

December Block of the Month

Two for One Disappearing 9-Patch

In keeping with the holiday sale spirit, 2 blocks for the price of 1 !
Directions are the same for both blocks until the final layout. Read to the end for some samples / ideas for other ways to use this amazing, versatile little block :)



Step 1

All kinds of colors can be used to get different effects. For the directions, I will refer to the Red/White/Black design.

Cut : four white 5" squares.
 four red 5" squares
 one black 5" square.

Step 2

Lay out as shown and sew together as a traditional 9-patch.

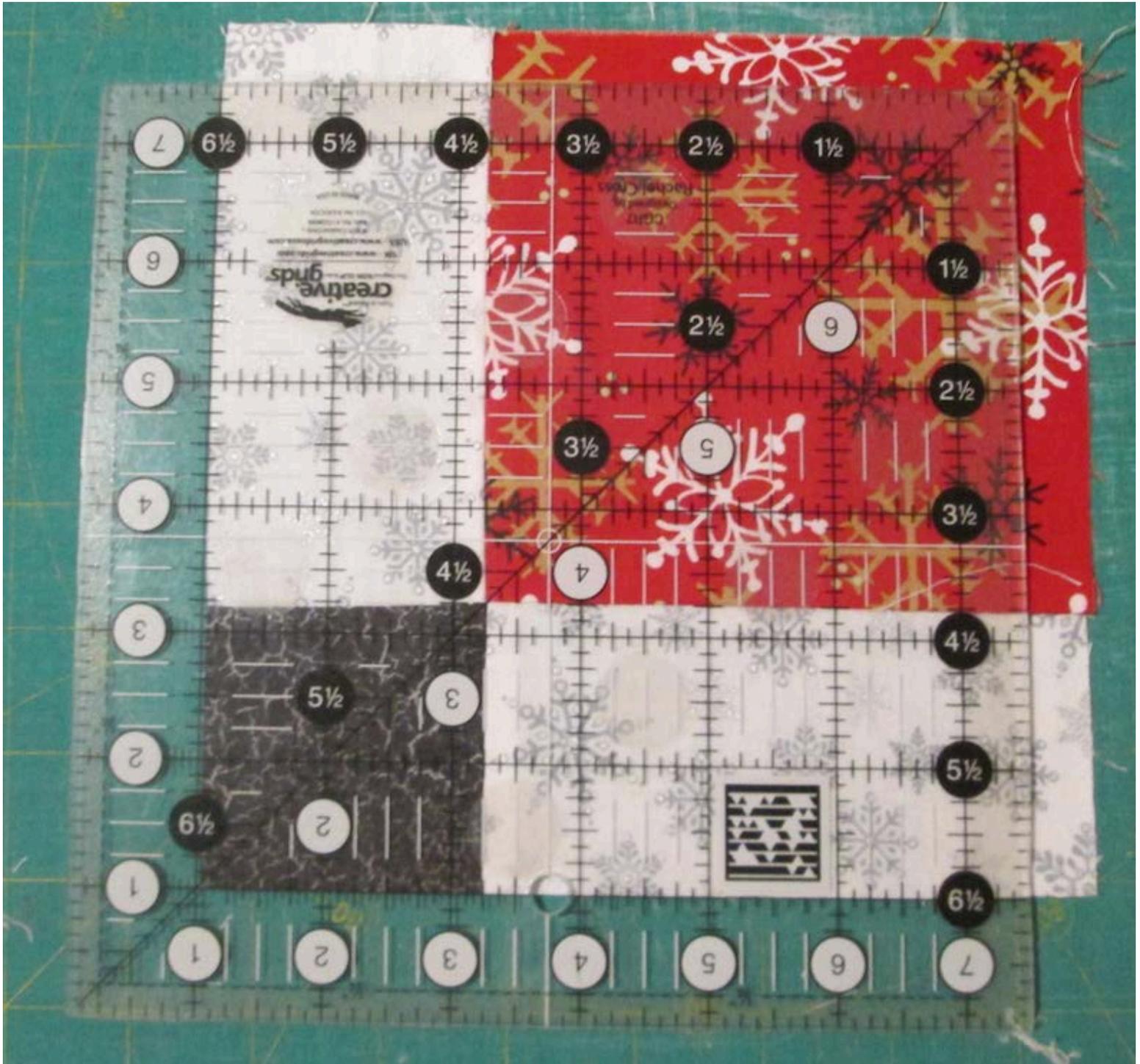


Step 3

Cut block in half, both vertically and horizontally to yield 4 equal sections.

Step 4

We will square each section to 6.5 inches. Measure from the small black square. Line up the ruler on the 6.5 inch lines on the left and the bottom. This will keep the white "sashing" rectangles even. Repeat for all 4 sections.



Step 5

Now the fun part. Here's where your creativity in fabric placement shines. Play around with the arrangements until you find the right one for you. Then sew together as a 4-patch.



Step 5

Iron flat and you're done! A 12.5 unfinished block !

Now for some bonus ideas.



Have lots of scraps that haven't found a home? This is a great block for using them up. Remember, once you cut up the 9-patch, those pieces can be paired with pieces from other blocks.



Have some pretty fabrics but not quite enough to make a quilt? Mix in some blending fabrics and make a throw, table runner, or place mats. Just need to add an extra row of sashing to finish the outside edge.

Want a quick "I Spy" quilt?

The trick for using directional prints is to lay out the squares in specific directions in the 9-patch. That way, all of your designs will be right-side up.

Below is the needed directional set-up. When you cut up the sewn 9-patch, all the animals will be standing up when you reassemble the 4 sections.

