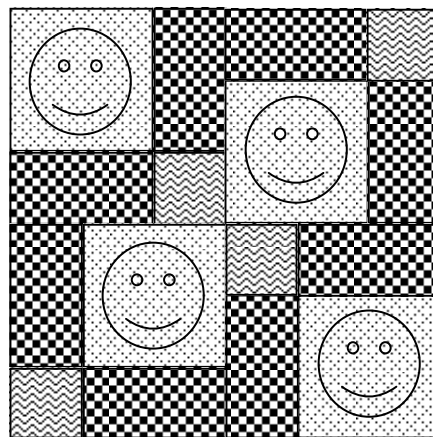
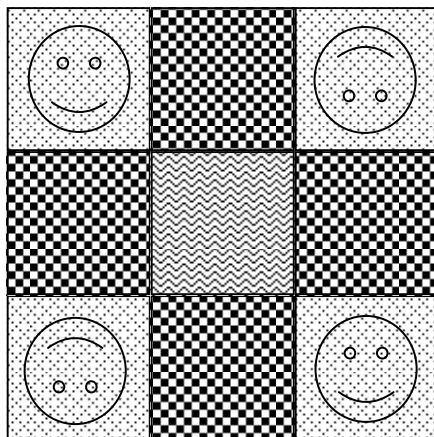


The look of the block can be changed by the placement of fabrics. In the block above, the corner squares of the nine-patch are darker than the four “middle” squares. Also, the center square is a different fabric from the other two. This is the most common placement of fabrics in the Disappearing Nine-Patch.

Another look can be obtained by switching the light and dark combination, using light fabric for the large squares, and dark fabric for the rectangular pieces.



It's also possible to use small panel prints or fussy cut motifs from a printed fabric. Note that the motifs in the corners that will be turned are upside down in the nine-patch so they will be right side up in the final block (if direction matters—this is a personal choice of the quilter).



Some other things to keep in mind when planning a Disappearing Nine-Patch quilt:

- Remember that the center squares of the nine-patch will lose seam allowance when they are cut and re-sewed. Although you can make the block smaller, a good minimum size for the nine-patch starter block is 12" finished size. This makes the small squares 1-3/4" finished size.
- The finished block will be approximately 1/2" smaller (finished size) than the original nine-patch. Additional size may be lost if you trim the blocks later to make them all the same size.
- Some people prefer to trim the blocks to the same size at the original nine-patch stage. Others prefer to trim when the blocks are all finished. This is your choice, but remember that trimming at the end might make the small squares noticeably different from each other.
- The block can be made scrappy, but so far my experience has been that it looks better if all the blocks in a quilt are made with the same fabrics and placement.