

9-Patch Cat Block - Tutorial

THE TRADITIONAL 9-PATCH CAT BLOCK: A STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL

Step 1: Fabric & Tools

- Pre-wash fabrics.
- Iron fabrics flat.

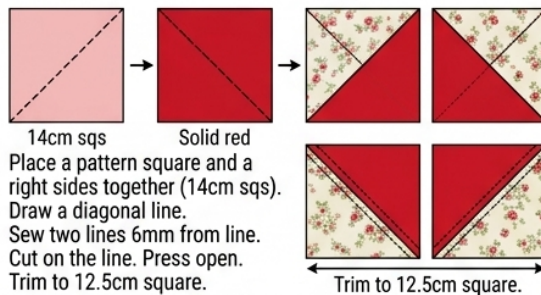
Gather:
6 assorted fabrics (red stars, red solid, red gingham, florahnn, floral sprigs, large rose bouquet, cat panel)



Use 6mm (approx. 1/4 inch) seam allowance throughout.

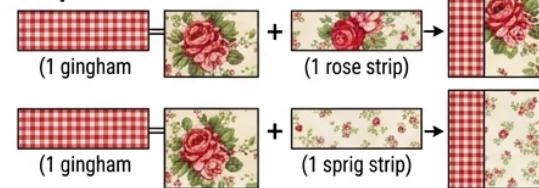
Step 2: Create Core Units

A: Half-Square Triangles (HSTs)

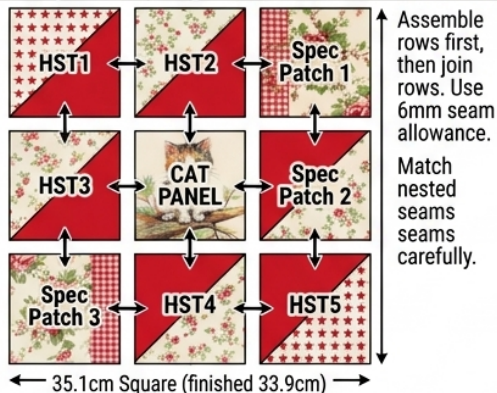


Fabric	Cat Panel	Specific Cuts in CM
	(1) 12.5cm square (finished size 11.3cm)	(2) 5.1cm x 12.5cm strips
	(4) 14.0cm squares	(2) 8.9cm x 12.5cm strips
	(2) 14.0cm squares	(2) 8.9cm x 12.5cm strips
	(2) 14.0cm squares for HSTs	Tip: Oversize squares for HSTs and trim to size.

B: Specialized Patches



Step 3: Laying Out the Block



Step 4: Completion

Quilting the Block: Layer quilt top, batting, and backing. Baste. Machine quilt with cross-hatching across the HSTs to create squares, and outline the cat and large flowers with minimal stitching. Finish edges with bias binding.



QUILT METHODS LEGEND

Basting (U.S.): Temporarily securing quilt layers (top, batting, backing) together with pins or spray before final quilting.

Nesting Seams: Pressing seam allowances of adjacent pieces in opposite directions so they lay flat when joined.

Stitch-in-the-Ditch: Machine quilting that runs right into the seam line of joined patches for a minimal, clean look.

Chain Piecing: Feeding multiple units through the sewing machine in a continuous chain without cutting threads between them to save time.

Trimming for Accuracy: Re-cutting joined pieces (like HSTs) to their exact required size before further assembly.

This detailed guide will walk you through **every step** needed to create a beautiful traditional 9-patch quilt block featuring a charming cat panel. Even if you're a beginner, you'll be able to follow along and complete this project from start to finish.



Step 1: Fabric & Tools Preparation

Before you begin sewing, it's essential to prepare everything properly. This ensures accuracy and a professional-looking result.



Prepare Your Fabrics

Start by **pre-washing all your fabrics**. This prevents shrinking later and removes any excess dye.

Once dry, **press (iron) all fabrics flat**. Smooth fabric makes cutting more accurate and sewing much easier.



Gather Your Materials

You will need:

- 6 assorted fabrics:
 - Red star print
 - Solid red
 - Red gingham
 - Floral (large rose bouquet)
 - Floral (small sprigs)
 - Cat panel (centerpiece)
- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Quilting ruler
- Sewing machine with a **6mm (1/4 inch) foot**
- Thread
- Iron



Important: Use a **1/4 inch (6mm) seam allowance throughout the entire project**.



Cutting Your Fabric Pieces

Cat Panel

- Cut **1 square: 12.5 cm (unfinished)**
(This will finish at approximately 11.3 cm after sewing)



Solid Red Fabric

- Cut **4 squares: 14.0 cm**

Red Star Fabric

- Cut **2 squares: 14.0 cm**

Floral Sprig Fabric

- Cut **2 squares: 14.0 cm**

Additional HST Fabric (for triangles)

- Cut **2 squares: 14.0 cm** (used for half-square triangles)

Strips for Special Patches

- Cut:
 - **2 strips: 5.1 cm × 12.5 cm (gingham)**
 - **2 strips: 8.9 cm × 12.5 cm (rose floral)**
 - **2 strips: 8.9 cm × 12.5 cm (sprig floral)**

 **Tip:** If you're unsure about precision, cut slightly larger and trim down later.

Step 2: Create Core Units

This step focuses on making the building blocks of your quilt.

A: Half-Square Triangles (HSTs)

These units create the diagonal triangle patterns.

How to Make HSTs:

1. Take **one solid red square (14 cm)** and **one patterned square (14 cm)**.
2. Place them **right sides together**.
3. Draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner.
4. Sew **two parallel lines**, each **6 mm (¼ inch)** away from the drawn line.
5. Cut directly **on the drawn diagonal line**.
6. Open each piece and press seams flat.

You will now have **two triangle units**.

7. Trim each unit to **12.5 cm square**.

Repeat this process to create all required HSTs (you'll need multiple for the layout).

B: Specialized Patch Units

These are decorative blocks made from strips.

Patch Type 1 (Rose + Gingham)

1. Sew **1 gingham strip (5.1 × 12.5 cm)** to **1 rose floral strip (8.9 × 12.5 cm)** along the long edge.
2. Press seam toward the darker fabric.

Patch Type 2 (Sprig + Gingham)

1. Sew **1 gingham strip** to **1 sprig floral strip**.
2. Press seams flat.

Repeat until you have all required special patches.

Step 3: Laying Out the Block

Now comes the fun part—assembling your design!

Arrange Your 9-Patch Grid

Lay out your pieces in a **3 × 3 grid** like this:

Top Row:

- HST 1
- HST 2
- Special Patch 1

Middle Row:

- HST 3
- Cat Panel (center)
- Special Patch 2

Bottom Row:

- Special Patch 3
- HST 4
- HST 5

Sewing the Rows

1. Sew each row **from left to right**.
2. Press seams in alternating directions to help them nest.

Join the Rows

1. Align seams carefully so corners match.
2. Sew the top row to the middle row.
3. Then sew the bottom row to complete the block.

 Always check alignment before stitching to ensure a clean finish.

Final Block Size

- Unfinished size: **35.1 cm**
- Finished size: **33.9 cm**

Step 4: Completing the Quilt Block

Now that your block is assembled, you can finish it as part of a quilt.

Layering (Quilt Sandwich)

1. Place:
 - Quilt top (your block)
 - Batting (middle layer)
 - Backing fabric (bottom layer)
2. Align all layers carefully.

Basting

Temporarily secure layers using:

- Pins, or
- Basting spray

Quilting

Use your sewing machine to quilt:

- Stitch along seams (**stitch-in-the-ditch**) for a clean look
- Add **cross-hatching** across HST areas
- Outline the cat and floral designs with light stitching

Binding the Edges

Finish your quilt block by:

1. Trimming excess batting and backing
2. Adding **bias binding** around edges
3. Folding and stitching binding neatly

Helpful Quilting Techniques

- **Nesting seams:** Press seams in opposite directions so they lock together when joined
- **Chain piecing:** Sew multiple pieces continuously without cutting thread to save time
- **Trimming accuracy:** Always square up pieces after sewing for perfect alignment

Final Result

You now have a beautiful **Traditional 9-Patch Cat Quilt Block** featuring:

- Clean geometric HST designs
- Decorative floral patches
- A charming central cat panel