



Finished Block Size: 24 cm x 24 cm

Supplies and Tools

Fabrics (100% cotton)

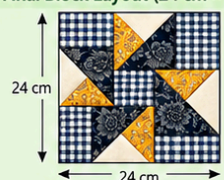
- Fabric A** Gingham (blue/white)
- Fabric B** Floral (navy)
- Fabric C** Paisley (yellow)
- Fabric D** Solid (light)

- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Quilting ruler
- Fabric scissors
- Sewing machine
- Thread
- Pins or clips
- Iron
- Quilting ruler

Block Measurements and Cutting Chart

Fabric	Pieces	Size (cm)	Use
A	4	6.5 x 6.5	Corner squares
B	4	6.5 x 6.5	Center squares
C	4	6.5 x 6.5	Half-square triangles (HST)
D	4	6.5 x 6.5	Half-square triangles (HST)

Final Block Layout (24 cm x 24 cm)



- #### 1 Cut the Fabric

Cut all pieces according to the chart above.
All squares are 6.5 cm x 6.5 cm.


A
(4 pieces)


B
(4 pieces)


C
(4 pieces)


D
(4 pieces)
- #### 2 Make Half-Square Triangles (HST)

You will make 8 HST (4 from Fabric C + D).











Cut on the drawn line. Open and press. Trim to 6.5 cm x 6.5 cm. Make 8 HST.
- #### 3 Arrange the Pieces

Lay out the 9 pieces as shown below.


- #### 4 Sew the Rows

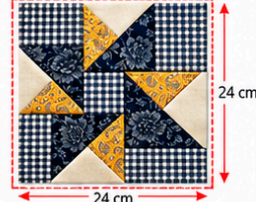
Sew the pieces in each row from left to right. Use a 0.6 cm seam allowance.


- #### 5 Join the Rows

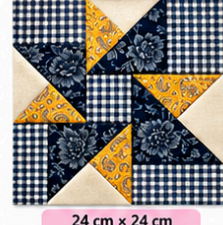
Sew the three rows together. Press the seams open or to one side.


- #### 6 Square the Block

Trim the block to 24 cm x 24 cm if necessary, making sure it is square.


- #### 7 Finished Block

Your quilt block is complete!

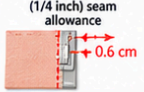


Main Quilting / Sewing Methods (US Terms)

Right Sides Together (RST)



Sew a 0.6 cm (1/4 inch) seam allowance



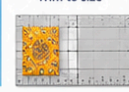
Cut on the line



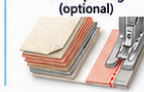
Press the seam



Trim to size

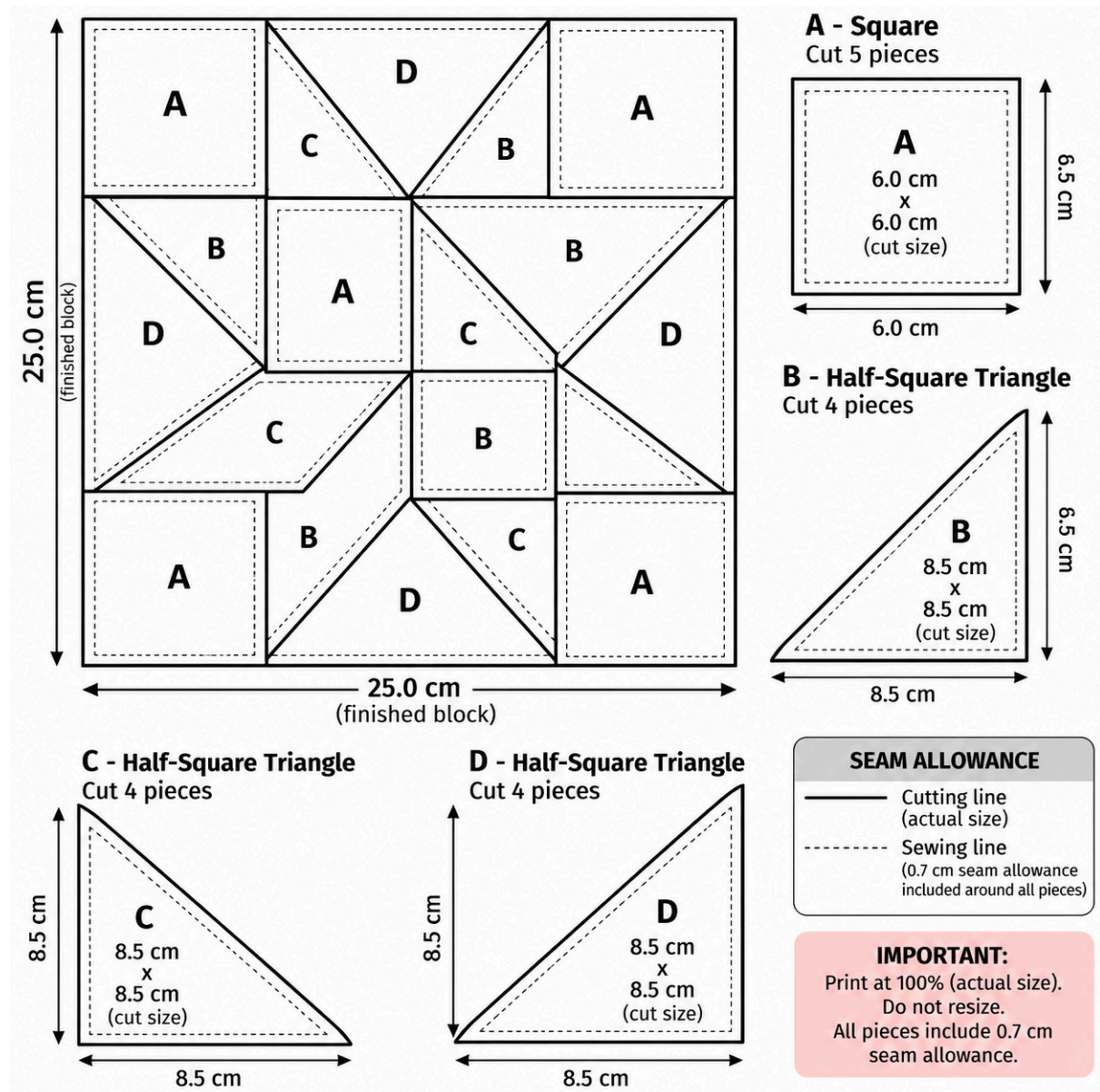


Chain piecing (optional)



Tips for a Perfect Block

- Use 100% cotton fabric.
- Cut accurately.
- Maintain a 0.6 cm seam allowance.
- Press each seam.
- Square the block to 24 cm x 24 cm.
- Mix fabrics with good contrast.



Patchwork Quilt Block Tutorial – Step-by-Step Sewing Guide (24 cm × 24 cm)

Creating a beautiful patchwork quilt block is a wonderful way to combine traditional American quilting techniques with colorful fabrics and precise sewing. This beginner-friendly tutorial explains how to make the geometric quilt block shown in the reference image, using blue-and-white gingham, navy

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floral fabric, yellow paisley fabric, and a soft cream background.

The design combines half-square triangles (HST), simple fabric squares, and carefully arranged patchwork sections. Together, these elements create a striking geometric pattern with beautiful contrast and movement.

In this complete guide, you will learn how to prepare your fabrics, cut the pieces, construct half-square triangles, arrange the block, sew the rows, press the seams, and finish your project. All measurements are provided in centimeters (cm), while the sewing terminology follows standard United States quilting methods.

Project overview

- **Project: Geometric Patchwork Quilt Block**
- **Target finished size: 24 cm × 24 cm**
- **Skill level: Beginner to intermediate**
- **Technique: Traditional machine piecing**
- **Main method: Half-Square Triangles (HST)**
- **Seam allowance: Approximately 0.6 cm (¼ inch)**
- **Fabric: 100% quilting cotton**

Important measurement note: The reference chart shows 6.5 cm squares, but these cannot produce a 24 cm block when arranged in a 3 × 3 layout. It also shows a nine-unit layout that differs slightly from the finished photograph. The tutorial below preserves the reference's colors, techniques, and visual arrangement while using corrected cutting dimensions to make a practical 24 cm unfinished block.

Step 1: Gather Your Fabrics and Quilting Supplies

Before beginning your patchwork quilt tutorial, organize your materials on a clean, flat work surface. Having everything

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ready makes cutting, sewing, and pressing easier and helps prevent mistakes.

Fabrics

The reference design uses four contrasting fabrics:

Fabric	Description	Purpose
Fabric C		
Fabric A	Blue-and-white gingham	Corner squares
Fabric B	Navy blue floral print	Center and triangle sections
Fabric C	Yellow paisley print	Colorful triangle sections
Fabric D	Cream or light beige solid	Light triangle sections

Choose 100% cotton quilting fabric because it is easy to cut, press, and sew. Cotton also holds its shape well, which is especially important when working with diagonal seams.

For the best visual result, select fabrics with clearly different colors and values. The dark navy floral fabric creates depth, the yellow paisley adds warmth, and the cream fabric provides contrast. The gingham squares frame the entire composition.

Tools and equipment

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You will need:

- Rotary cutter
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Acrylic quilting ruler
- Fabric scissors
- Sewing machine
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Straight pins or sewing clips
- Fabric marking pencil
- Iron and ironing board
- Seam ripper
- Square quilting ruler for trimming

A rotary cutter and quilting ruler are particularly helpful because they produce accurate fabric pieces. Even a small cutting difference can affect how the final block fits together.

Set your sewing machine to a standard straight stitch with a stitch length of approximately 2.0–2.5 mm. Use a new universal quilting needle suitable for medium-weight cotton.

For accurate piecing, use a ¼-inch presser foot or carefully mark a 0.6 cm seam guide on your machine.

Step 2: Measure and Cut the Fabric Pieces

Accurate cutting is one of the most important parts of successful quilt block construction.

The reference image demonstrates a three-row, three-column design. For this version, we will prepare nine square units that will eventually be joined into one block.

To obtain an unfinished block measuring approximately 24 cm × 24 cm, each completed unit should measure 8.4 cm × 8.4 cm before joining.

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Corrected cutting chart

Fabric	Quantity	Cutting size
A – Gingham	4 squares	8.4 × 8.4 cm
B – Navy floral	1 square	8.4 × 8.4 cm
B – Navy floral	2 squares	9.7 × 9.7 cm
C – Yellow paisley	2 squares	9.7 × 9.7 cm
D – Cream	2 squares	9.7 × 9.7 cm

The larger squares are used to create the half-square triangle units. Each pair of large squares produces two HST units, giving you eight HSTs from four pairs.

For the visual arrangement shown in the infographic, you will use four corner gingham squares, one navy floral center

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square, and four HST-based positions. The extra HST units can be saved for another block or used to experiment with the layout.

Cutting instructions

- 1. Prepare the fabric. Press all four fabrics before cutting to remove wrinkles and folds. Avoid stretching the cotton while pressing.**
- 2. Straighten the edges. Fold the fabric carefully, align the selvages, and trim an uneven edge using your quilting ruler and rotary cutter.**
- 3. Cut the gingham squares. Cut four 8.4 cm squares from Fabric A. These will form the four corners.**
- 4. Cut the center square. Cut one 8.4 cm square from Fabric B.**
- 5. Cut the triangle fabrics. Cut the larger 9.7 cm squares from Fabrics B, C, and D as listed in the chart.**
- 6. Organize the pieces. Separate the fabrics into small groups and keep them near your sewing machine.**

Use your ruler to check each piece before moving on. Accurate squares make it much easier to achieve neat points and straight seams.

Step 3: Make the Half-Square Triangles (HST)

Half-square triangles, commonly called HSTs in American quilting, are square patchwork units made from two triangular fabric pieces.

They are among the most versatile elements in quilting and can be arranged to create pinwheels, stars, diamonds, arrows, and countless geometric patterns.

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The reference image illustrates the traditional two-at-a-time HST method, which is an efficient way to create matching triangle units.

Prepare the fabric pairs

Place one yellow paisley square (Fabric C) and one cream square (Fabric D) together with their right sides facing each other (RST).

Align all four edges carefully.

Use pins if necessary to prevent the fabric from shifting.

Repeat with the remaining pairs of large squares. Pair navy floral with yellow paisley or cream as needed for the desired contrast.

Mark the diagonal sewing line

Turn the fabric pair so that the wrong side of the upper square faces you.

Using a fabric marking pencil and quilting ruler, draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner.

This line will become your cutting guide.

For better accuracy, mark another line approximately 0.6 cm on each side of the center diagonal. These two outer lines are your stitching guides.

Sew both sides of the diagonal

Place the fabric pair under your sewing machine.

Sew a straight seam along the first stitching guide, keeping the fabric flat.

Turn the fabric and sew along the second stitching guide.

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You should now have two parallel seams positioned on opposite sides of the original diagonal line.

Backstitching is generally unnecessary when making quilt units that will be enclosed in later seams.

Cut the squares apart

Place the sewn fabric pair on your cutting mat.

Align your ruler with the center diagonal line.

Using a rotary cutter, cut directly along that line.

You will now have two folded triangular units.

Open and press the triangles

Carefully open each triangle unit.

Press the seam allowance toward the darker fabric whenever possible. This usually prevents the seam from showing through the lighter material.

Avoid moving the iron back and forth aggressively because diagonal fabric edges can stretch.

Instead, lift the iron and press gently.

Trim each HST unit

Use a square quilting ruler to trim each HST to 8.4 cm × 8.4 cm.

Position the diagonal seam directly along the ruler's 45-degree line before trimming.

Check that all corners are square and that the diagonal seam reaches the corners accurately.

Repeat until you have prepared the required triangle units.

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Helpful quilting tip: Make a test HST first. If it trims smaller than 8.4 cm, increase the starting square size slightly before cutting the remaining fabric.

Step 4: Arrange the Nine Patchwork Units

Once your squares and half-square triangles are ready, you can begin assembling the geometric quilt block pattern.

This is one of the most creative stages because changing the direction of a triangle can completely transform the appearance of the design.

Place the pieces on a design board, cutting mat, or clean table.

The reference infographic shows a 3 × 3 arrangement.

Basic block layout

Gingham

Triangle unit

Gingham

Triangle unit

Navy floral

Triangle unit

Gingham

Triangle unit

Gingham

Placement guide: four gingham corners, one navy floral center, and four pieced triangle positions. Rotate the HST units to match the reference design.

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Position the top row

Place a gingham square on the left.

Position a triangle unit in the center, with its colors oriented to resemble the upper portion of the reference image.

Place another gingham square on the right.

Position the middle row

Place a triangle unit on the left.

Position the navy floral square in the center.

Add another triangle unit on the right, rotating it so the darker and lighter areas create visual movement.

Position the bottom row

Place a gingham square on the left.

Add a triangle unit in the center, rotating it to continue the geometric pattern.

Finish with a gingham square on the right.

Before sewing, stand back and examine the arrangement. Make sure the navy floral sections and yellow accents are distributed attractively.

The photographic finished block contains additional small triangle details that are not fully explained in the nine-unit cutting chart. To reproduce those details exactly, you would need to subdivide and piece some units further. The layout above is a simplified, sewable version based on the chart.

Step 5: Sew the Patchwork Rows

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Now that the nine units are arranged, begin joining them into three horizontal rows.

The reference tutorial recommends sewing from left to right using a 0.6 cm ($\frac{1}{4}$ -inch) seam allowance.

Sew the first row

Take the top-left gingham square and the upper-center triangle unit.

Place them right sides together, carefully aligning their edges.

Pin the pieces if needed.

Sew along the joined edge using your 0.6 cm seam allowance.

Open the pieces and gently press the seam.

Next, place the top-right gingham square against the other side of the triangle unit.

Sew the seam and press.

You have now completed the first horizontal row.

Sew the second row

Take the left triangle unit and the center navy floral square.

Place the pieces right sides together and sew using the same seam allowance.

Open and press.

Attach the right triangle unit to the opposite side of the center square.

Check that the pieces remain aligned and that the row lies flat.

Sew the third row

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Repeat the process for the bottom row.

Join the bottom-left gingham square to the center triangle unit.

Then attach the bottom-right gingham square.

Press carefully.

You should now have three completed fabric strips, each containing three patchwork units.

Press the row seams

For easier assembly, press the vertical seam allowances in alternating directions.

For example:

- Top row: Press seams to the right.
- Middle row: Press seams to the left.
- Bottom row: Press seams to the right.

This technique is known as nesting seams.

When you join the rows, the seam allowances will fit neatly against one another, helping the corners line up accurately.

Step 6: Join the Three Rows Together

After sewing the individual rows, it is time to assemble the complete quilt block.

Place the top row and middle row together with their right sides facing.

Carefully align the vertical seams.

Use straight pins to secure the seam intersections.

Sew the first horizontal seam

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Sew across the entire width using your 0.6 cm seam allowance.

Maintain a consistent stitching speed and avoid pulling the fabric.

Remove pins before they reach the sewing machine needle.

Open the two joined rows and inspect the intersections.

The vertical seams should meet neatly.

Attach the bottom row

Place the bottom row against the middle row, right sides together.

Match the vertical seams and pin the intersections.

Sew across the width using the same seam allowance.

Open the completed block.

You should now see the full nine-unit geometric design.

Press the completed block

Place the block on your ironing board.

Press the newly sewn horizontal seams gently.

You may press them to one side or open, depending on how bulky the seam intersections are.

For thicker areas, pressing the seams open can help the block lie flatter.

Always press rather than stretch the fabric.

Step 7: Square Up the Quilt Block to 24 cm × 24 cm 

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Squaring up is the process of checking the shape of your patchwork and trimming small irregularities.

This step helps ensure that your quilt block fits neatly with other blocks when assembling a larger quilt.

Place the finished patchwork on your cutting mat.

Use a square quilting ruler to measure the block from edge to edge.

With nine units originally measuring 8.4 cm and sewn with 0.6 cm seam allowances, the assembled block should measure approximately 22.8 cm × 22.8 cm unfinished.

Therefore, this corrected nine-unit layout does not reach the infographic's stated 24 cm size. To make a true 24 cm unfinished block, cut the nine main units at 8.8 cm × 8.8 cm, and prepare the HST starting squares at approximately 10.1 cm × 10.1 cm, trimming each completed HST to 8.8 cm. Use those sizes consistently throughout the project.

For a block measuring 24 cm unfinished, the visible size after sewing it into a quilt with 0.6 cm seams will be approximately 22.8 cm.

If you want the block to finish at a full 24 cm once sewn into a quilt, aim for an unfinished measurement of 25.2 cm × 25.2 cm instead.

How to square the block

- 1. Press the block completely flat.**
- 2. Place it on the cutting mat.**
- 3. Align the quilting ruler with the block's seam lines.**
- 4. Check the width and height.**
- 5. Trim only small excess edges if necessary.**
- 6. Verify that the corners form 90-degree angles.**

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Never trim away large amounts of fabric simply to force the block to the desired size. If the block is too small, review the cutting dimensions and seam allowances before continuing.

Step 8: Finish and Inspect Your Patchwork Quilt Block



Your geometric patchwork quilt block is now assembled!

Before using it in a larger project, take a few minutes to inspect the stitching and overall appearance.

Check that the gingham corners are properly aligned and that the navy floral, yellow paisley, and cream fabrics create the intended contrast.

Look closely at the diagonal seams of the half-square triangles. Ideally, they should meet the corners without leaving gaps or cutting off important points.

Examine the center square and surrounding units to ensure that the block is symmetrical and lies flat.

If you notice loose threads, trim them carefully with fabric scissors.

If a seam is puckered or significantly misaligned, use a seam ripper to remove the affected stitches and sew that section again.

Give the entire block one final press.

Your finished patchwork is ready to become part of a larger quilting project.

Step 9: Understand the Main American Quilting Techniques

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The infographic introduces several essential sewing techniques commonly used in quilting throughout the United States.

Quilting term	Meaning
RST – Right Sides Together	Place the printed or front sides of two fabrics facing each other before sewing.
¼-Inch Seam Allowance	Sew approximately 0.6 cm from the fabric edge.
HST – Half-Square Triangle	A square made from two fabric triangles joined diagonally.
Press the Seam	Use an iron to flatten the seam without stretching the fabric.
Square Up	Trim a pieced unit to a precise square measurement.
Chain Piecing	Sew multiple fabric pairs consecutively without cutting the thread between them.
Nesting Seams	Press adjacent seam allowances in opposite directions so intersections align neatly.

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Optional technique: Chain piecing

If you plan to make several identical blocks, chain piecing can save considerable time.

Instead of sewing each fabric pair separately and cutting the thread after every seam, feed multiple pairs through your sewing machine consecutively.

Leave a small thread connection between each pair.

Once all pieces are sewn, cut the connecting threads and press the units.

This method is especially useful for large quilts containing repeated patchwork blocks.

Step 10: Creative Ways to Use Your Finished Quilt Block

One of the best things about this pattern is its versatility.

You can use the completed block in several beautiful sewing projects.

Patchwork quilt: Make multiple blocks and arrange them in rows to create a coordinated bed quilt. Alternate the direction of the triangle units for added visual interest.

Decorative pillow: Use the block as a central panel, adding fabric borders until it reaches the desired pillow size.

Table runner: Sew several blocks together in a straight line, then add batting, backing, quilting stitches, and binding.

Wall hanging: Create a small decorative quilt by combining the block with complementary fabric borders.

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Fabric tote bag: Incorporate the patchwork into the front panel of a handmade bag.

For a coordinated collection, use the same four fabrics throughout your project. Alternatively, create a scrappy version using leftover cotton pieces from previous sewing projects.

Step 11: Tips for a Perfect Patchwork Quilt Block

Professional-looking quilting begins with small, consistent habits.

Use accurate measurements. Even tiny differences in cutting can affect the alignment of your finished block.

Maintain a consistent seam allowance. A reliable 0.6 cm seam is essential when joining multiple patchwork pieces.

Press after each sewing step. Pressing helps control seam bulk and keeps the fabric flat.

Avoid stretching diagonal edges. Half-square triangles contain bias edges that can easily become distorted.

Choose contrasting fabrics. Light, medium, and dark fabrics make geometric patterns more visible.

Check the layout before sewing. Take a photograph of your arranged pieces so you can refer to it while assembling the rows.

Use a sharp rotary blade. A dull blade can cause inaccurate cuts and frayed edges.

Make a test block. Before cutting fabric for an entire quilt, complete one sample to confirm your measurements and preferred color arrangement.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Is this patchwork quilt block suitable for beginners?

Yes. The project uses basic straight seams, fabric squares, and half-square triangles. Beginners who are comfortable operating a sewing machine can complete the block by following the steps carefully.

What is a half-square triangle in quilting?

A half-square triangle (HST) is a square quilt unit divided diagonally into two fabric triangles. HSTs are widely used in traditional American quilt patterns because they can form many geometric designs.

What is the standard seam allowance for American quilting?

Most American quilting patterns use a ¼-inch seam allowance, approximately 0.635 cm. This tutorial rounds the measurement to 0.6 cm. Consistency is more important than the tiny difference between these measurements.

Can I make this quilt block using different fabrics?

Absolutely. You can replace the gingham, floral, paisley, and cream fabrics with other cotton prints or solid colors. Choose fabrics with good contrast to preserve the geometric effect.

Should I wash my fabric before making the quilt block?

Prewashing is optional. Some quilters prewash to reduce shrinkage and check for color bleeding, while others prefer working with unwashed quilting cotton. Whichever method you choose, use it consistently throughout the project.

Why are my half-square triangles not perfectly square?

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Common causes include inaccurate cutting, inconsistent seam allowances, stretching along diagonal edges, and aggressive ironing. Making the starting squares slightly oversized and trimming the completed HSTs helps improve accuracy.

Can I sew this quilt block by hand?

Yes. Although the infographic demonstrates machine sewing, you can construct the block using small, even hand stitches. Mark the seam allowances carefully and use a secure running stitch or backstitch.

How many quilt blocks do I need to make a full quilt?

The number depends on your desired quilt dimensions, the actual finished size of each block, and whether you add sashing or borders. Divide the desired quilt width and length by the finished block size to estimate the required number of blocks.

How can I keep my patchwork points aligned?

Use accurate cutting, consistent seam allowances, careful pinning, and nesting seams. When sewing across an intersection, avoid stitching beyond the exact point where the diagonal seams meet.

What is the best fabric for this pattern?

100% quilting cotton is the recommended choice. It is durable, easy to sew, widely available in the United States, and suitable for both beginner and advanced patchwork projects.

Conclusion

Making a geometric patchwork quilt block is an enjoyable way to practice essential quilting skills while creating a colorful and versatile fabric design.

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By following this step-by-step tutorial, you have learned how to select contrasting cotton fabrics, cut accurate squares, construct half-square triangles, arrange nine patchwork units, sew the rows, press the seams, and check the completed block.

The combination of blue-and-white gingham, navy floral fabric, yellow paisley, and cream creates a charming traditional appearance that works beautifully in quilts, decorative pillows, table runners, and handmade accessories.

Remember that precision and patience are the keys to successful quilting. With practice, your seams will become straighter, your triangle points will align more easily, and your finished blocks will look increasingly polished.

Enjoy your sewing journey, experiment with new fabric combinations, and turn this beautiful patchwork design into something uniquely yours! 🧵💙