

Modern Art Quilters Sew-Along

Snowball and Nine-patch blocks

Unlike most of the things we show, this pattern really does require some precision in your seam allowances - if they vary to any degree from 1/4 inch then your blocks will not match each other nearly so well..

So, when you have made the first 9-patch block, check that it is coming out to exactly 6-1/2 inches square, and, if not, adjust your seams accordingly

For the 9-patch blocks cut nine squares (I used 2-1/2 inch squares for this example)

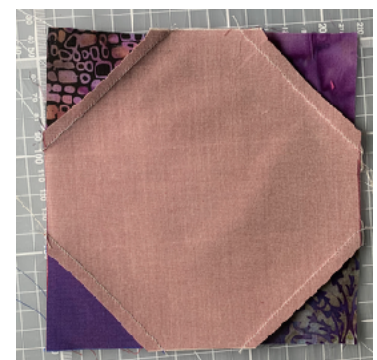
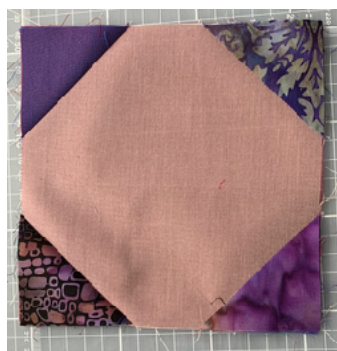
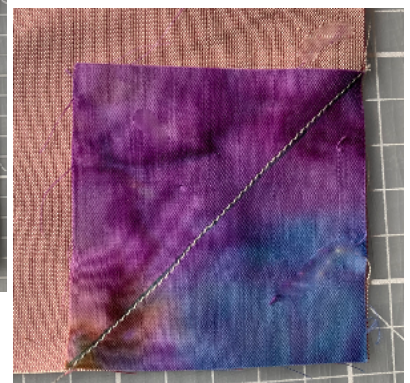
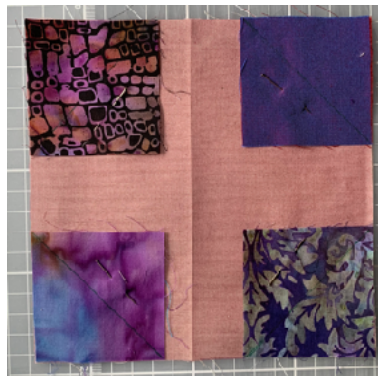
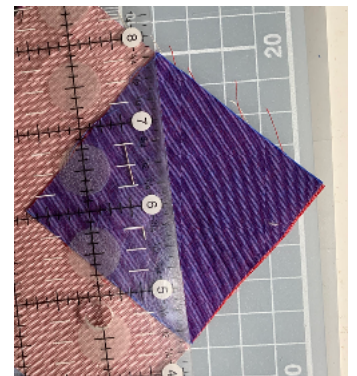
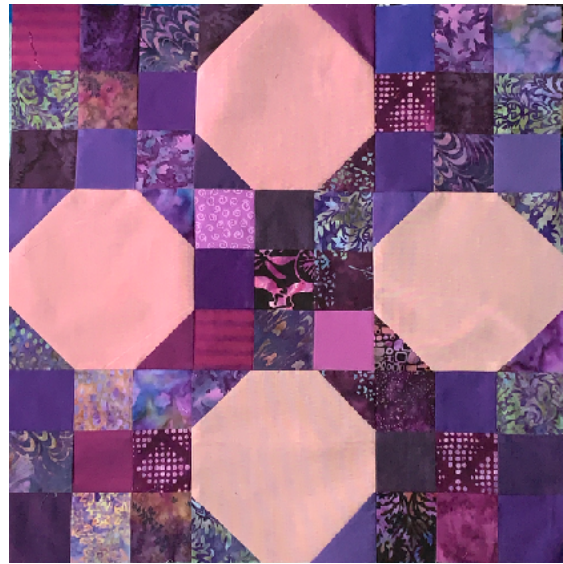
For the snowball blocks cut one piece 6-1/2 inches square and four 2-1/2 inch squares. I used a selection of purples for a scrappy effect...

Start with the snowball blocks. On the four small squares draw a line from corner to corner on the back with pencil and place the squares exactly on the corners of the bigger square, right sides together...

Pin, and sew along the lines across the corners exactly on all four small squares.

Press the fabrics outwards and trim away the excess of both fabrics underneath to save bulk

(If you want to channel your inner mean streak you can sew again 1/2 inch towards the corner before you trim off the excess, and make teeny half-square triangles for another project)



Make the 9-patch blocks.. Lay the 9 small squares out to please your eye.

Sew them together into three rows of three, right sides together and being careful to keep your seams to 1/4 inch

Press the seams inwards on the top and bottom rows and outwards on the middle row. Nest the seams together (pin to be tidy) and sew the rows together to join up the block

Press the seams inwards on the finished block as shown

Check the size is exactly 6-1/2 inches.

Join the blocks in rows alternating the 9-patch and snowballs as shown...

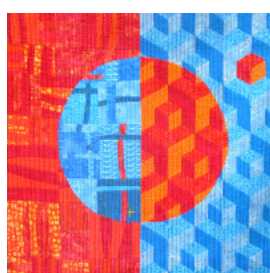
If you want a bigger block, start with 9-1/2 inch and 3-1/2 inch squares - in the pink example, shown side by side with the purple one, I used a more formal arrangement of fewer colours

This lovely and more traditionally-coloured example was made for me by Heather Hasthorpe, and the small squares were cut to 2 inches. The larger squares were cut to 4-1/2 inches

Note how the two blocks together make a continuous pattern across the quilt... This relies on the light and dark contrast, this could be reversed or corrupted for a different effect

You can print and use this pattern for your projects, for teaching, or for leading a group, but do not remove the Modern Art Quilters information

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