

NINE PATCH CONUNDRUM

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56in x 72.5in

The conundrum is to describe how the red squares are placed within the nine-patch blocks!

Fabrics (minimum – could buy slightly more)

70cm (26in) for red squares

scraps of grey in differing tones, at least $3\frac{1}{4}$ in square, sufficient to cut 7 squares in a fabric

65cm (25in) of non-patterned fabric for border

40cm (15in) for binding

59in x 76in rectangle for backing which could be pieced

58in x 75in of wadding

Cut

eight $3\frac{1}{4}$ in WOF strips of red squares fabric, then cut the strips into $96 \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ in squares

22 sets x seven squares of grey fabric (squares in a set are of the same fabric)

2 sets x four $3\frac{1}{4}$ in squares of grey fabric

2 sets x three $3\frac{1}{4}$ in squares of grey fabric

seven $3\frac{1}{2}$ in WOF strips of border fabric

seven $2\frac{1}{8}$ in WOF strips of binding fabric

Quilt assembly

1. Lay out the grey squares in piles according to Figure 1. Rearrange the piles if necessary to achieve a pleasing colour distribution.
2. Place two red squares on each of the 4 and 7 grey-square piles.
3. Layout the piles into nine-square blocks as shown in Figure 2. Start with the first column of nine-patches to establish the design.

7	4	3			
7	7	7	7	4	3
7	7	7	7	7	7
7	7	7	7	7	7
7	7	7	7	7	7
7	7	7	7	7	7
7	7	7	7	7	7
7	7	7	7	7	7
7	7	7	7	7	7
	3	4	7	7	7
				3	4

Figure 1. Grey squares, preparatory layout indicating number of grey squares in each pile.

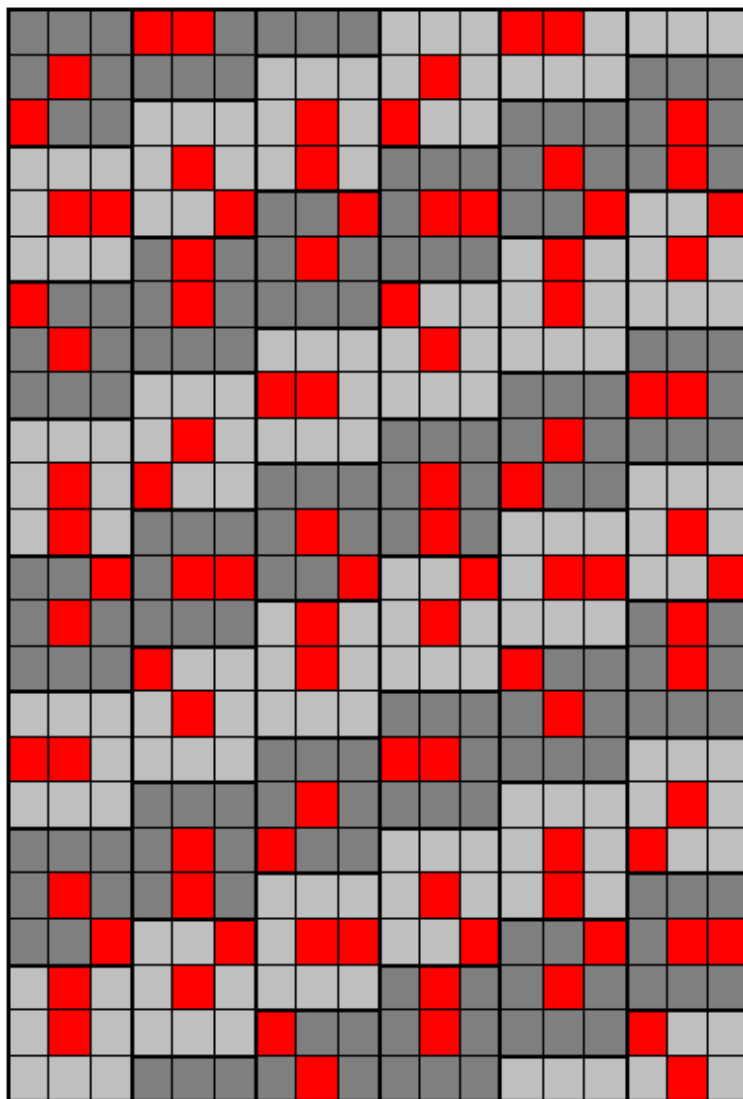


Figure 2. Layout of 9-square blocks.

4. Join the squares in rows.
5. Press the seam allowances in odd rows (1, 3, 5, ...) to the left and in even rows (2, 4, 6, ...) to the right.
6. Join the rows and press seam allowances down.
7. Join two pairs of border strips.
8. Place the joined strips down the centre of the quilt, cut the joined strips to this length and sew them to the sides of the quilt.
9. Join the remaining border strips, place across the middle of the quilt top including the side borders, cut to size and join to the top and bottom of the quilt.
10. Make a quilt sandwich with the backing, wadding and quilt top, and quilt as desired. The sample quilt has cross-hatch quilting in the squares and piano-key quilting along the border (see Figure 3), both done with a walking foot, using masking tape as a guide.

Although the design is based on nine-patch blocks, the best result is achieved by sewing the square patches in rows.



Figure 3. Cross-hatch quilting in the squares, piano-key quilting along the border.

11. Join the binding strips, fold in half lengthwise and attach to the quilt.
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