

## Split Nine-Patch Windmills

Nine Patches have been around since quilting started. Windmills have been around almost as long. It's possible that someone somewhere sometime has even published a pattern for a Split Nine-Patch Windmill.

This is a great pattern for beginners. I'm suggesting a really good way to start is by piecing nine twelve-inch 9-patch blocks and then cutting them through the center horizontally and vertically, rearranging them, and putting them back together to make windmills.

Begin by selecting three fabrics for the blocks. There are countless variations, but the following work well:

a: a directional print, a theme fabric or "focus" fabric.

B: this fabric will become the windmill blades so it needs to contrast well with the other fabrics.

C: a dark fabric (but could be anything that contrasts well to the other two).

For best results, the fabric needs to be 42"-45" wide.

If you are using fat quarters or small amounts of other fabrics, adjust the numbers of strips accordingly.

For this quilt, which finishes about 45" X 45" you will need to cut from 42-inch wide [or wider] fabric the following:

From fabric A cut four 4.5 inch wide strips.

From fabric B cut four 4.5 inch wide strips.

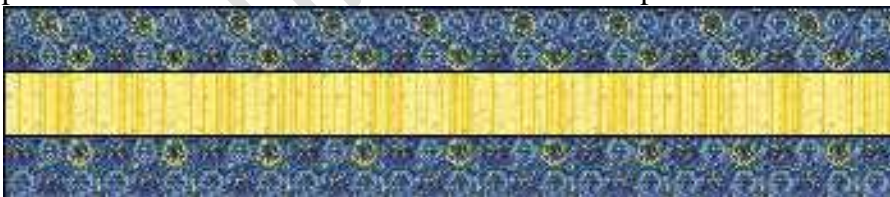
From fabric C cut one 4.5 inch strip.

1. Make two ABA strips as shown below.

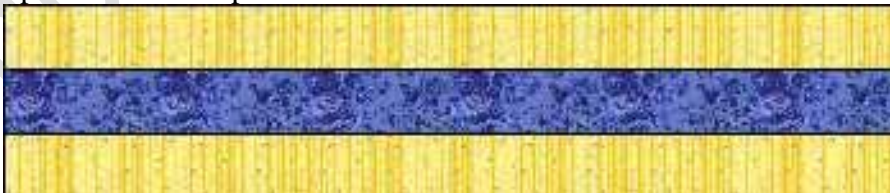
Place a strip of fabric A and a strip of fabric B with right sides together. With one-fourth inch seams, sew A to B. Repeat with a second strip of fabrics A and B.

Sew a second strip of fabric A to the other side of fabric B.

Gently press seam allowances toward the outer fabric strips.



2. Then piece a BCB strip.



Gently press seam allowances toward the center strip.

3. Layer the ABA strips. Cut into columns four and one-half inch wide. This yields 18 strips as shown below.

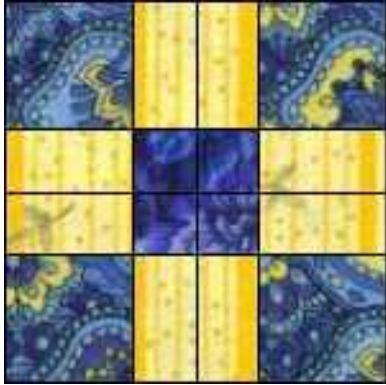


4. Cut the BCB strips into nine 4.5 inch columns, as shown below.

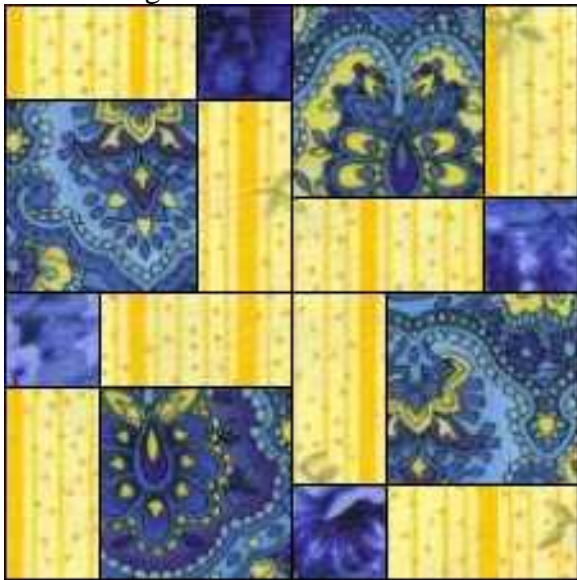


5. Piece an ABA strip to each side of each BCB strip, making sure seams match. The fact that your seam allowances go in different directions will help your strips “nest” together so that it’s possible to get a good junction without having to pin the fabrics.

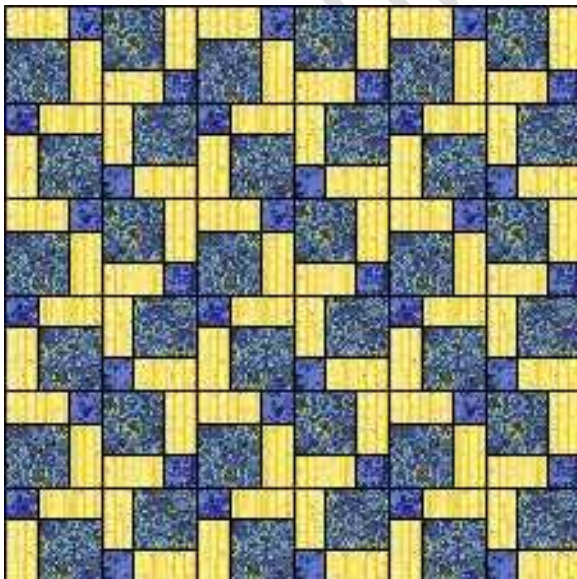
6. Finished blocks are then sliced vertically and horizontally through the exact center of the block as shown below.



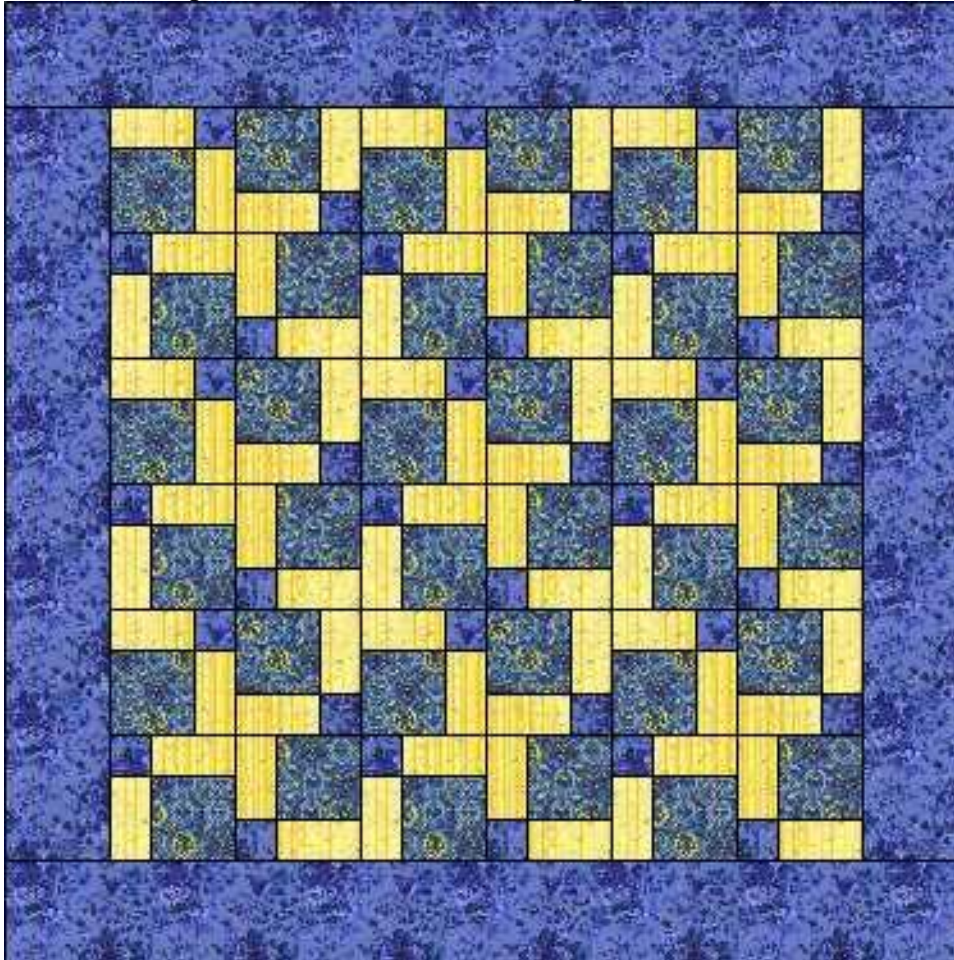
7. Rearrange the cut blocks like this:



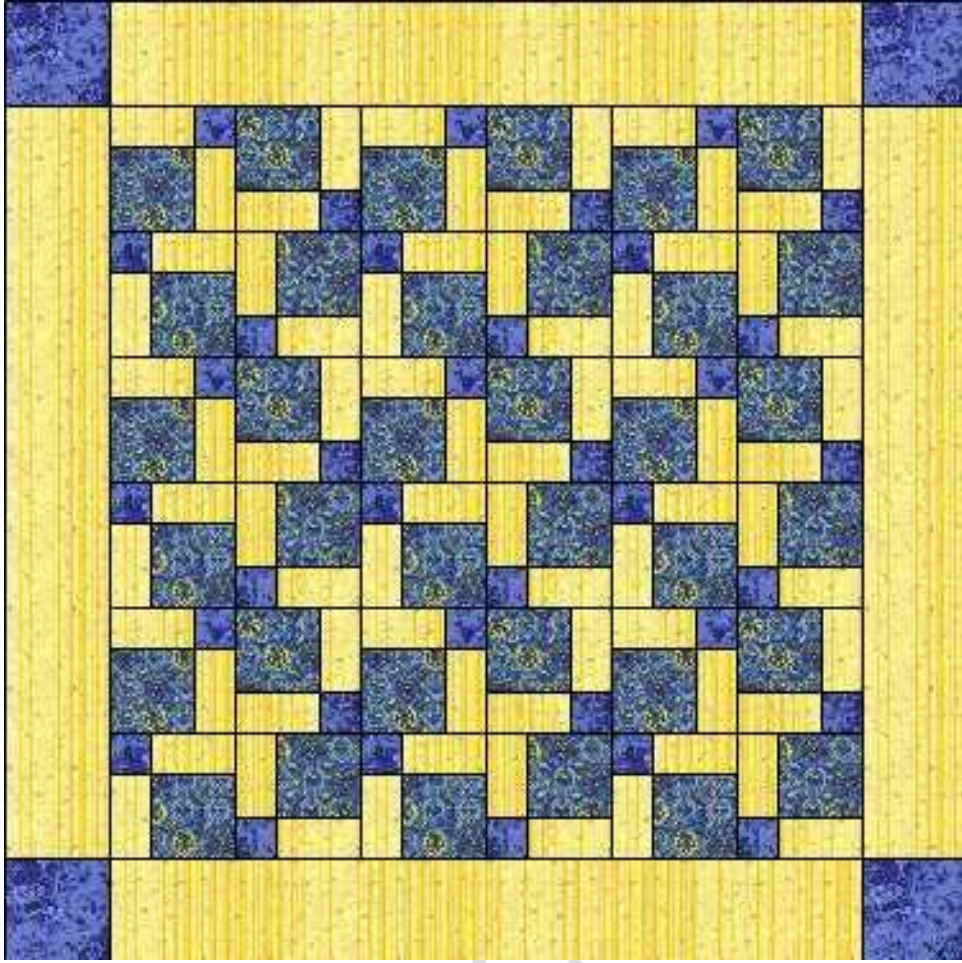
8. Piece three rows of three blocks like this:



9. For two simple finishes, cut and sew four plain borders



...or four borders with corner blocks.



10. Layer, quilt, and bind.