

The Sew Flakes 2026 Mystery Quilt Challenge

January 2026 Month One

Nine Patch Instructions

CUT:

Colored fabric - 10 strips 4.5" wide and the WOF (width of fabric)
Background fabric – 8 strips 4.5" wide and the WOF (width of fabric)



SEW:

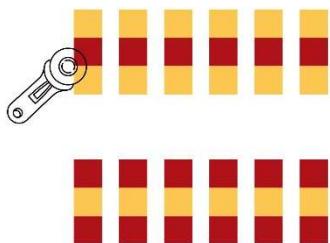
2 sets of 1 background to 1 colored fabric and then 1 background fabric.
4 sets of 1 colored fabric to 1 background fabric and then 1 colored fabric



Press seams to the colored side of fabric. This will allow them to nestle properly.

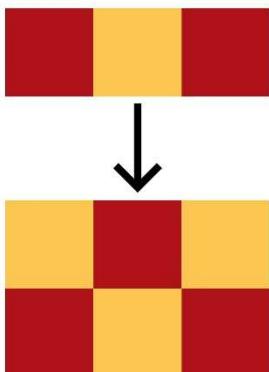
SUB CUT:

All sets to 4.5" strips. Keep the sets together as you cut. i.e. place the sub cuts on top of each other per the type of strip they were cut from.
Each strip should measure 4.5" X12.5"



SEW:

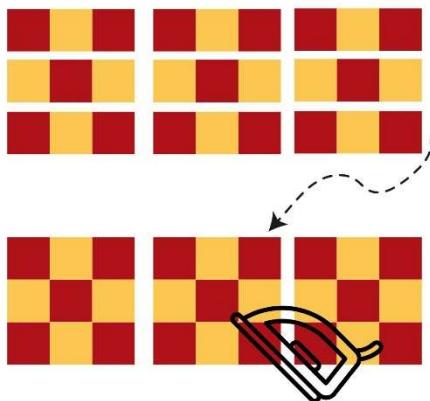
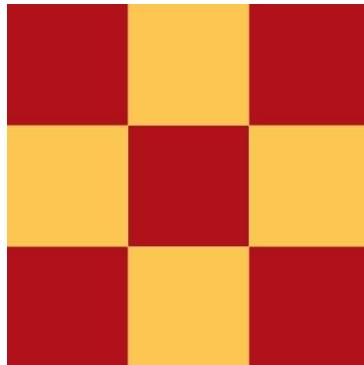
Using your stacks of 4.5" strips, nesting the seams, sew the rows together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to create the 9-patch square. (shown in diagram)



Press your seams towards the middle of the block.

Repeat this process until you have sewn 18 blocks. Each block should measure 12.5" square when finished.

This is how the completed block should look.



Congratulations, you have now completed the first step in our 2026 Mystery Quilt Challenge

I recommend you find a container to put your completed blocks in. It should be large enough to help them stay flat and unwrinkled as you finish them and be able to support all your blocks as you go. If they are all in one place throughout the challenge, it will be easier to complete the final step.