



Pattern of the Month - September 2012
by Evelyn George

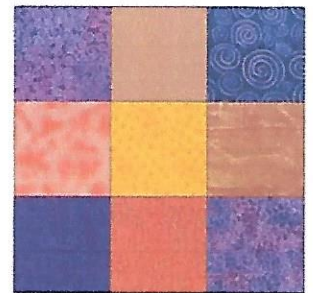
"Disappearing 9-Patches"

Quick and easy, thrifty and fun -that's the description of a scrap quilt made using the disappearing 9-patch technique! Whether you have plenty of scraps, a stack of charm squares, or a set of 9-patch blocks already made, here's a clever way to turn them into a quilt. Simply make 9-patches (all the same size, of course) and cut them into 4 equal quarters. Then rearrange, mix or match, to make a quilt. Not only do the 9-patches disappear, they are turned into new designs!

Here's how:

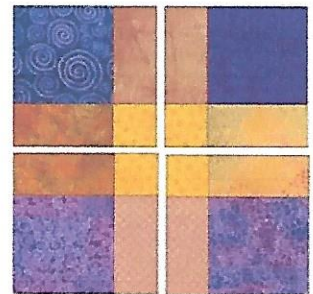
Start with some squares—4" to 6" charm squares, whatever size you happen to have a lot of, or you could choose some favorite colors and cut a bunch of squares. The larger the squares you start with, the faster the quilt grows. Smaller squares may provide more design opportunities.

Make the squares into 9-patch blocks, arranging colors as you like. If you choose a contrasting (bright or dark) square for the center, it will end up as smaller squares later, and make a nice accent. The 4 corner squares will remain whole and the side squares become rectangles, as shown in the two lower illustrations. A scrappy 9-patch might look something like this →



The next step is to measure the 9-patch blocks. Hopefully they are all nearly the same size! If not, square them up to the same size before you continue.

Next, lay the 9-patch blocks one at a time on your cutting mat, centering them so a line on the mat runs exactly through the center of the block, both vertically and horizontally. Double-check to be sure you have your block positioned exactly, then cut in half vertically following the mat line running down through its center. Without moving the halves, cut the block in half horizontally as well. You have made 4 small blocks out of your 9-patch. (And as soon as you move them, the 9-patch has "disappeared"---). Cut all of the 9-patches into 4 equal blocks.



Now the fun begins - play with the blocks you have cut up, rearranging them to make a pattern you like, such as this → and sew them together—

OR, for directions on making a Double Disappearing 9-Patch, please check out the September 2012 entry in the Pattern of the Month section of the TQG website!

