

## **NINE PATCH.**

I did warn you that we would start with a simple block as some of our stitchers are novice quilters. And besides, I love the nine patch for it's humble versatility. Here are three nine patch quilts that have already been sent off to Afghanistan. They are all different but they are all based around the humble nine patch. Love 'em!





So, gather your fabrics. You need at least two - one light and one dark. From the light fabrics cut four 3 1/2 inch squares and from the dark cut five 3 1/2 inch squares. We will be making a block that looks like this.



Next most important step is to select your quarter inch foot. Seam allowance is really crucial when a bunch of quilters are sewing blocks for a combined quilt. Even in our quilt group, full of experienced quilters, we find that all our quarter inch seams are not the same. So, grab your quarter inch foot - this is what mine looks like.

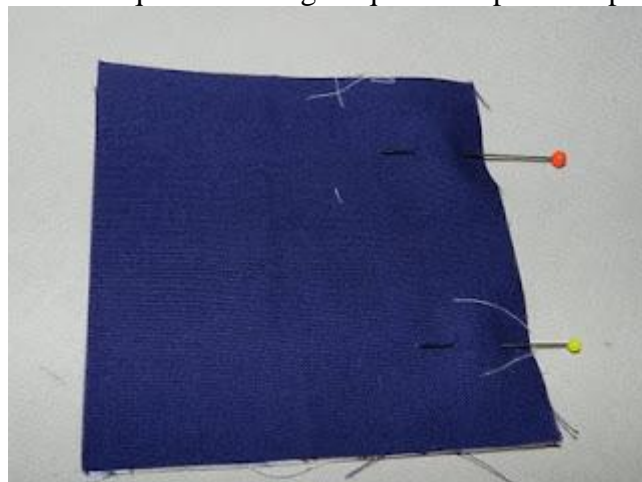




Now grab some scraps and sew a practice seam. Check that it is an accurate quarter inch and adjust the needle position if it isn't. In this case, just do your best. I can trim a little if I need to if the blocks aren't all exactly the same.



Next pin together a dark square and a light square. Repeat and pin two more pairs.



Sew your squares together.



Once you have sewn all the pairs together, iron them with the seams towards the dark square.



Now get your remaining three squares and pin to the pairs like this.



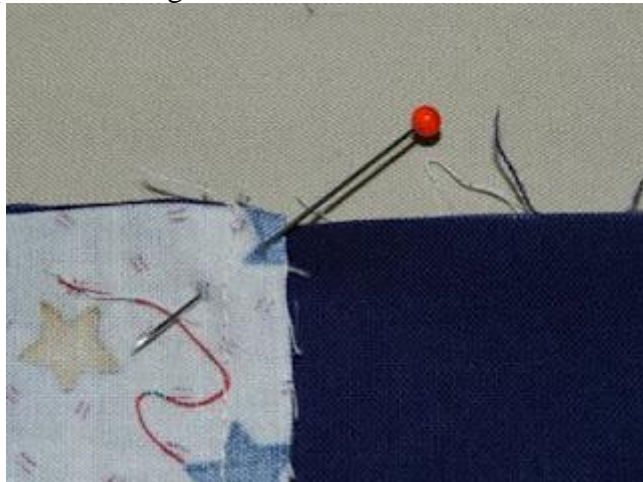
Again press all your seams towards the dark square



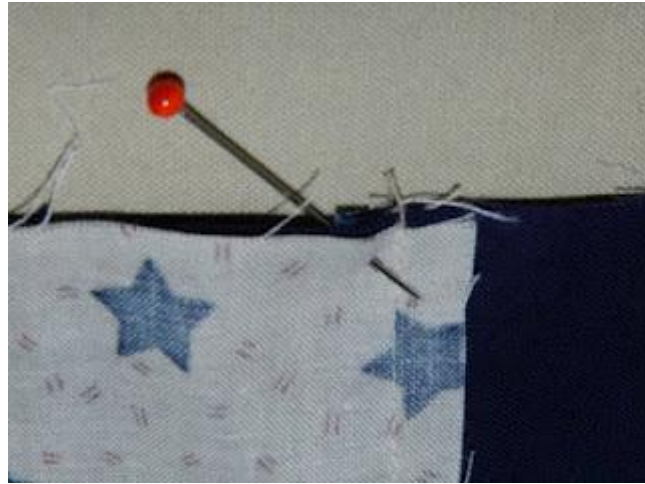
Take the strip that has the dark square in the middle and one of the other strips and pin together through the seams.



I like to pin on the diagonal as it holds both seams to a certain extent.



Here is the rear view.



Again iron the seams towards the two dark squares. The middle part of the seam will be towards the light - that is fine. Once you have sewn those two strips together, pin the final strip to the other side of the strip with the dark centre and sew. Press the seams again as before. Now sit back and pat yourself on the back, you have just made a nine patch. You can now repeat as many times as you like.



Here are some I prepared earlier.



Some of the colours I used would not strictly be considered dark but there is enough contrast with the cream so that is good enough in this instance.

Now, some admin. Blocks can be made with any combination of lights and darks and not all lights and darks in the one block have to be the same.

<http://aussieheroquilts.blogspot.com.au/2012/02/boms-away.html>