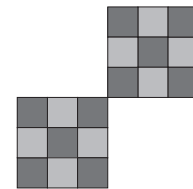


Nine Patch Square Up[®]



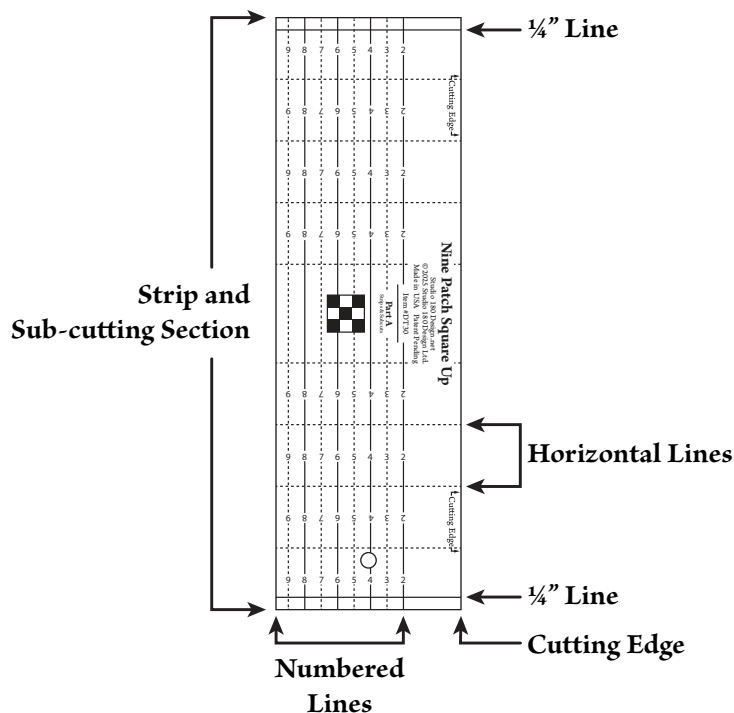
Basic Instructions

Tool Basics

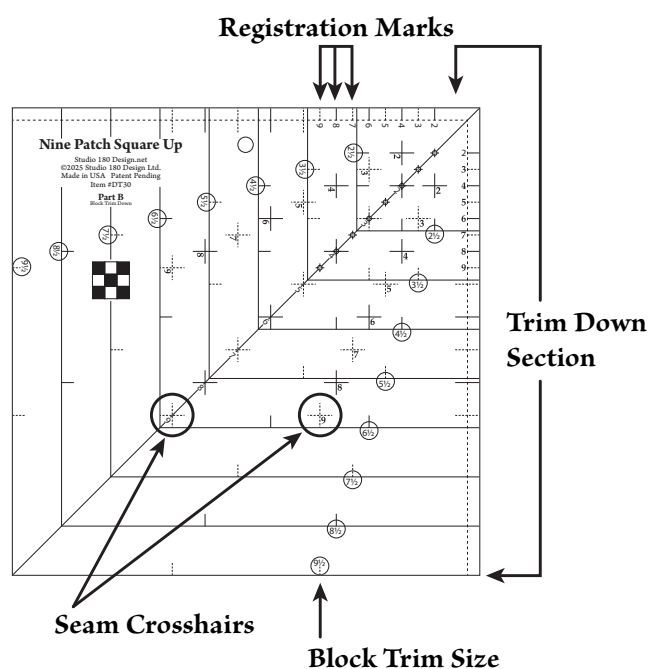
The **Nine Patch Square Up[™]** tool is the ultimate solution to creating perfect nine patches in 8 different sizes. Like all Studio 180 Design tools and processes, our instructions build blocks slightly oversized and then quickly and easily trim them to a perfect size. The **Nine Patch Square Up[™]** tool creates blocks in previously unattainable whole inch finished sizes from 2" through 9". Perfectly engineered lines make aligning the tool with the stitched seams a snap, allowing for easy, accurate trimming no matter your skill level. You will be amazed at the results!

The **Nine Patch Square Up[™]** tool has two different parts.

Part A



Part B



Part A – Strips & Sub-cuts

The long, narrow tool is designed for cutting high precision strips. In many cases, the cut strips involve $\frac{1}{8}$ " or $\frac{3}{8}$ " increments, which are impossible to cut accurately with a traditional ruler. It is specific to the making of Nine Patch blocks and should not be used to measure or cut strips for other applications. The numbered lines correspond to the finished size of the block. The even sizes are indicated by a solid line and the odd sizes by a dashed line. There are horizontal lines to help with alignment when sub-cutting strip sets.

Part B – Trim Down

The square tool is used to trim the oversized stitched and pressed blocks. It contains numerous crosshairs, registration marks, and numbers to make alignment with sewn seams quick, easy, and accurate. The seam crosshair and registration marks for the even sizes are solid lines, and the odd sizes are dashed lines.

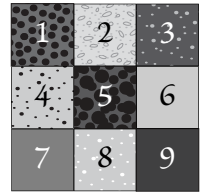
Strip piecing is used to construct the Nine Patches. For our process, you will cut two types of strips—oversized strips and precision strips.

The oversized strips will be cut using any regular ruler. They have extra width built in that will allow for trimming completed blocks. These strip sizes are commonly used and easily found on any traditional ruler.

The precision strips will be cut using Part A (the long, narrow tool).

Planning the Nine Patch

Step 1 - Determine the fabric and color placement. Use the block diagram to visually place the fabrics. Label each fabric according to the position number listed in each square. Cut one strip for each number. There are often repeating colors, but not always.



Fabric Placement

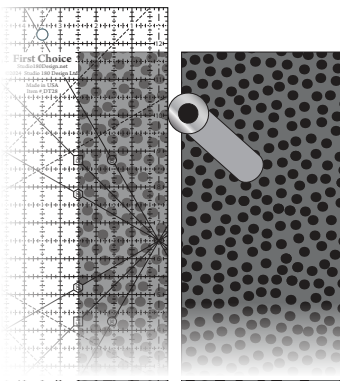
Step 2 - Choose finished block size. Refer to the column in the chart below for strip sizes and Part A lines.

Nine Patch Finished Size	2"	3"	4"	5"	6"	7"	8"	9"
Nine Patch Trim Size	2½"	3½"	4½"	5½"	6½"	7½"	8½"	9½"
Cut Size of Oversized Strips (Positions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, & 9)	1⅜" (1½")	1¾"	2"	2½"	2¾"	3"	3½"	3¾"
Part A Line for Precision Strips (Positions 2, 5, & 8)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

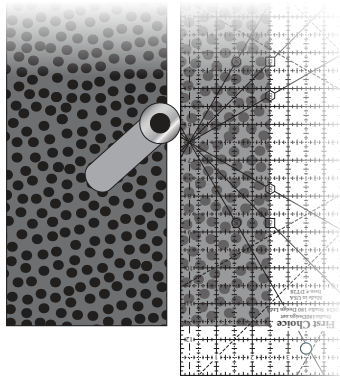
Construct Nine Patches

Step 3 - Cut the oversized strips first. Use a regular ruler to cut the strips for fabrics in positions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 to the size listed in the chart. Example: for a 5" finished block, cut strips 2½". Cut one strip for each position.

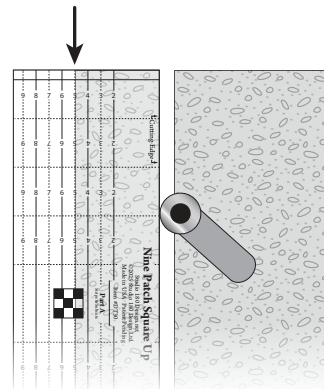
Step 4 - Cut the precision strips. Use Part A to cut the strips for the fabrics in positions 2, 5, and 8. Find the Part A line in the chart needed for your block size. Place that line on a freshly cut edge of the fabric and orient the tool's *Cutting Edge* on the right if right handed or on the left if left handed. Example: for a 5" finished block, cut strips using the 5 line on Part A. Cut one strip for each position.



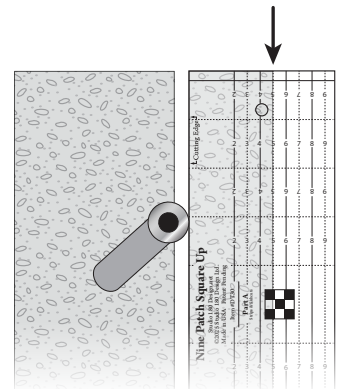
Right Handed



Left Handed



Right Handed



Left Handed

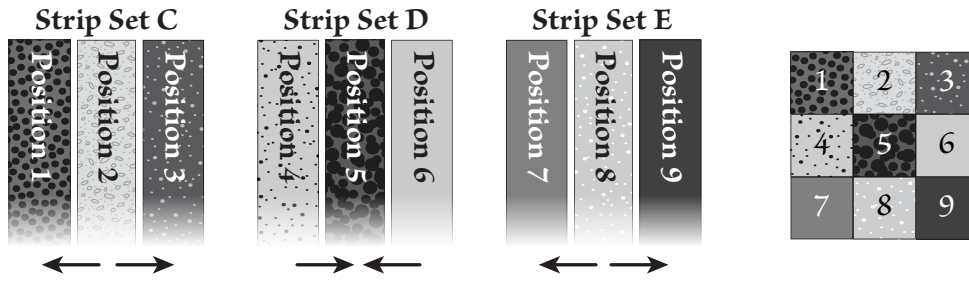
Step 3 - Cut

Step 4 - Cut

Step 5 - Lay out the strips as shown to create three strip sets labeled C, D, and E. Use care to arrange the numbered strips in the correct position for each strip set.

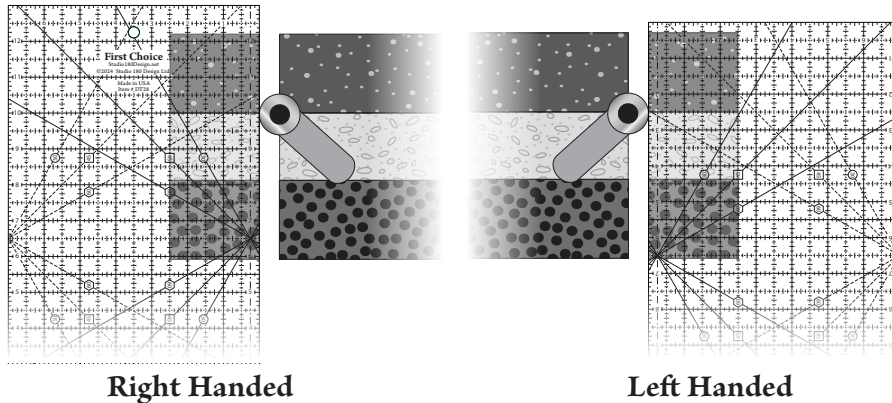
Step 6 - Stitch the strips together using an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Stitch with the center strip on top to increase accuracy.

Step 7 - Press the seams as indicated in the diagram. Be careful when pressing to keep the strip sets straight.



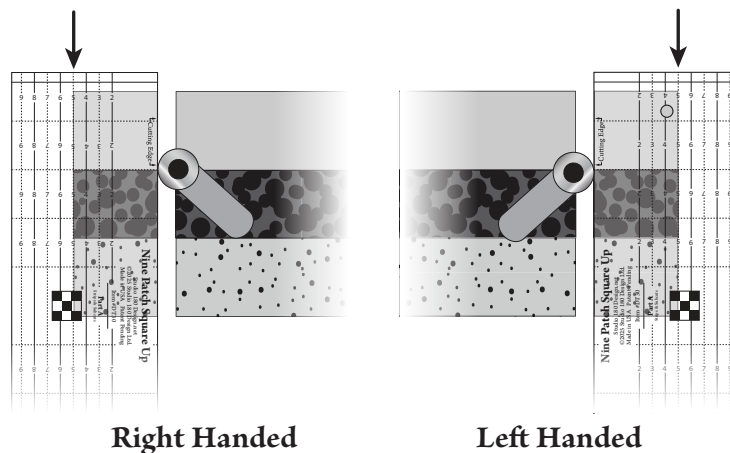
Steps 5-7 - Position, Stitch, and Press

Step 8 - Sub-cut strip sets C and E using a regular ruler. Clean up one short end of the set. Align any horizontal line with a seam line to keep the sub-cuts straight and perpendicular to the seam of the strip set. Make sub-cuts along the strip set the same width as the oversized strip measurement listed in the chart. Example: for the 5" unit, sub-cut the strip set at $2\frac{1}{2}$ " increments. One sub-cut from each strip set is needed per nine patch.



Step 8 - Sub-cut Strip Sets C and E

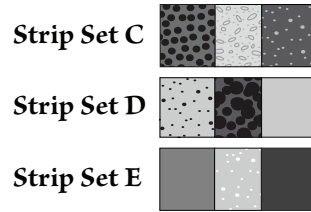
Step 9 - Sub-cut strip set D using Part A of the tool. Find the Part A line in the chart needed for your block size. Clean up one short end of the set. Align the vertical numbered guideline with the clean cut edge and any horizontal line with a seam line. Because these are precision cuts, use extra care to keep the sub-cuts straight and perpendicular to the sewn seams. Example: for the 5" block, sub-cut the strip set using the 5 line on Part A. One sub-cut is needed per nine patch.



Step 9 - Sub-cut Strip Set D

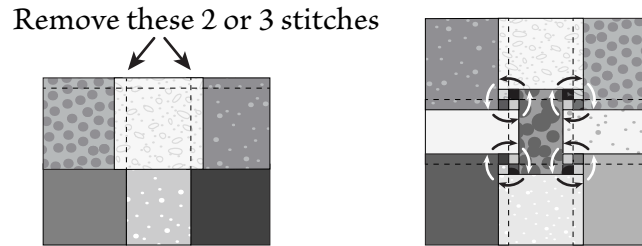
Step 10 - Lay out the sub-cuts from strip sets C, D, and E as shown.

Step 11 - Stitch the sections together. Match the seam intersections and pin if desired. The seams will nest. Stitch with the D section on top and an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam for best precision.



Steps 10 & 11 - Position and Stitch

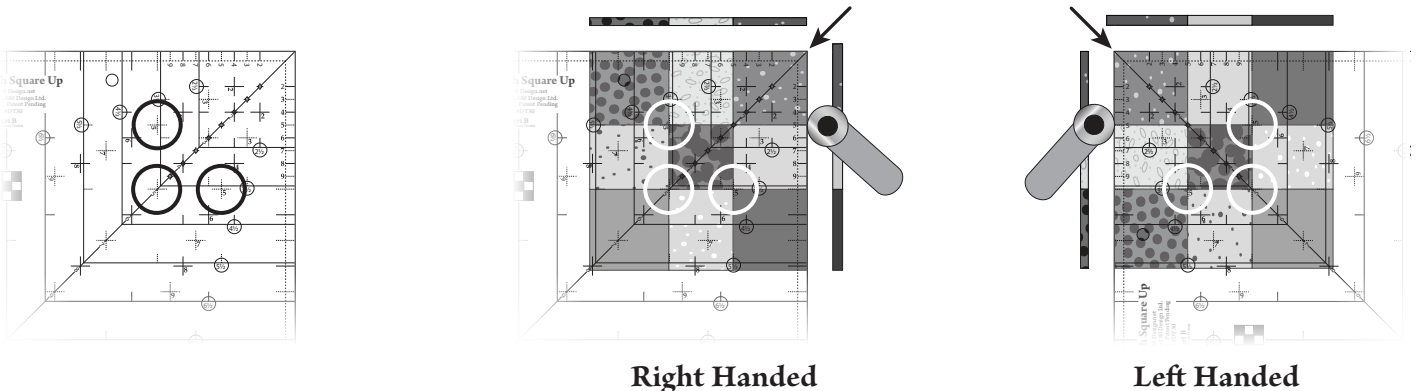
Step 12 - Press the seams either away from the center square, open, or spun. To spin the seams, lay the last sewn seam east to west on the mat, remove the two or three stitches at each seam intersection on both sides that run north to south, and press in the direction indicated.



Step 12 - Press (Spun Seam Shown)

Step 13 - Trim. Use Part B of the tool to trim the blocks to size. Locate the three seam crosshairs marked with the number of the finished size block. If right handed, position the tool with the diagonal line running from the upper right to lower left. If left handed, position the diagonal line running from upper left to lower right.

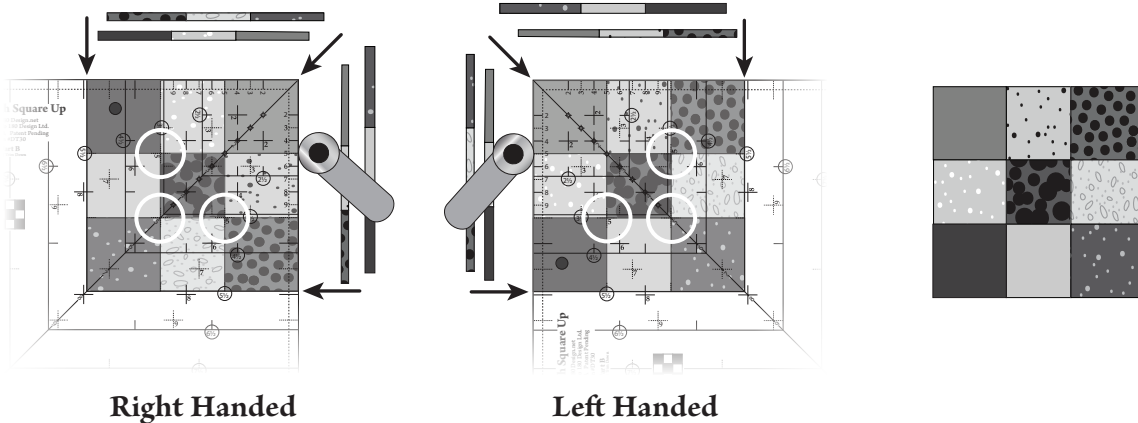
Position the seam crosshairs over the sewn seam intersections around the center square. A smaller circle with crosshairs will align with the final corner of the center square. When the seam crosshairs are positioned, additional registration marks on the edges of the tool and near the final trimdown lines will align with the seams. Trim two sides. If right handed, trim up the right side and across the top. If left handed, trim up the left side and across the top.



Step 13 - Position and Trim

Step 14 - Rotate. Lift the tool and rotate the unit 180° on the cutting mat.

Step 15 - Trim. For the second trim, position the tool on top of the unit again, lining up the crosshairs, registration marks, and also lining up the cleanup lines on the tool with the edges that were previously trimmed. This ensures that you end up with a square that has proper ¼” seams on all sides and is exactly the correct size to use in your quilt project.



Right Handed

Left Handed

Steps 14 & 15 - Rotate and Trim Again

A close-up diagram of a patch being trimmed. The patch is a square with a pattern of circles and dots. A ruler is positioned above the patch, and a hand is shown rotating the patch. The diagram shows the patch being rotated 180 degrees and then trimmed. The registration marks are aligned with the edges of the patch. The numbers 4, 5, and 3 are visible on the ruler and the patch.

Note: While this is what your trim down should look like, if not everything is lining up perfectly when you align your crosshairs and circle over your pieced unit, don't worry! In some cases, it might just be a little rotation of the tool to get everything aligned properly. In others, you may need to "split the difference." Simply center the tool over the area by finding the middle ground of all four marks. Slightly adjusting the width of your seam allowance will often fix this issue going forward.

Now that you know how to make precise Nine Patch blocks, consider mixing up the colors, the value placements, or the sizes to create unique, one-of-a-kind blocks for your next quilt project.

We hope that you have enjoyed using your new **Nine Patch Square Up™** tool. To see more unique tools and patterns by Deb Tucker and the Studio 180 Design team, please visit our website at: **Studio180Design.net**. While you are there, check out our free online video demonstrations.

For more unique tools and patterns by Deb Tucker & Studio 180 Design, visit your local quilt shop or check out our web site: **Studio180Design.net**
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