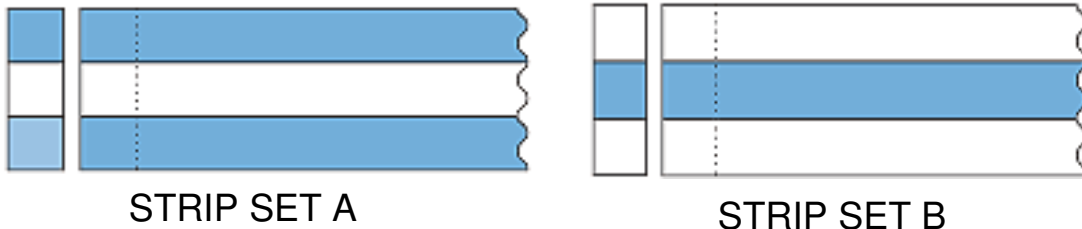


Strip Piecing a 9-Patch

"Strip piecing" 9-patch blocks means you will cut strips of fabric and stitch them together in strips of 3. As always, use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

For example, for a finished 6" nine-patch block, you will need strips cut $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. One set will be sewn with the darker fabric on either side of a light strip, and one set will have the lighter fabric strips sewn on either side of a center dark strip.



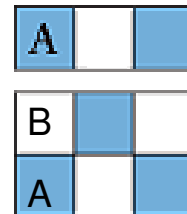
It is extremely important for accuracy to check the sewn width of your strip sets. In this case, it should be $6\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. If it is not, adjust your seam allowance to accommodate the desired width. I find that using a **scant** $\frac{1}{4}$ " is usually the answer.

"Set" each seam by pressing the iron on the sewn seam from the back side. Then, press seam allowances toward the darker fabric. Finally, press the strip set on the good side of the fabric.

Line up the long edge of a sewn strip set with a line on your ruler and trim the short edge to square up that strip set. Using an acrylic ruler and your rotary cutter, crosscut the strip set at $2\frac{1}{2}$ " intervals. Check frequently to make sure your cuts are at right angles to the edge of the strip. If not at right angles, stop cutting segments and square up the edge again.

For each nine-patch block, you will need 2 segments with the darker fabrics on the outside (Strip Set A) and 1 strip with the light fabric on the outside (Strip Set B).

Sew the segments together as shown in the unit diagram. With the fabrics pressed as described above, you will find that opposing seams "lock together" nicely.



NINE-PATCH BLOCK