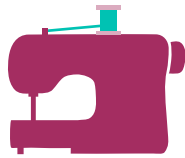


MODERN *with a twist*



Transforming traditional blocks

Color Flow Puzzle

Everyone
loves a
Nine-Patch!



by Debby Kratovil

^ A bright but more traditional Washington Puzzle quilt.



Many traditional blocks can be traced to simple line drawings inside a specific size square. The **Washington Puzzle** is a Nine-Patch block with the lines drawn at a diagonal. This truly is a vintage block traditionally sewn with odd sized templates. I can imagine a quilter playing with paper and pencil and drawing the four lines in this block. Then, she cut it apart, added seams and sewed it back together. Funky templates for sure, but it creates a wonky, modern look!

Old Design, New Method

My technique, which I call Magic Stax, goes back about 15 years when I, too, played with line drawings of traditional blocks. I drew this block on the paper side of freezer paper. Then, because the Washington Puzzle is comprised of nine unique patches/fabrics, I cut nine 10-1/2" squares of the luscious rainbow of colors in **Caryl Bryer Fallers-Gentry's Color Flow fabric collection** (love these prints!). I stacked them and ironed the freezer paper to the top. (This technique would work with any size square.) Because I was cutting through nine layers of fabric, I used a new rotary cutter blade and a larger cutter. Four cuts and you're done cutting! Shuffle the patch piles as shown in the diagrams and you end up with nine layers of patches, every layer with nine different fabrics! Wonky-looking blocks, ready to sew.

Color Flow Puzzle

Finished Quilt Size: 39-1/2"

Finished Block Size: 8-1/2"

Note: To make the quilt shown, you will need (2) sets of (9) squares in order to get the needed (9) blocks with (5) tilting left and (4) tilting right. You'll have pieces left to make an additional (9) blocks.

Materials

- 3/8 yard each of (9) Color Flow prints: Poppy (#1099-19), Fuchsia (#1099-28), Gold (#1099-33), Chartreuse (#1099-41), Green (#1099-44), Teal (#1099-54), Blue (#1099-55), Purple (#1099-66) and Flame (#1099-73)
- 1/3 yard Color Flow Cloud (#1099-09)
- 1/2 yard Color Flow Gray (#1099-13)
- 1-1/4 yards backing fabric
- 42" piece of batting
- Freezer paper

Cutting/Preparation

From each 1/3 yard cut:

(2) 10-1/2" squares

From each of the Green, Purple, Gold and Fuchsia:

(1) 5-1/2" x 15-1/4" piece

From each of the Poppy, Blue, Flame, and Chartreuse:

(1) 5-1/2" x 20-1/4" piece

From the Cloud:

(2) 1-1/2" x 30" strips

(4) 1-1/2" x 28" strips

(6) 1-1/2" x 9" pieces

From the Gray:

(5) 2-1/4" x 42" strips for binding

Make the Blocks

1. Cut a 10-1/2" square of freezer paper. Find and mark the mid-point of each edge and label A-D on the paper side of the square as shown. Draw a line from A to the bottom right corner. Draw a line from B to

the bottom left corner. Draw a line from C to the top left corner. Draw a line from D to the top right corner.

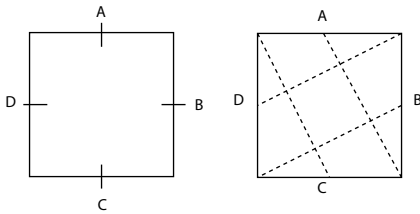


Diagram 1

2. Iron the marked square to right side of (1) 10-1/2" fabric square. Stack (8) different color squares underneath, right sides up. This will be your cutting guide. Cut from A to the bottom right corner. Cut from B to the bottom left corner. Cut from C to the top left corner, and cut from D to the top right corner. Move stacks away from each other; you'll have (9) piles of patches.

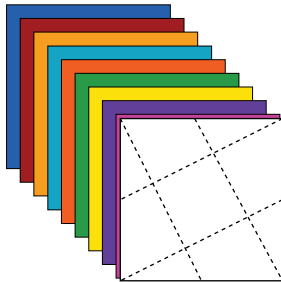


Diagram 2

3. To rearrange the patches and create the blocks, begin with the center stack (position #1). Move the top fabric to the bottom of the stack. Move to the stack in position #2. Move the top (2) fabrics to the bottom of the stack. Move to position #3 and move the top (3) fabrics to the bottom of the stack. Continue, moving one more fabric piece in each stack. When you are finished, all the patches in a single layer will be a different fabric.

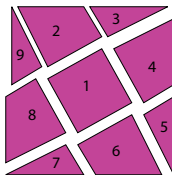


Diagram 3

4. Sew the pieces together just like an ordinary Nine-Patch. Sew the top (3) pieces into a row. Press seams AWAY from the center. Sew the middle (3) patches and press TOWARD the center. Sew the bottom (3) patches and press AWAY from center. Join

the rows into the block. Trim to measure 9" square.

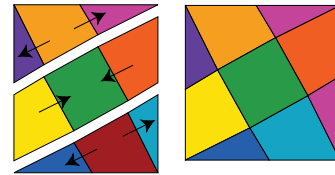


Diagram 4

5. Repeat to make (4) additional left-tilting blocks. Note: You have fabric cut to make (4) more.
6. Mark a second freezer paper square as shown in the Mirror Image diagram below. Use this for the second stack of 9 squares and repeat steps 2-5, making (4) right tilting blocks. (You'll have fabric cut to make (5) more.)

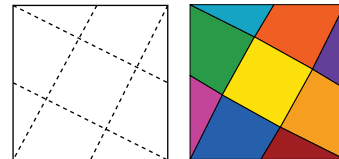
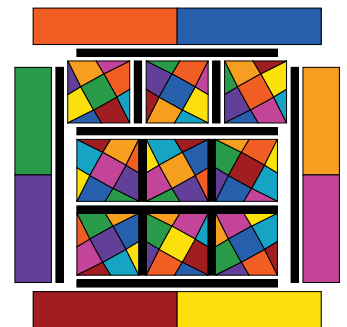


Diagram 5

Assembly

1. Lay out the (9) block alternating with (6) 1-1/2" x 9" Cloud pieces into (3) rows of (3) blocks and (2) strips each. Sew the blocks and pieces into rows.
2. Sew the rows together alternating with (4) 1-1/2" x 28" Cloud strips.
3. Sew the 1-1/2" x 30" Cloud strips to the sides.
4. Sew the 5-1/2" x 15-1/4" Green and Purple pieces short ends together. Sew the 5-1/2" x 15-1/4" Gold and Fuchsia pieces short ends together. Sew the pieced strips to the sides of the quilt.
5. Sew the 5-1/2" x 20-1/4" Poppy and Blue pieces short ends together. Sew the 5-1/2" x 20-1/4" Flame and Chartreuse pieces short ends together. Sew the pieced strips to the top and bottom of the quilt.
6. Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top right side up. Baste the layers together and quilt as desired. Use the (5) 2-1/4" x 42" Gray strips to bind the quilt.



Quilt Assembly Diagram