



# Learn to draw a quilt block

## Introduction

Most patchwork quilt block patterns use shapes like squares, triangles and rectangles and sometimes curves that are sewn together in a specific way to create the design.

A particularly important part of accurate piecing and quilting is measuring, drawing, and cutting the fabric to the right size. This is the foundation. The first step: If this step is accurate, it will be easier for you to construct an accurate block. Now, you may argue, how important is accuracy? “Isn’t that for grown-ups only. I only want to have fun?” After many years of sewing, I can vouch from personal experience that accuracy is important. Making one block that is not so accurate, is one thing. Making a big quilt for your bed, where the blocks are not so accurate, and they do not fit together, and the corners do not fit and ...

That is a big frustration and can make you feel inadequate. As I know that quilter youngsters are reading this, and since quilters want to learn as much as they can, you are going to learn to do it the easy right way. You are going to measure, draw and cut accurately. Easy peasy!

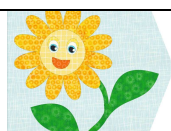
## How are you going to do that?

You are going to use graph paper, sharp pencil, and a ruler to measure and draft. You are going to draw a square with a grid and then draw a traditional quilt block in the grid. You are then going to trace this and draw a quilt pattern.

Then you can colour the blocks to make your very first quilt pattern. This is very much like making your own puzzle. Let’s go!



*Be safe. Pencils are sharp. Never run with a pencil in your hand.  
Keep your pencils in the pencil case and try not to drop them as  
the lead inside will break. Be responsible and look after your tools.*



## What do you need ?

### A place to work

- For today's project you will need a space where you can work without interruption for at least one hour.
- Table.
- Chair, high enough for you to sit on and work comfortably at the table.
- Enough light to see what you are doing.
- A bin for paper off cuts.

### Tools

- You will need the following tools:
- Your toolbox with sewing tools includes a pair of scissors for cutting paper
- A sharp HB pencil and eraser
- A 15 or 30cm school ruler
- A mathematical triangle if you have one
- Colouring pencils or markers.

### Materials

You will need the following materials:

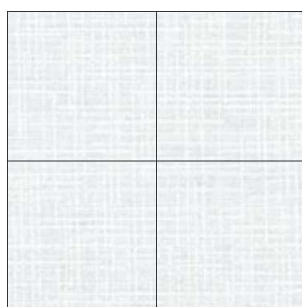
- 1 sheet of graph / paper with squares
- Masking tape

### How to draw a grid

Most traditional quilt blocks are based on a pattern structure called a grid or block design.

Most patchwork quilt block patterns use shapes like squares, triangles and rectangles that are sewn together in a specific way to create the design.

Most traditional quilt blocks are based on a grid of 2x2, 3x3 or 4x4. That means there are two rows of blocks and two columns of block for a 2 x 2 grid.



### DICTIONARY

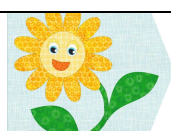
*Time to learn new words:*

#### **Grid**

*a pattern of lines, usually crossing each other to form squares.*

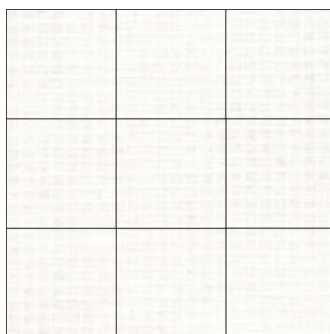
#### **9 Patch Grid**

*A Grid of 3 by 3 blocks commonly used in designing quilt block patterns*



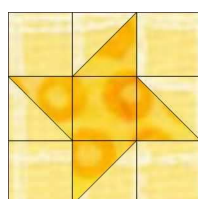
## Step 1

Today, you are going to draw on a 3x3 grid, known as a 9 Patch Grid. Attach the printed grid to the table by sticking it to the table with a small piece of masking tape on each corner. This helps to keep the paper stable. (The grids are at the end of the lesson)

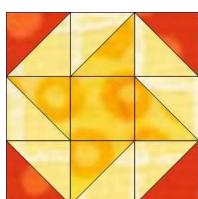


## Step 2

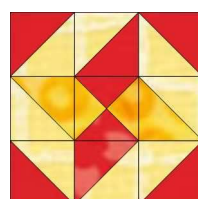
The first block you are going to draw is a Friendship star. Draw a diagonal line with your pencil and ruler from left bottom to right top, on the middle block of the top row to divide that block into two triangles.



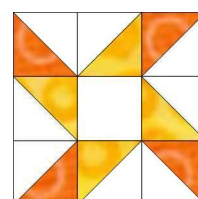
Friendship Star



Double Friendship Star



Wandering Star



Eccentric Star

In the first drawing, only the middle blocks around the sides are divided in the same direction. By adding lines, the simple friendship star is transformed into three other more complex star patterns. There is no such block, but how will you draw an Eccentric Wandering star?

Draw the four stars above. Well done! Colour these patterns in with your colour pencils in your favourite colours. Try to use a dark, medium light and light pencil. You can also not colour pieces if you want them to be white.

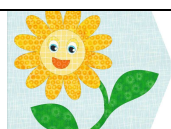
This is the way all quilt blocks are made up and designed. By changing the size of the grid, you can change the size of the block you want to make. By changing the number of blocks in the grid, you can draw more complicated patterns.

## What can you design?

Print another copy of the last page and design your own 9-patch blocks and colour them in. I'm sure you can be very creative!

## Clean up

Well done! Remember to put all your colouring pencils back into their box, the pieces of masking tape in the dustbin and the rulers and other drawing tools back into your pencil case. Leave your workspace as neat as you found it. You are becoming a quilter!



## Show and Tell

Keep the patterns you drew in a file, or plastic flip file page sleeves or paste them into a book. Post one or more pictures of your coloured patterns on the #SAQGQC4Y WhatsApp page.

## See how much you know and can find out

See how many quilts you can spot in the TV movies you watch or magazines you read. There are often quilts thrown over the back of a couch or over the bottom of a bed. Sometimes tiles on the walls or floor patterns are like patchwork designs too. See if you can see which pattern was used. Can you draw it?

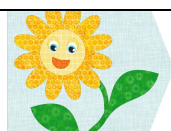
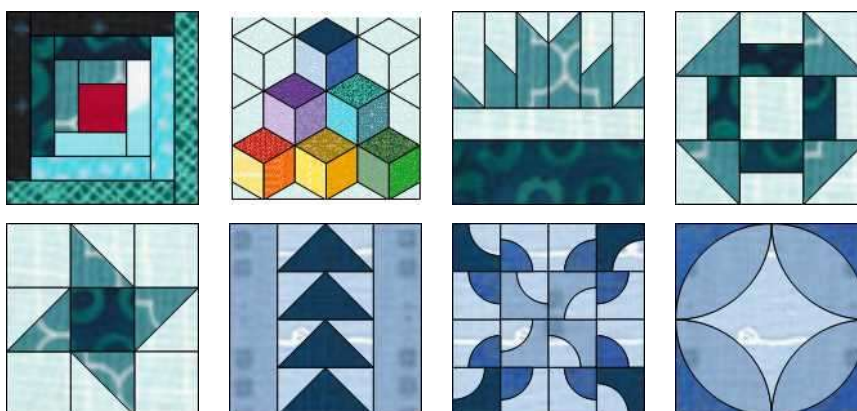
## Learn about Traditional Patterns

A long, long time ago, before radio, TV, satellite dish, cell phones, WhatsApp, and You-tube, people had the same needs to socialise as we have today. We use technology, they wrote letters and read newspapers and magazines.

Like the advertisements we see that pop up between clips on You-tube today, in those days the magazines ran campaigns that made sure that the ladies bought the magazines month after month. In this way, the magazines sold more copies every month.

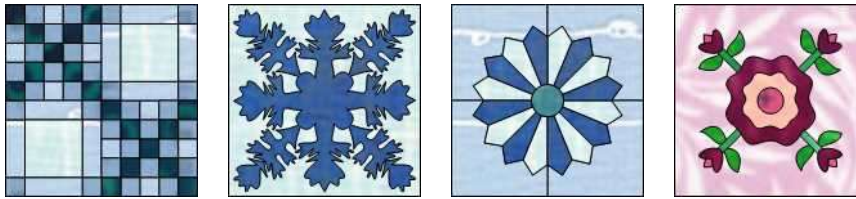
One of the more successful advertisement campaigns were run by the Ladies' Art Company of St Louis, Missouri in the USA. You could write a letter to them, asking them to send you a booklet called "Quilt pattern book, Patchwork and Appliqué". This booklet contained over 500 patterns that could be used for quilts and quilting. This was in 1922, almost 100 years ago. You could then choose a pattern and include the money with the letter you sent, buy one pattern for 10c or 3 for 25c. The money was sent in postage stamps or money orders that you could buy from the post office. The letters were mailed in a big red post box. Today we call letters that are mailed through the post office, snail mail. Have you ever mailed a letter?

Some of the traditional blocks you could order were named after everyday household objects Log cabin, Baby blocks, Delectable Mountains, Open Barn Door, Friendship Star and Flying Geese. Then some others are called Drunkard's Path and Robbing Peter to pay Paul. I wonder where those names come from! There are also some that refer to special memories and places like the blocks called Irish Chain, Hawaiian Flower, Dresden plate and the Rose of Sharon. Most of the blocks below are pieced and some are appliqué. Look at the blocks below and see which of the names you can identify.



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Can you see which of these blocks are appliqué? Can you see which were designed on a 9-patch grid? Which one of these blocks is usually sewn by hand? What will you call 'n grid with 4 patches across and 4 down? Well done!

### What's next?

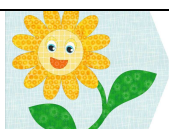
How to cut paper and fabric with a pair of scissors.

### Did I miss something?

Keep a look out on the #SAQGQC4Y page on WhatsApp for more cool stuff or projects that you might have missed. [Http://www.quiltsouthafrica.co.za/youth](http://www.quiltsouthafrica.co.za/youth)

- What do I need to quilt?
- How to start with a quilters' knot and end with a French knot.
- How to pin.

*Answers for the quiz: The last 3, Open Barn door and Friendship Star, 16 Patch.*



## 9 Patch Blocks

