

Wonky 9 Patch Quilt

Supplies for project:

1. For best results, use 100% cotton fabric, prewashed in warm water and dried in dryer.
2. For a Scrappy look, you will need 10-12 different fabrics; fat quarters work well for this. Suggestions: children's theme prints, flowers, solids, batiks, stars, moons, planets, suns, really any kind of prints, or a combination of these. Try to avoid directional fabrics.
3. $\frac{7}{8}$ yard for borders, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards for backing. The borders can be the same as one of your fabrics, or another coordinating fabric. You can also use the same fabric for the borders and backing, you will need $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards if you choose this method.
4. Batting of your choice: approx. 42" x 50". (a little extra is always good) These instructions will make a completed quilt approx 38" x 46".
5. A 9.5" square cutting ruler makes the cutting so much easier!



Making the Quilt:

1. **Assembly:** First, cut two 9.5" squares out of each fabric. The object is to have each patch on the 9 patch to be a different fabric. If you are using less than 9 fabrics, you may need to cut out a few extras, and there will be some duplicates in the squares.
2. Take 4 squares, mixing up the colors any way you want, and stack them up, aligning the edges. Now this is where you have to use your imagination! Take your 24" ruler and place it approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ from one side, tilt it very slightly, and cut a line through all 4 squares at the same time. Then put the ruler $\frac{2}{3}$ from the same side, and do



the same thing. See the picture on the right. →

3. Now it's time to mix them up! Leave the upper stack alone, take the top fabric from the middle stack and put it at the bottom of the same stack. Next take the top 2 pieces of fabric from the lower stack and put them at the bottom of the same stack. See the picture on the left. ←



4. Take all three stacks to your sewing machine, being careful to not mix them up. Take the top piece off each of the lower 2 stacks (the center stack and the lower stack) and sew them right sides together, and keeping track of the orientation of them. Since you are sewing odd angled edges together, the ends won't match exactly, but that's OK, they will be trimmed and squared up later.
5. Next, keeping the right order of the pieces you've already sewn together, take the top piece off the upper stack, and sew right sides together to the upper edge of the lower 2 pieces already put together, keeping track of the orientation of the pieces. Sew angled edge to angled edge.
6. Press each block, pressing all the seams toward the darker fabric. This is what your squares should look like (in this example I used only 3 fabrics – 4 fabrics will give more variety):



7. Repeat the same thing with 2 (or more) groups of 4 fabrics. Then take 1 square from each color / fabric assortment group. See the picture below:



8. With the seams of each piece in the same direction, take the fabric pieces, align the edges, and cut them as you did in Step 2, with the cuts perpendicular to the previous seams. Then rearrange them as you did in Step 3. They should now look similar to this: see the picture to the right →



9. Sew and press them as you did in Steps 4, 5, and 6. See the pictures below. The squares will have uneven edges because of the odd angles, so next we will be squaring them up.



10. Using the 9.5” square ruler, trim the edges so the squares are between 8 1/4” to 8 1/2” (or as large as you’re able to make them). They do need to be a consistent size, though.
11. Line up the squares and sew them in rows of 4; then sew the rows together. If your blocks are 8”, and you have 5 rows of 4 blocks, it will be about 32” x 40”, which is a good size before adding the borders.
12. **Borders:** Borders are best when cut along the lengthwise grain of the fabric. If needed, you may piece the strips to make one long strip. Once you have all the blocks assembled, press the quilt top, then measure the width across the middle of the quilt. With your chosen border fabric, cut 2 strips 3” wide and the width of the quilt, then pin and sew them on, being careful to not stretch them. Then press, with the seam allowance towards the border. Do the same for the top and bottom borders. Press the entire quilt top again.
13. Measure the width and length across the middle of the quilt, including borders, add 2” to each measurement, and cut a piece of backing fabric. For the batting, add 4” to the width and length measurements.
14. **“Pillowcase” style finishing:** press the whole quilt top, then make a “quilt sandwich” by laying the quilt top face up, then the backing on top of it face down (right sides together), then the batting on top. As you add each layer, smooth it out so it has no wrinkles. Pin all around the edges with the pinheads toward the outside edge. Gently turn it over, and starting in the center

of the lower edge, sew all around the edges of the quilt, using the quilt top as your guide for stitching, and leaving an 8" opening for turning. Make sure to backstitch at the beginning and end of the opening.

15. To secure the batting to the quilt, fold the top fabric towards the quilt, and carefully stitch the backing fabric and the batting together, being careful to not stitch into the quilt top fabric.
16. Carefully trim the corners at a 45° angle, making sure to not clip any threads. After turning it right side out through the 8" opening, push the corners out, and flatten the quilt. Press again, if desired. Use a whipstitch or ladder stitch to close the opening.
17. **Quilting:** be sure to carefully pin the entire quilt before starting the quilting with either straight pins or safety pins. There are several ways to quilt the quilt; use any one of them or combine them. Stitch-in-the-ditch along the seams; machine "tie" with a zigzag stitch and feed dogs down, you can also do decorative stitches like this; tie with embroidery floss; do crazy quilt with decorative stitches; or do meandering stitches.

Variations:

A) For a light weight Receiving Blanket, use your pieced quilt top, and 1 piece of fabric 40" x 48", follow Steps 14 & 16, omitting the batting. You can use either cotton fabric or flannel for the backing.

B) For a very simple light weight Receiving Blanket, use 2 pieces of fabric 38" x 46", follow Steps 14 & 16, omitting the batting. Using flannel for one side and cotton for the other makes it nice.

C) You can also experiment with color arrangements, and create your own variation! With the different kinds of fabric available, there will be an abundance of variety between one quilt and the next!

This is an example using 9 fabrics:

