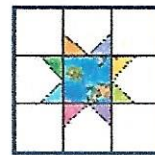




Pattern of the Month - August 2012
by Evelyn George

"Simple 9-Patch Chain Block"

Last month's Pattern of the Month was "Stars for Baby," one of our Quiltathon patterns. That pattern features Star blocks alternating with plain squares. When I made this quilt using a lovely rainbow stripe (see photo, right), I decided to use a simple pieced block between the stars, instead of plain squares, and was pleased with the resulting chain effect. Here's the pattern for that alternate 12" Chain block, which of course could be used in other quilts, too. Notice that this particular Star block, as well as the Chain block, are both based on a grid of 3 equal divisions of the side of the square (usually called a 9-patch). This is easier to see in the drawings than in the photos. →

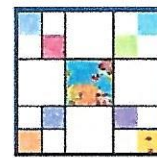


Star for Baby (see July 2012 Pattern of the Month for directions for this block)

Simple 9-Patch Chain Block (12" finished size)

For each block you need:

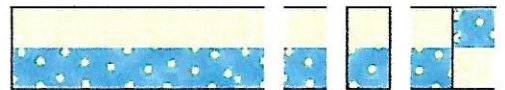
- four 4 ½" squares white (background)
- one 4 ½" square print (center)
- eight 2 ½" squares* white
- eight 2 ½" squares* assorted colors (chain)



Simple 9-Patch Chain Block

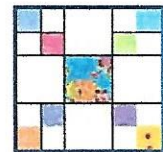
Piece the 2 ½" white and colored squares into four 4-patch squares.

*OR --If making many blocks, you could more easily strip piece the 4-patches. In that case, instead of cutting 2 ½" squares, cut 2 ½" strips the width of fabric, of both white and colors. Sew a white strip to a color strip, press seam toward color strip, and cross-cut into 2 ½" sections. Arrange two sections into a 4-patch and sew together.



4-patch ↑

Arrange four 4-patches, four white 4 ½" squares and a center print square into a 9-patch, making sure a small color square is positioned in each outer corner of block, → to form a diagonal chain in both directions. Sew together into 3 rows. Press seams toward larger white squares, then sew rows together, to make the Simple 9-Patch Chain Block. Make as many as you need for your quilt (there are 4 Chain blocks and 5 Stars in the baby quilt at top of page).



Note about borders: This print was a diagonal stripe, so in order to keep stripes going the same direction on all sides, two borders were cut crosswise and two were cut lengthwise.