

Constructing the block, cont:

Follow the diagram on Page 2 to lay out and assemble the block as shown. Sew the units in each row together and press, then sew the rows together. Once the rows are sewn together the block center should measure 9 1/2-inches square. Sew the top and bottom borders in place, trimming as necessary. Press to the border pieces. Repeat with the side borders; press.

Erik's tips:

We continued our scrappy theme for this block even though we did not dissect any of the pieces within. Instead we opted to simply vary the scraps using all one **Red** for the Center **A** unit, one for the **B** Side units, and one for the **C** Corner units. Vary yours as your scrap pile permits, and certainly do not hesitate to use more! A quick audition should point the way for you! The pieces in this block are simply too small for many to make any scrappier. We used a **Dk Beige** for the borders.

This block is essentially a large nine patch block and goes together quite easily. Each unit measures 3 1/2-inches square before it is sewn into the block. Measure and trim your units as you need to. Sewing the rows together and pressing the seams opposite will ensure a nice looking block that lies flat.

As several times before, we added a 'courthouse step' style border to bring the block to the full dimension needed for the finished quilt; you may trim the finished block to 12 1/2-inches square now, or wait until you are ready to assemble the rows of the quilt later during the project. We chose not to give exact measurements for the border pieces in the cutting instructions. If your block is accurate you will need two pieces 2 1/2 by 9 1/2-inches for the top and bottom border, and two pieces cut 2 1/2 by 13 1/2-inches for the side borders. Trim your pieces as needed. If your block center is a little off in the 9 1/2-inch square dimension, do not worry since the added border will allow for little inaccuracy that will be easily covered. If you have trouble at any point, refer to our on-line tutorial for help.

Your finished block will measure 12 1/2-inches (unfinished), *once trimmed*.

Notes about our Independence Square Block:

Named by Nancy Cabot in 1938, the Independence Square block has a multitude of squares! Imagine hearing the Declaration of Independence being read at a gathering in any colonial town's cobbled square--and here you have it! How pretty this block would be laid out side by side with the 'Irish Chain' of squares running across the quilt! It would be beautiful in florals or even vibrant batiks!

We chose not to tamper with the simplicity of this block. The pieces were small enough and the pattern quite pretty. We enjoyed making this block and hope you will enjoy it as well.