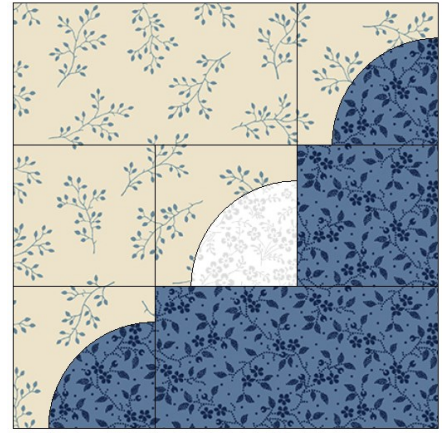


Middle 9 Patch Small Curves Block

Welcome to Block 3 for September BOM. If you have been following advice of order to make September blocks, you have already made the Center Double Curves and are now experienced joining an inner and outer curve. This 9 1/2" block is called a 9 patch as each section is a 3 1/2" unfinished size. We joined 2 squares to make **Piece A** to save us all a bit of time. The small curved blocks are a bit of a challenge to make due to the size. As the person who is making each block to enable me to write directions, I was not happy with my first attempts with this small size. After trying several options, I settled on a method I learned many years ago and this is what I will demonstrate in these instructions. You are free to make the block in the traditional method using the templates that are included with these instructions.

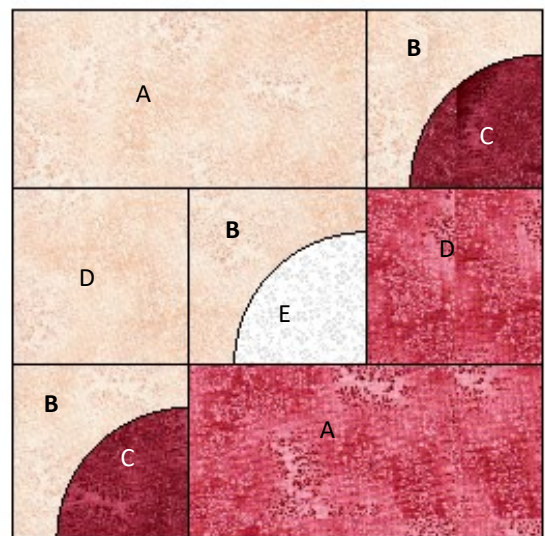
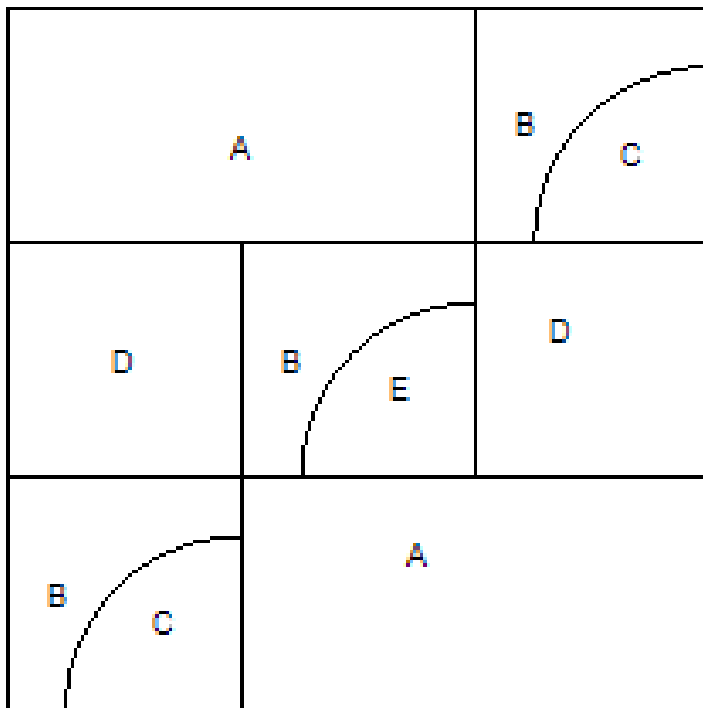


All Sizes make 8 blocks

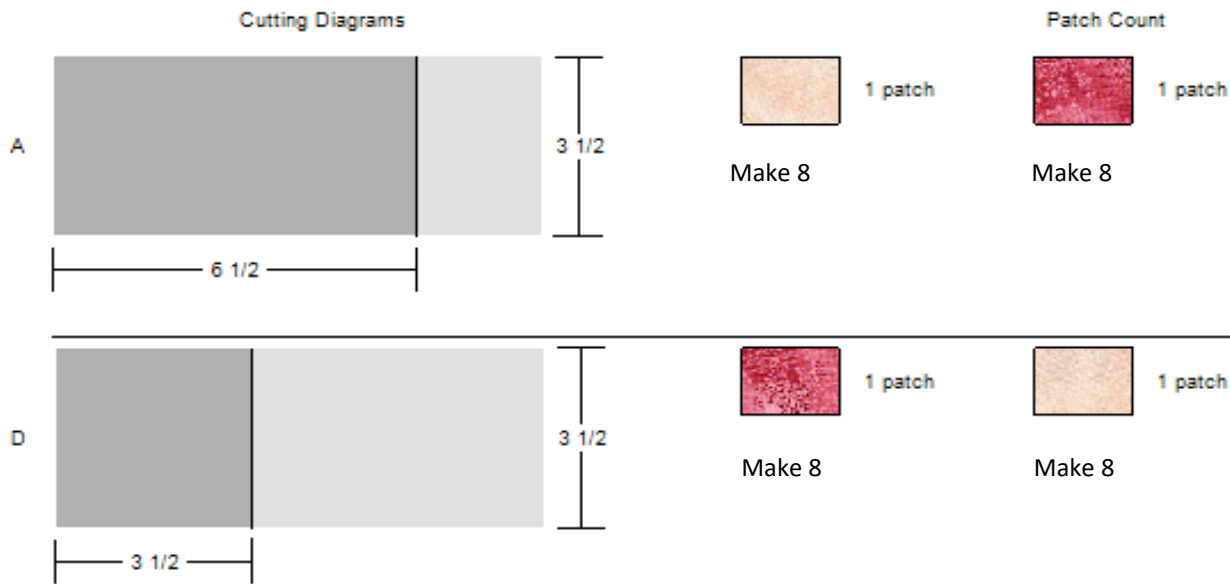
Part 1: Cutting Instructions - Lay out your pieces to ensure you have cut properly before assembly.

Above is a picture of the block in one of our sample quilts with Blue Fabric. We will be using a block from another quilt-in-progress to document the process. Because we are all using our own choice of fabrics, it is suggested that you color, or glue a small piece of your fabric on each square so you are assured of cutting the pieces that match your unique quilt design.

Key Block (27/100 actual size)



1A—Cutting pieces A and D — We will be using the traditional rotary cutting method for the squares and rectangles.



These instructions are based on a 41" usable WOF strips. Adjust as needed for your fabric.

1. Cut 2 Strips 3 1/2" wide of your Darker fabric. From one strip Sub-cut (8)—3 1/2" Squares. From the left over fabric cut (2) 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles.
 2. Sub cut Strip 2 into (6) 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles.
- ⇒ Repeat previous 2 steps with your lighter or background fabric.

1B—Cutting pieces for your small curve blocks. At this point we deviate from the traditional method and how we use the provided templates.

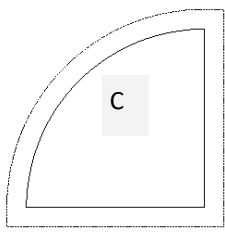
The method we will be using to create this little block is called **Piec-lique, Curves the New Way, by Sharon Schamber**. I learned this method back in 2008, so it's no longer "new" to many.

Tools you will need.

- ◇ Freezer Paper, enough to double for the small inner curve.
- ◇ Small Stencil brush or something similar;
- ◇ Water-soluble Glue (Elmers Washable School glue works best (in my humble opinion));
- ◇ A fine tip for glue bottle. You want a very fine line of glue, once heated the glue will bond the fabric together until washed or pulled apart. Elmers liquid glue does not bond without heat. If you do not press your glued seam with an iron to dry, your pieces will not stay together.

What if you don't have a fine tip for your glue bottle? The tip from Elmers school will add too much glue and make a mess if you try and lay a line down. You can just put small dots and smudge it a little with a brush. Or you can use a glue stick if you are careful to place it along the folded edge.

Part 2—Making your templates: Print B and C and E templates on card stock or regular paper. The **B inner curve** template will be used as printed for cutting your inner curve. You will be using the **E outer curve** as printed to cut your small outer curve fabric. You will be using a modified **C outer curve** template to shape your fabric before attaching to the inner curve B.



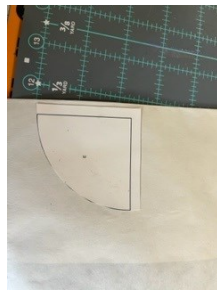
Before



After Modification

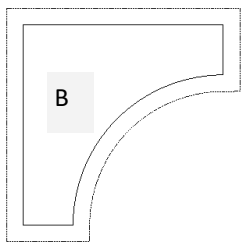


- 1) Using Template C cut off the seam allowance of the outer curve as shown.
- 2) Fold freezer paper in 1/2 shiny sides together and press with iron to seal the two layers.



- 3) Paste the cut **C template** onto the freezer paper and then cut out. This will give you a stiff **C template** without the 1/4in seam allowance on the curve, that will allow you to shape your fabric and hold up to the heat of an iron.

Note: Pieces E and B, if printed on good card stock should be stiff enough for the next steps, otherwise with wrong side of template iron to shiny side of freezer paper and cut out.



Part 3A—Cutting B the outer curve. You will need 3 outer curves per block so will need a total of 24 pieces. We will be making these oversized and trim to 3 1/2" in a later step. Based on your width, cut (3) - 4" strips WOF to subcut (24) 4" squares.



Layout Template B on a 4 in square as shown, align shorter straight edge of template to edge of fabric.



Draw a line along the curve which includes your seam allowance. Do not use a marker that will set with heat, a Frixion Pen is safe to use in this application.

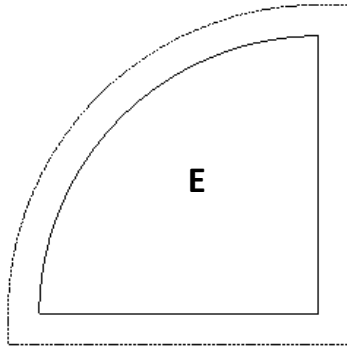


Trim along the line with a 28mm rotary cutter or scissors.

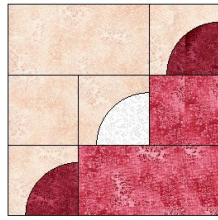


Continue until you have 24 outer pieces of your background fabric

Part 3B — Cutting outer curves using unaltered Template E



Use Template E with no alterations. If printed with a good card stock, it will work for this step, if not, stiffen with freezer paper.

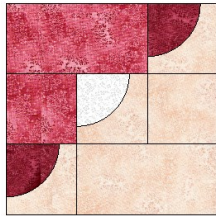
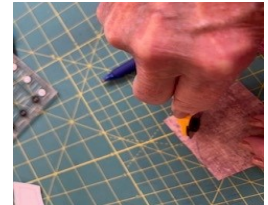


Note: Figure out how many you need for your quilt design. For my sample I will need 2 dark red and 1 white per square. With eight squares, that is 16 dark red and 8 white- small outer circles.



1) Cut as many 2 3/4 in squares of each color as needed per your calculations.

2) Lay the template aligning the 2 straight edges and corner of template and fabric. Goal is to have a piece of fabric matching the size of your template. Be sure you are using the template with seam allowance on all 3 sides as in the picture.



3) Draw a line around the curve and then trim off unneeded part cutting on your line. I would not recommend cutting more than 2 at a time, the pieces shift easily due to the small size.

Note: Layout all your pieces to be sure your block will be the way you want for your own color design before proceeding to the next step.

Part 4 — Preparing your Outer Curve Pieces



1)

1) Spray a small amount of starch into a cup or lid.

Note: Starch is recommended for this method, but I tried Best Press with success, just needed to press longer to dry as it isn't as sticky and carefully press facedown to maintain a good crease after removing paper.



2)



3)

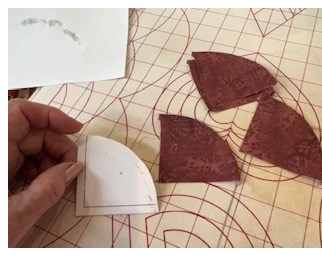
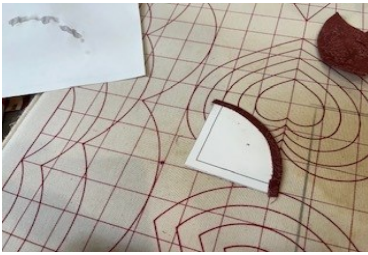
2) Using the C Template. (This is the template without curve seam allowance that you previously pasted to freezer paper to stiffen)

3) Lay the template on your 2 3/4" square aligning the fabric and paper at the inner corner and straight edges. You should see your 1/4" seam allowance along the curve. With your brush dip it in the starch and then dampen just the edge outside the paper template by lightly painting it on.

4) With your FINGER fold the fabric seam allowance damped with starch over the paper curved edge as you use your iron tip to press and crease along the paper edge to ensure a nice round, smooth-crisp curve. Continue pressing until dry.

4)



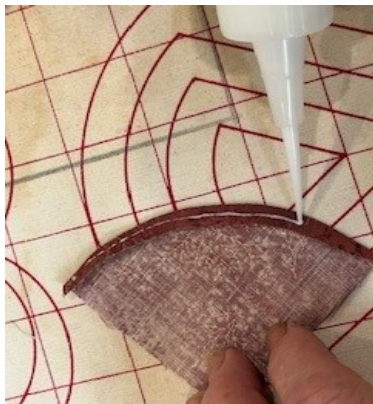


5) Once dry and cool, remove the fabric piece and if needed lightly –press flat with right side up. Continue this process until all pieces are made.

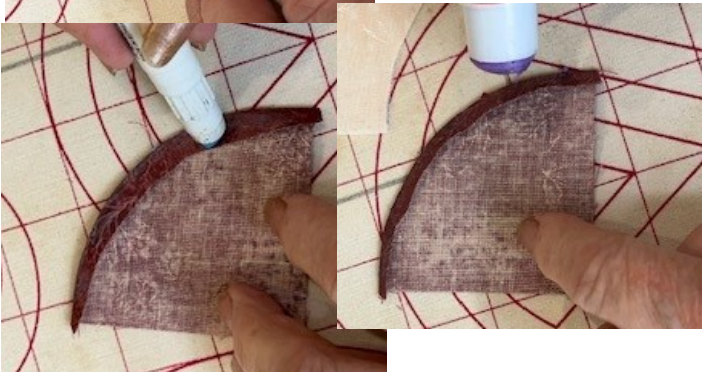
Part 5 — Assemble the two curved pieces



A. Your outer curve should look as shown with wrong side facing up.



B. Add a small amount of glue along the seam allowance. I used my special thin tip, but was also successful using a fabric glue stick and a tube stick of Elmers School glue for this technique. Just keep the glue on the folded edge.



C. Lay the inner curve piece B —aligning edges as shown. If you spend too much time adjusting and the glue wears off or dries you won't get a good bond. Just pull apart and start over reapplying the glue.



D. Press to dry, 5-7 sec should be sufficient. You will know if the pieces were securely adhered together when you pick it up as it takes a good tug to pull apart. If you are unhappy with your alignment, just pull apart and start again.



E. Clip the curve as shown, careful to not clip into the fold as this is where you will be stitching.



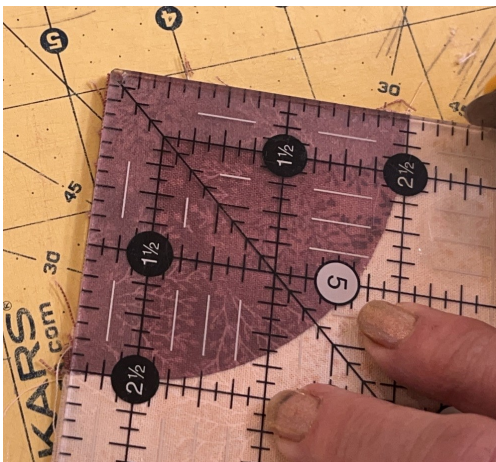
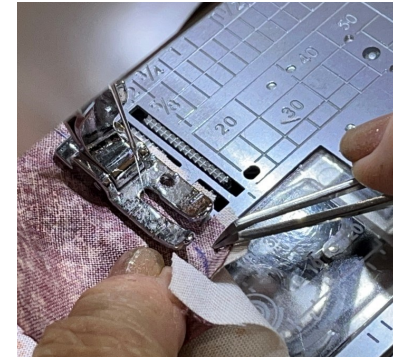
Note: When you turn your piece over, it will look as if you had stitched and pressed your square. But remember only a tiny amount of glue holds this together.

Part 6—Stitching the Curved Seam

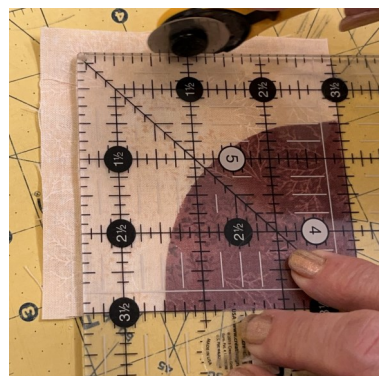
1) You will be stitching in the fold that was created when you folded the seam allowance over the paper template.

- ◆ Recommend a small stitch length, I used 1.8.
- ◆ Go Slow and with a finger on one hand and a stylus in the other, keep the seam open just in front of where you are sewing, you don't want tiny folds to take out later.
- ◆ To speed the process, assembly line sew them together.
- ◆ The crease was a bit difficult to see in my fabrics, so I made a mark with a friction pen which I could stick into the curve between the fabric and easily make a mark on the folded line.

2) Press your pieces checking for any areas that may need fixing.



3) Trim to Size, first trim inner corner cutting off any little slivers making your intersection and sides smooth.



4) Then make final trim squaring to 3 1/2" .

You now have a perfect little square

Part 7—Assemble your Block

This is assembled as a standard 9 patch block, Recommend you assemble each Row and then sew the rows together to complete each block.