

Nifty Nine-Patch

Class Lesson Plan

Christine Porter Quilts

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This lesson plan is provided to help you plan a class for *Nifty Nine-Patch*. Use this lesson plan as a guide for presenting the ideas and methods needed to make this quilt. This lesson plan does not have to be followed precisely. Make changes as needed. Also, your ideas and additions are important elements, so be sure to share your thoughts, methods, and advice with your students.

The Quilt Project: Nifty Nine-Patch

Nifty Nine-Patch, a cleverly colored nine-patch design, is a very simple quilt to make. It is a great class for experienced beginners. The quilt comes in three sizes: small wall quilt, large wall quilt and twin-bed quilt.

Sample Brochure Class Description

Create this simple, colorful nine-patch quilt in a quick two-day class. This project-oriented class gives you an opportunity to play with color, work with easy construction techniques, and create optical illusions through your quilting design. It is truly a “nifty” nine-patch! Skill level: experienced beginning.

The Class Schedule

This class has been designed to be taught in a two-day three-hour session. If you think it will work better for you to offer a different number of sessions, feel free to make this change.

Christine’s Basic Sewing Basket of Tools

small scissors, seam ripper, rotary cutter, gridded ruler for rotary-cutting (e.g. 6” x 12” or 3” x 18”), cutting mat, sewing thread, extra-fine pins, sharp sewing machine needles

SESSION ONE — NIFTY NINE-PATCH

Students should bring to class the following items:

Nifty Nine-Patch pattern, *Christine's basic sewing basket of tools*, sewing machine & equipment, fabrics for the blocks (fabrics A, B, C, and D), and the border fabric.

Step 1 Fabric Selection

Discuss fabric selection and fabric placement. Make certain all students have selected fabrics that have enough contrast in value to highlight the strong imagery between the nine-patch foreground and background.

Step 2 Cutting Squares

Demonstrate how to cut the quilt's squares from strips. Have students cut the correct number of fabrics A, B, C, and D for three blocks (five blocks for the twin-bed quilt). Remind students that the small wall quilt is made from 7 ½" finished blocks, while the large wall quilt and twin-bed quilt are made from 10" finished blocks.

Step 3 Sewing the Squares Together

Demonstrate how to sew the nine-patch fabric squares A, B, and C into rows, following the *Assembling the Blocks* instructions (step 1). Discuss pinning, setting seams, and pressing. Have students sew the three rows of squares, pressing seam allowances as noted in the instructions. Then have students sew the rows together and press.

Step 4 Sewing Fabric D Squares to the Nine-Patch Panel

Demonstrate how to draw a diagonal line, corner to corner, on the wrong side of four matching Fabric D squares and place them on each corner of the nine-patch block. Then show how to sew on the marked line, trim away the excess, set the seam, and press the block.

Step 5 Cutting the Outer Block Shapes

Demonstrate how to cut the fabric shapes for pieces 1, 2, 2 reverse, 3, and 3 reverse. Have students cut these shapes for three blocks (five blocks for the twin-bed quilt). (Note: The large wall and twin-bed quilts use the larger pattern pieces; the small wall quilt uses the smaller pattern pieces (left, top).

Step 6 Sewing the Outer Block Units

Demonstrate how to sew the outer block shapes into units. Have students sew the two side units, and then sew them to the nine-patch unit; set the seam, and press the seam allowances. Then have students sew the top and bottom units and sew them to the nine-patch unit, setting the seam and pressing the block, as shown.

Step 7 Work Period

Have students construct as many blocks as they can within the work period.

Step 8 Assembling Rows

Demonstrate how to sew blocks into rows. Discuss pinning and pressing direction of seam allowances. Have students sew at least two blocks together.

Step 9 Constructing the Borders

Each quilt has its own border option. Demonstrate each border option, including cutting and sewing. Make certain each student is clear as to which border option she will be using for her quilt. Also, mention that each quilt has its own border corner unit. Show the different units.

Step 10 Border Practice

Have students cut the shapes for their borders. Then have them make a few border units for their quilt, including at least one corner unit.

Homework

Have students complete their quilt tops and finish their four borders.

SESSION TWO — NIFTY NINE-PATCH

Students should bring to class the following items:

Nifty Nine-Patch pattern, *Christine's basic sewing basket of tools*, sewing machine & equipment, quilt top, borders, fabrics for backing and binding, batting, quilt-marking tools, basting equipment.

Step 1 Sewing Borders to the Quilt Top

Demonstrate how to pin the border units to the quilt top, pinning the two side borders to the quilt top first. After sewing the side borders to their quilt tops, have students pin and sew the top and bottom border units to their tops.

Step 2 The Quilt Design

Discuss the quilting design possibilities for *Nifty Nine-Patch*. Ask each student to play with one or two different designs at home, using tracing paper and the appropriate *Quilt Assembly* diagram for her quilt. Also discuss quilt marking tools, marking techniques, and quilting techniques. Demonstrate techniques. Discuss thread, needles, recommended feet, foot plate, etc.

Step 3 Preparing the Backing Fabric

Have students prepare backing fabric. Give any tips you may wish to share.

Step 4 Basting

Discuss the different tools and methods for basting: spoon basting, safety-pin basting, basting on a frame, etc. You may wish to discuss pros and cons of the various basting methods and tools. Demonstrate your favorite method.

Step 5 Binding

Demonstrate how to make the binding. Show your favorite binding method. Demonstrate how to hand stitch the binding to the back of the quilt.

Step 6 Work Period

Have students work on their quilts.

Homework:

Have students finish their quilts.

Extra Credit

If there is interest, set a date for a Nifty Nine-Patch show & Tell for the following month at the store. This should be an informal gathering where the students bring their quilts to share—finished or not.