

Design Challenge

Sneak Peek

By Cindy McCoey

Welcome to our **Design Challenge**! In each issue we will be making dynamic 9-Patch blocks using basic geometric shapes.

Line drawings will be provided with which you can design 9-Patch blocks in 6" or 9" or 12" finished sizes. Part of this challenge is deciding how to make your blocks, so there will be no fabric requirements nor templates provided. You can choose your preferred methods to make these: traditional patchwork, foundation paper piecing or even English paper piecing, whichever works best for you.

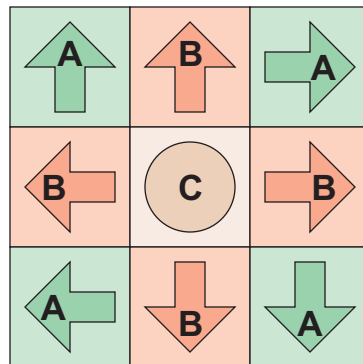
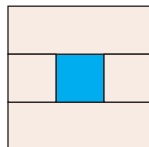


Diagram 1

You will receive 3 geometric shapes every month until a total of 30 is reached. With these shapes, the design possibilities are just about limitless.

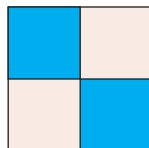
Join us as we challenge ourselves to think outside the box in creating dynamic 9-Patch blocks.

First, you start with a center block that is symmetrical on both the horizontal and vertical axis. This is Block C in Diagram 1. This month we will start with a simple Block in a Box. You will need to make one center Block C.



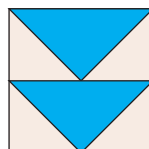
Block 3 for Position Block C

Next we need two other blocks. We will call these Block A and Block B. They will go around Block C as shown in the Diagram 1.



Block 1 for Position Block A

Since we are just starting out with our challenge, let's use 2 very easy geometric blocks. Block A is a 4-Patch and block B is made of 2 Flying Geese. You will need 4 each of Block A and Block B.



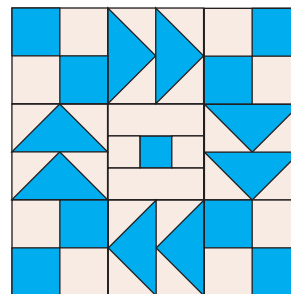
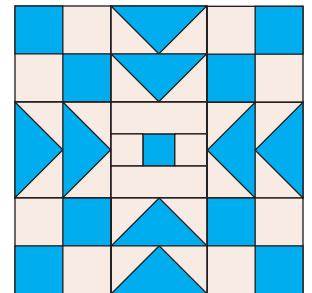
Block 2 for Position Block B

Now it is time for the fun part of designing our block! Set your blocks together as indicated by Diagram 1. The arrows denote the orientation of the blocks as they are arranged around the center Block C.

I like things symmetrical, so this is my first design for a 9-Patch block.

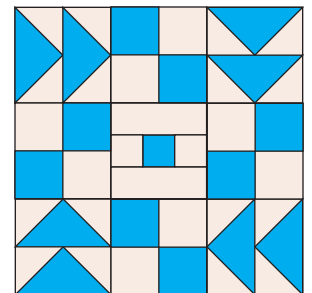


Skill Level



Let's say I want to get a little on the wild side and rotate my flying geese blocks. As you can see, it makes a big change in the 9-Patch block and creates movement.

What happens when we switch Block A and Block B? Wow, a brand new modern design!

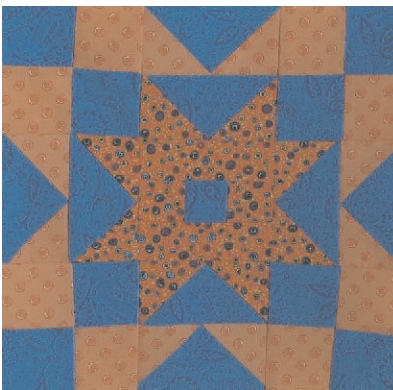
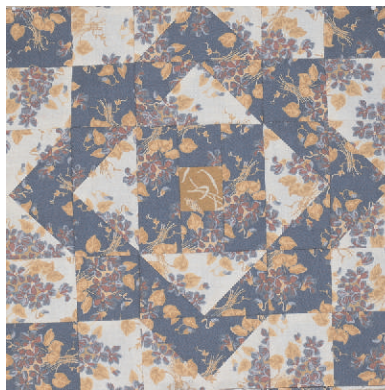
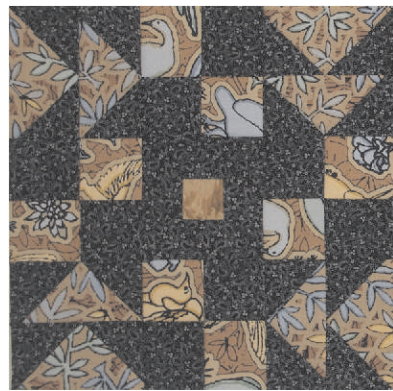
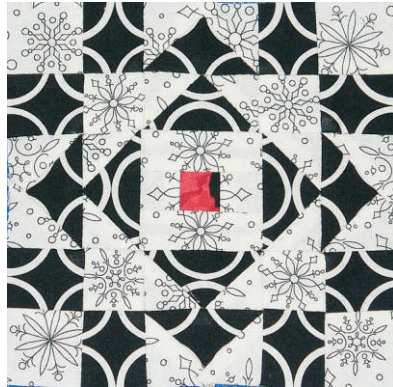
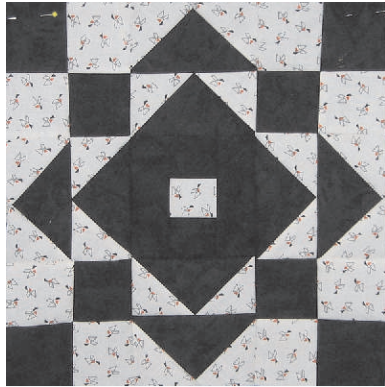


Play with your geometric blocks to see how many different 9-Patch designs you can come up with.

Next month, we will work with 3 more simple geometric blocks, just for some practice. After that, we will challenge our skills with more complex geometric shapes to make more dynamic 9-Patch blocks.

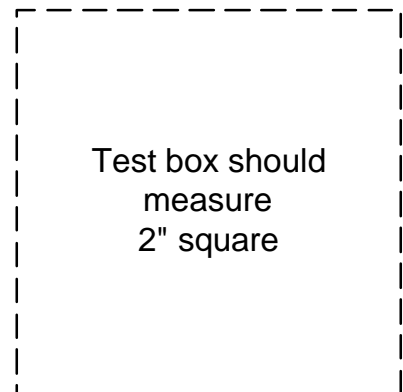
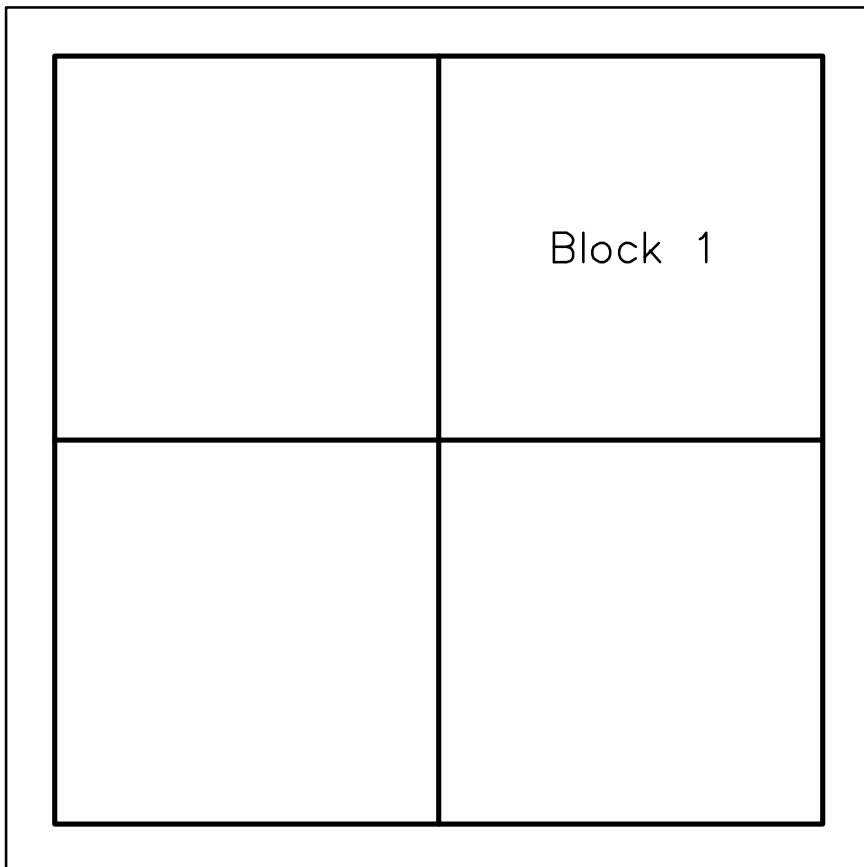
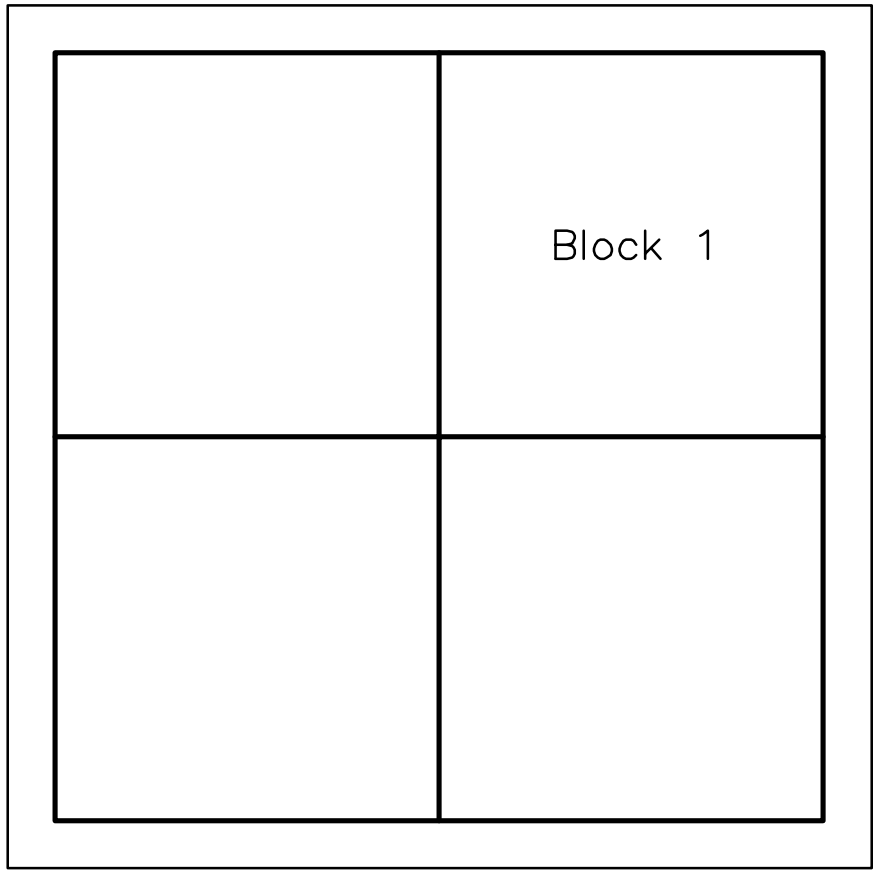
This is a sneak peek of Design Challenges published from January to October 2011. For the remaining 27 units, order past issues at www.quiltpatternmagazine.com

Block Ideas



Design Challenge

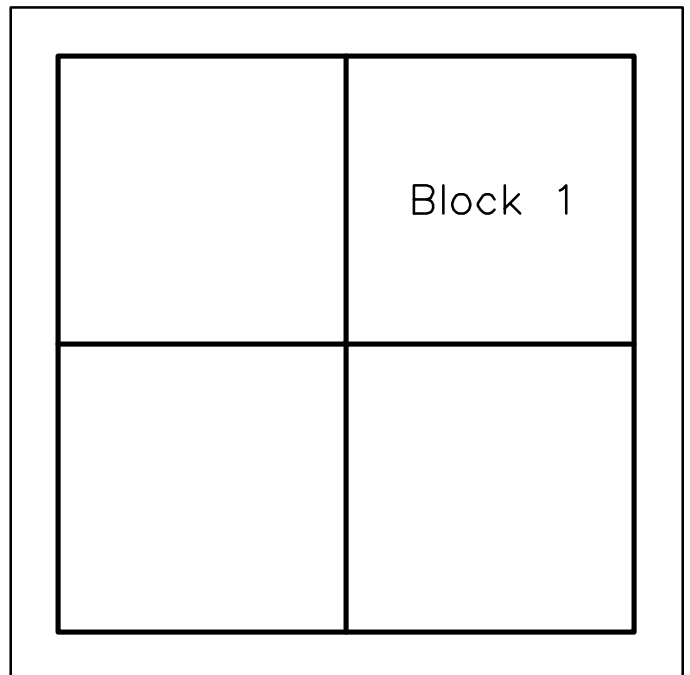
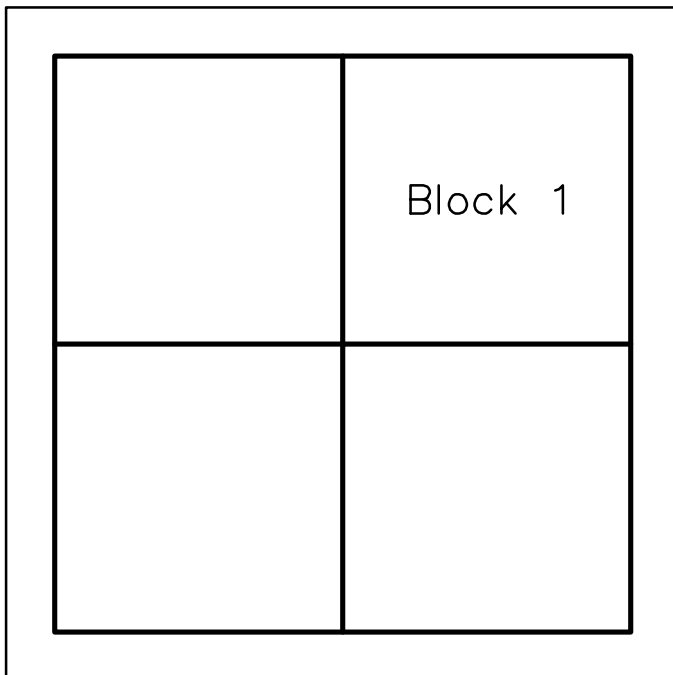
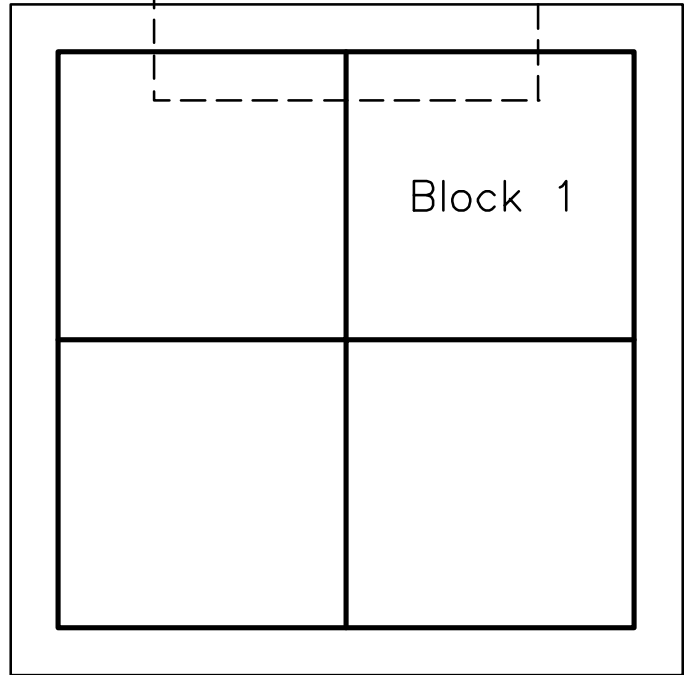
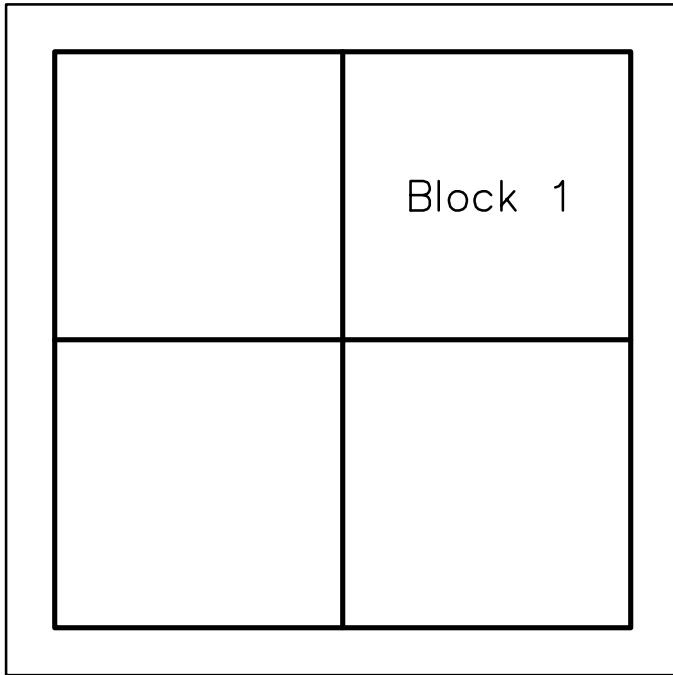
12" 9-Patch block



Design Challenge

9" 9-Patch block

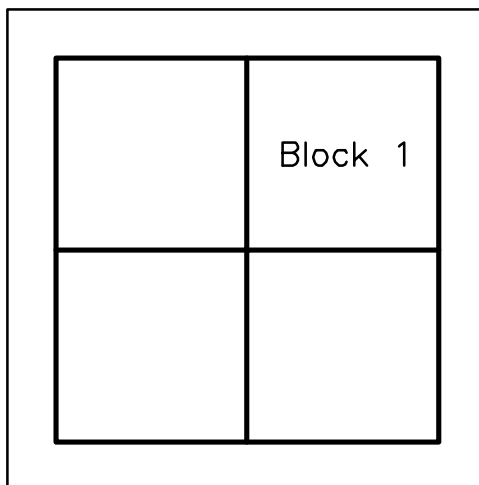
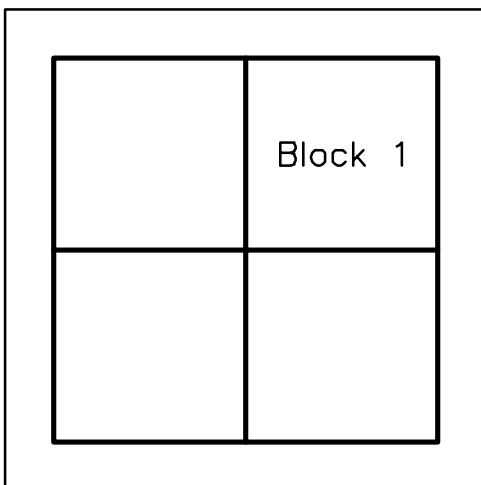
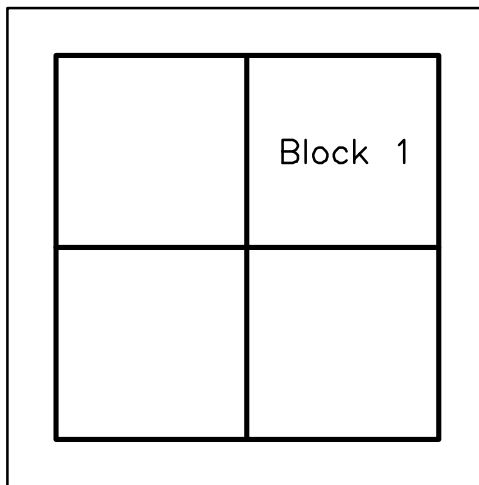
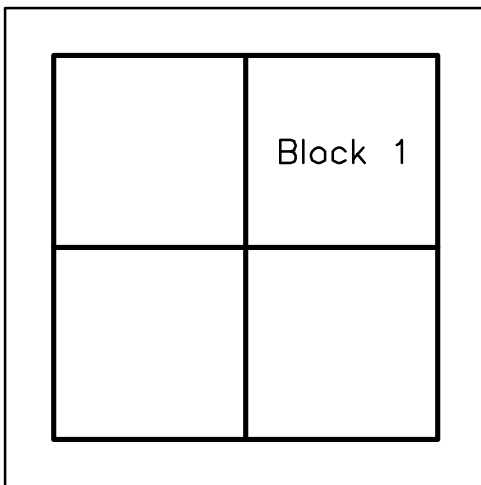
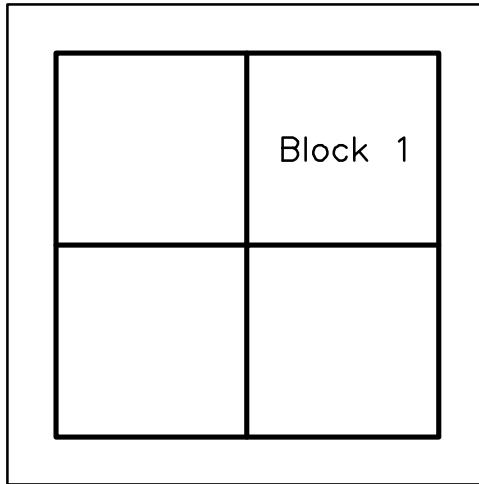
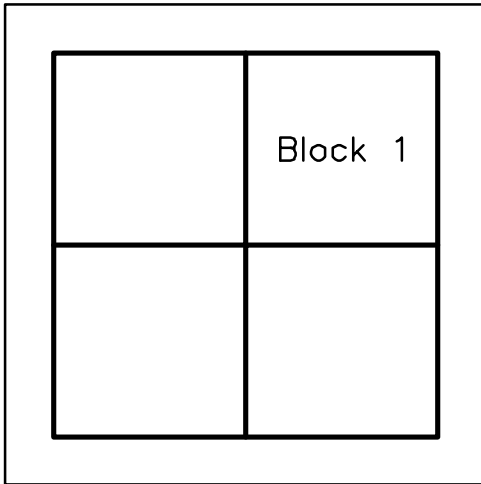
Test box should
measure
2" square



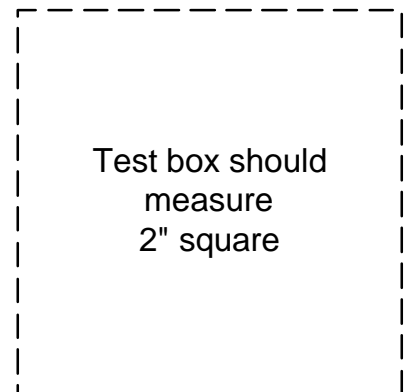
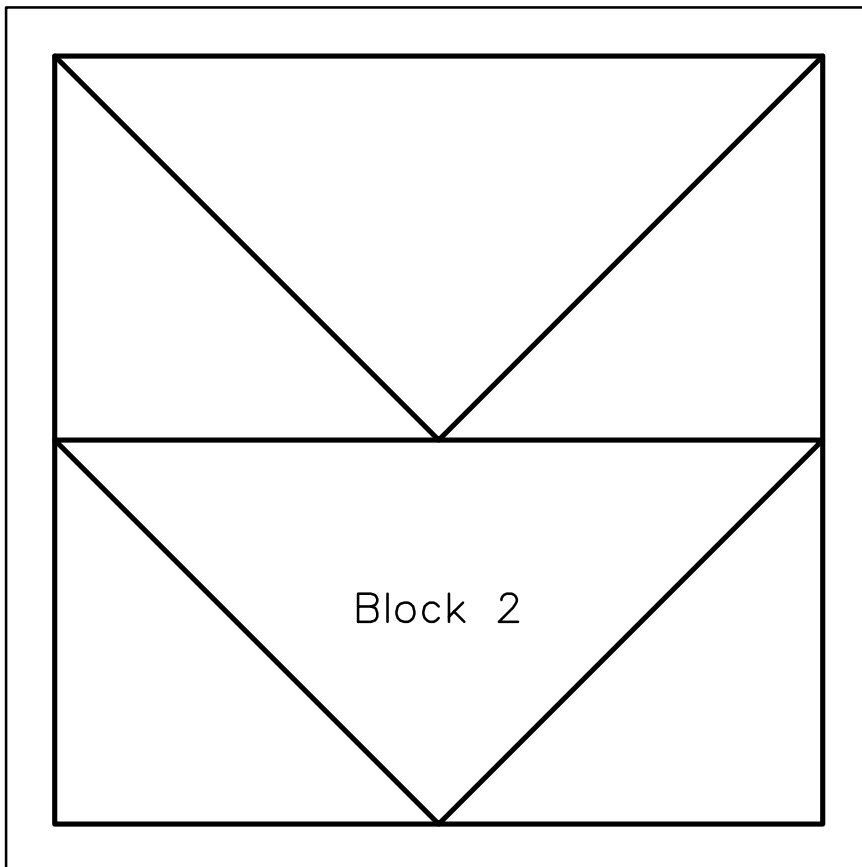
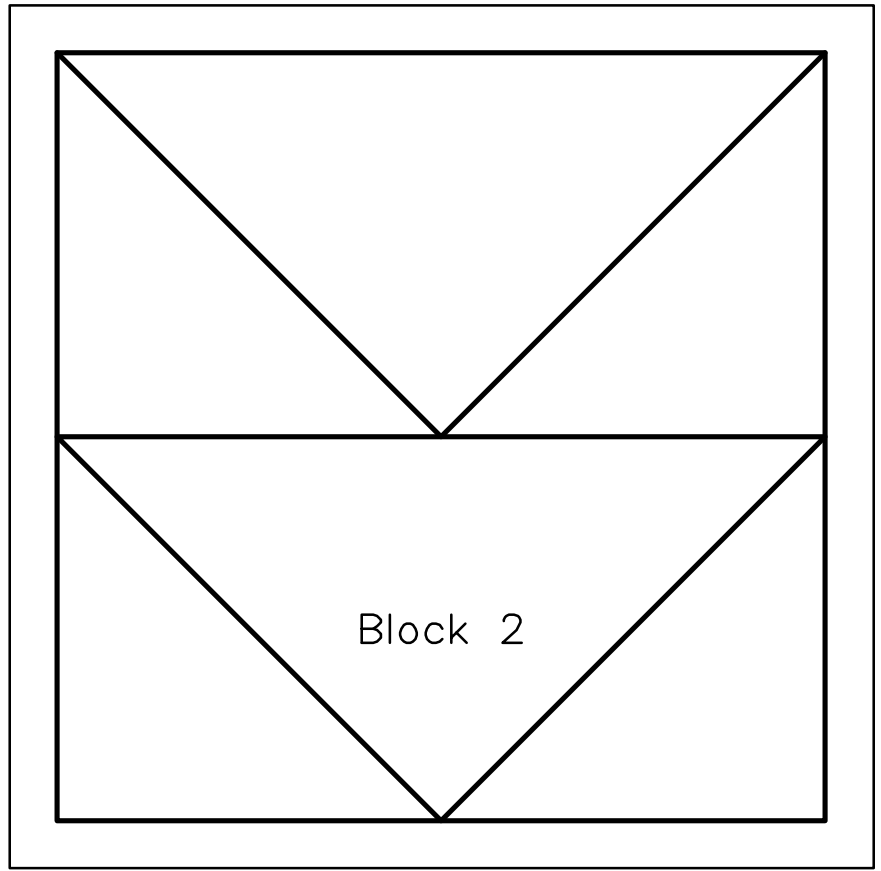
Design Challenge

6" 9-Patch block

Test box should
measure
2" square



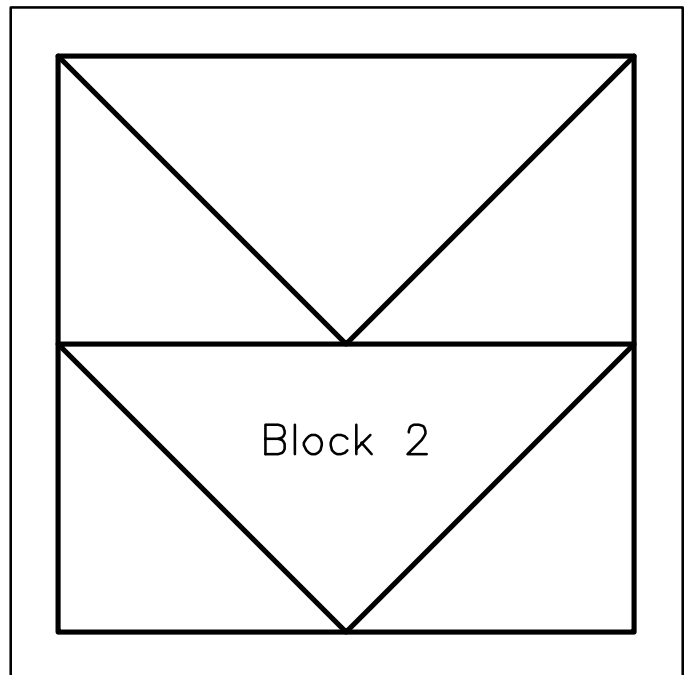
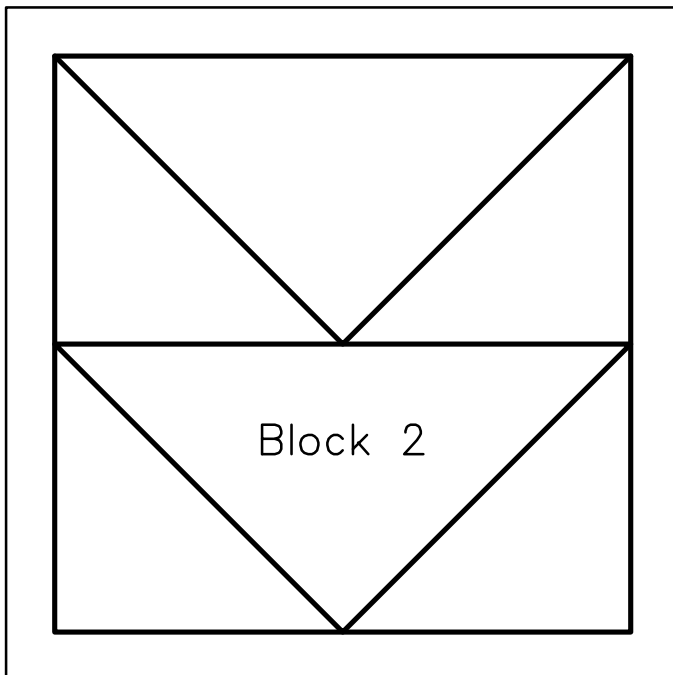
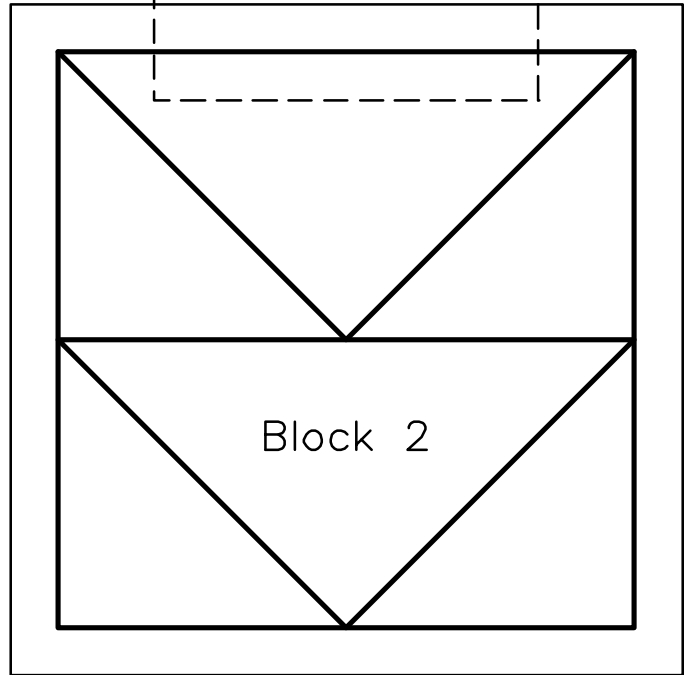
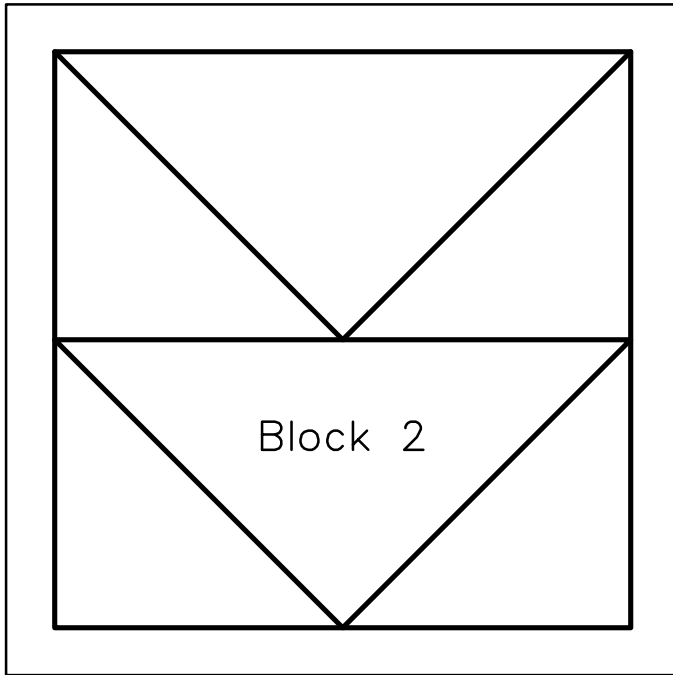
Design Challenge
12" 9-Patch block



Design Challenge

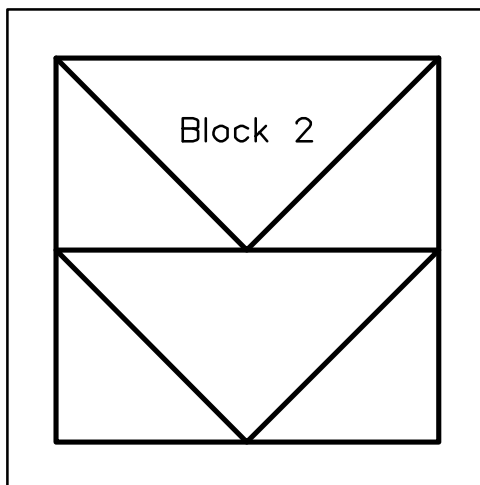
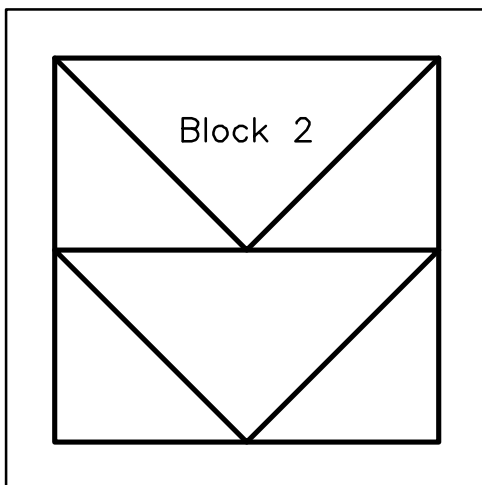
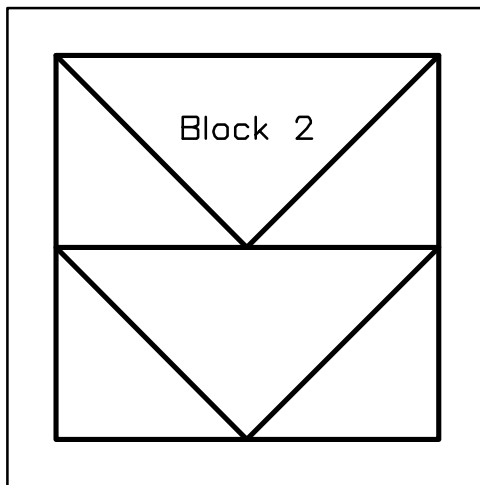
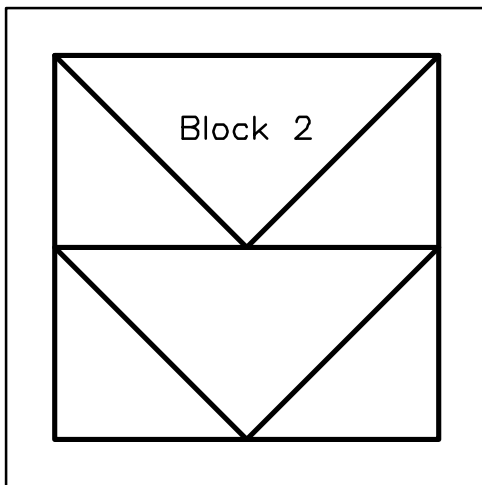
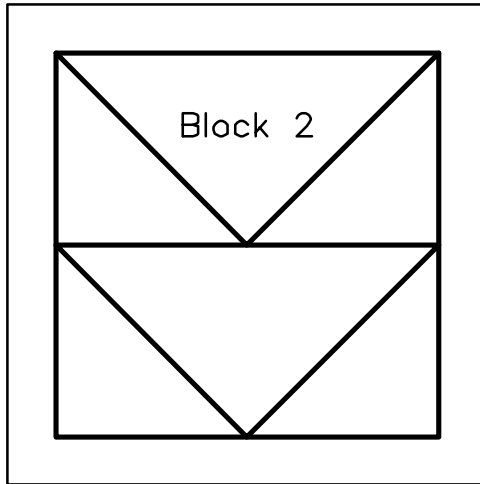
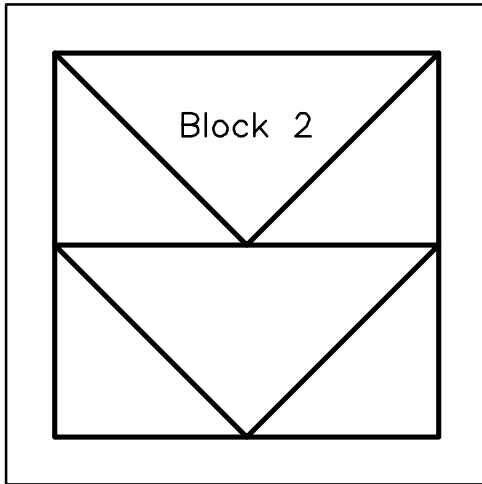
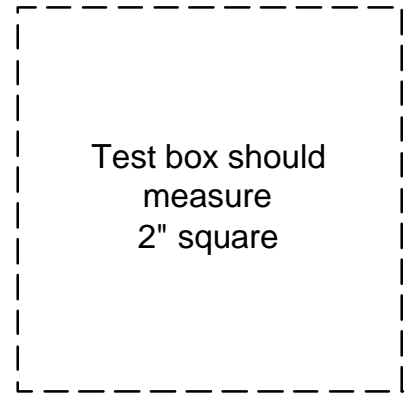
9" 9-Patch block

Test box should
measure
2" square



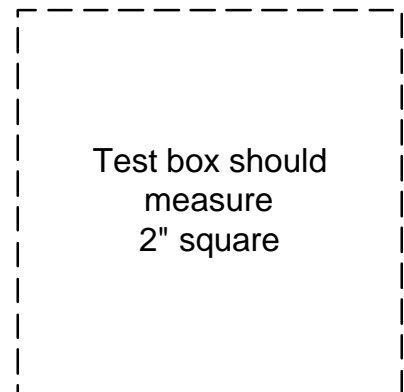
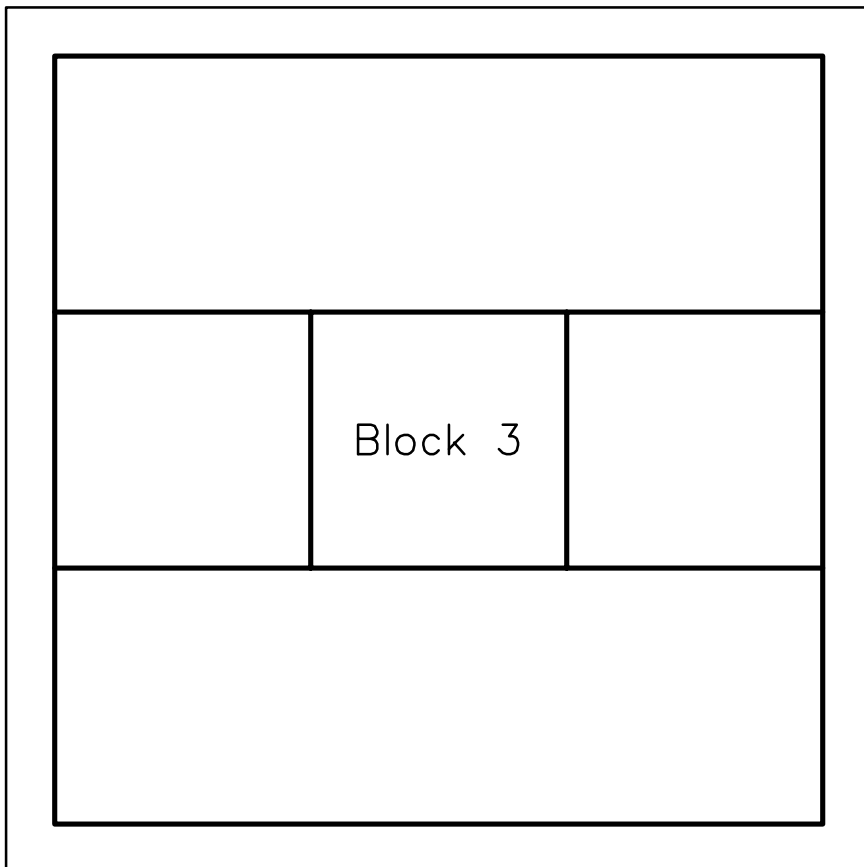
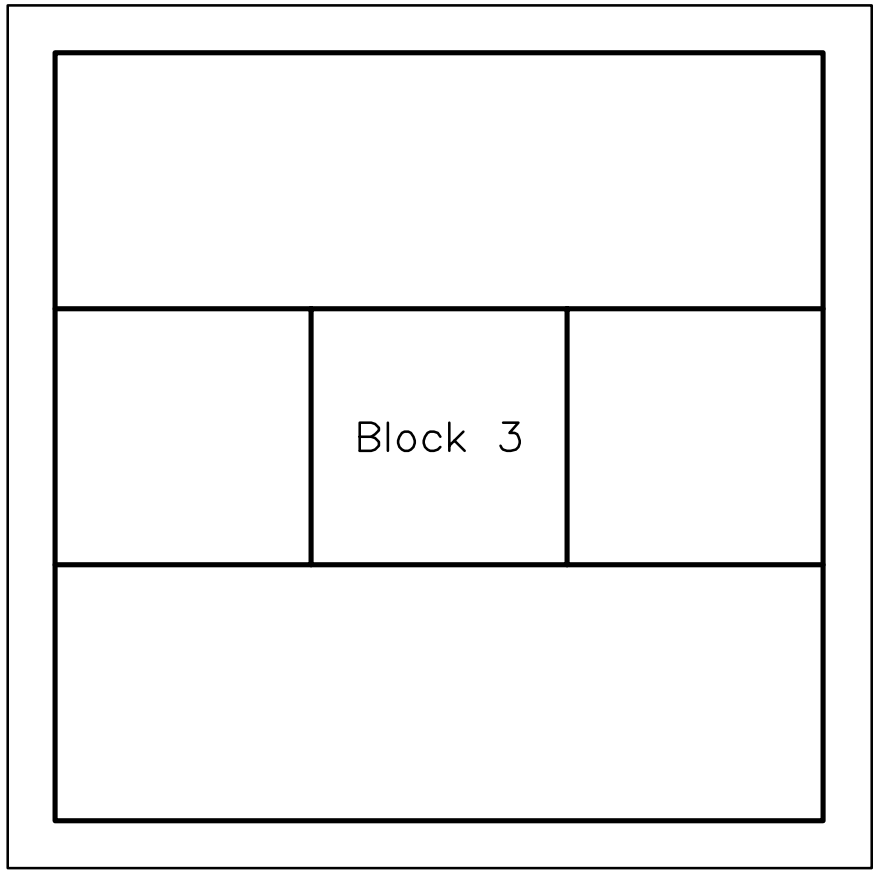
Design Challenge

6" 9-Patch block



Design Challenge

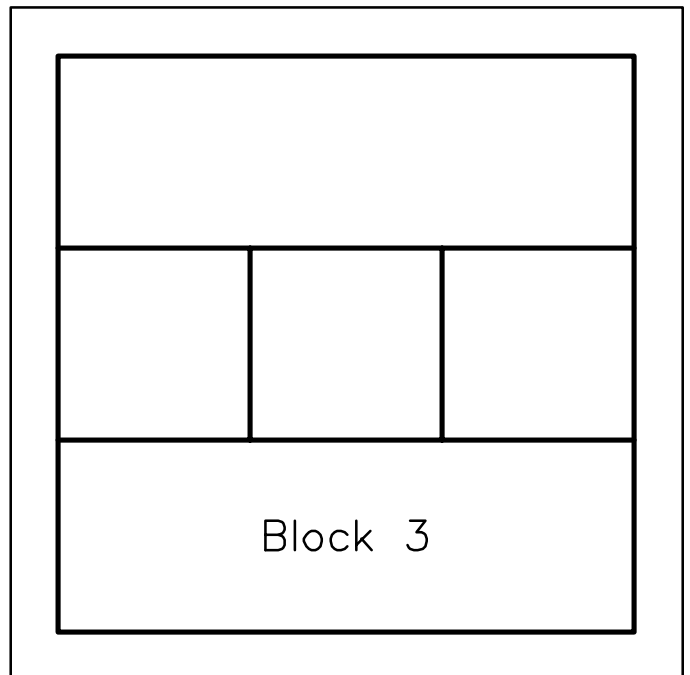
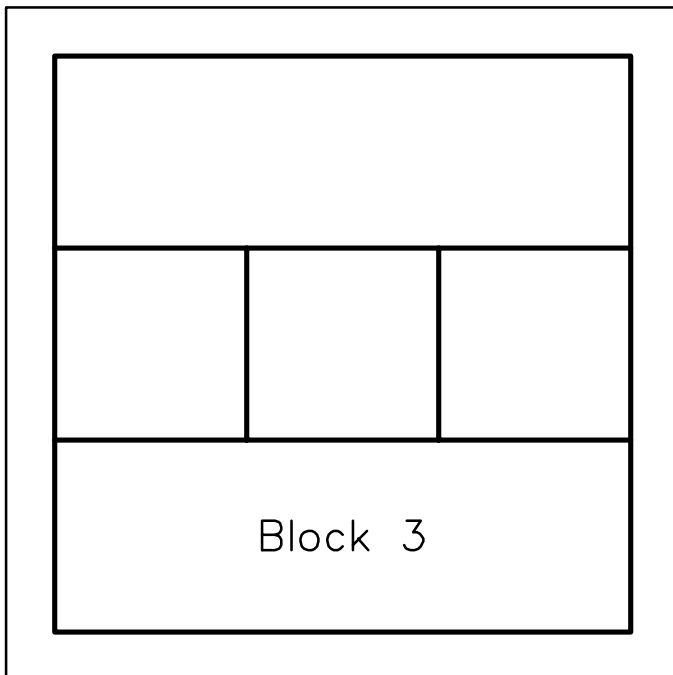
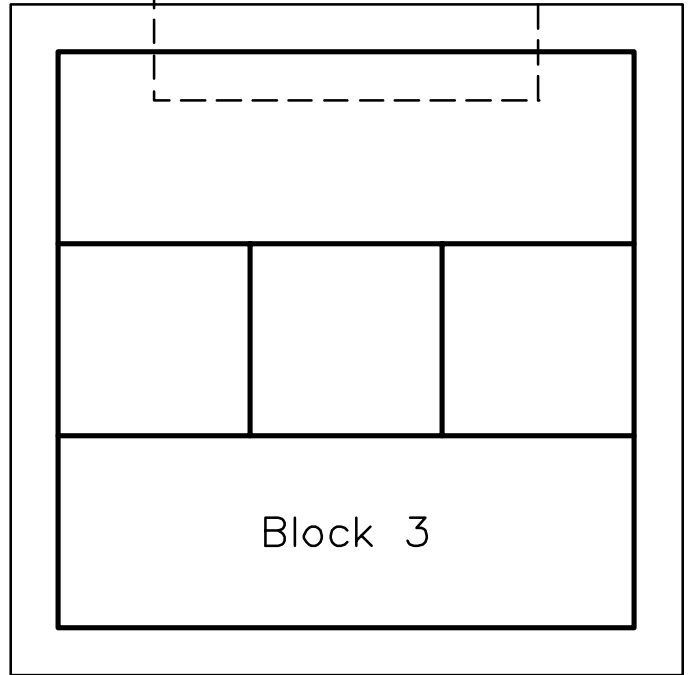
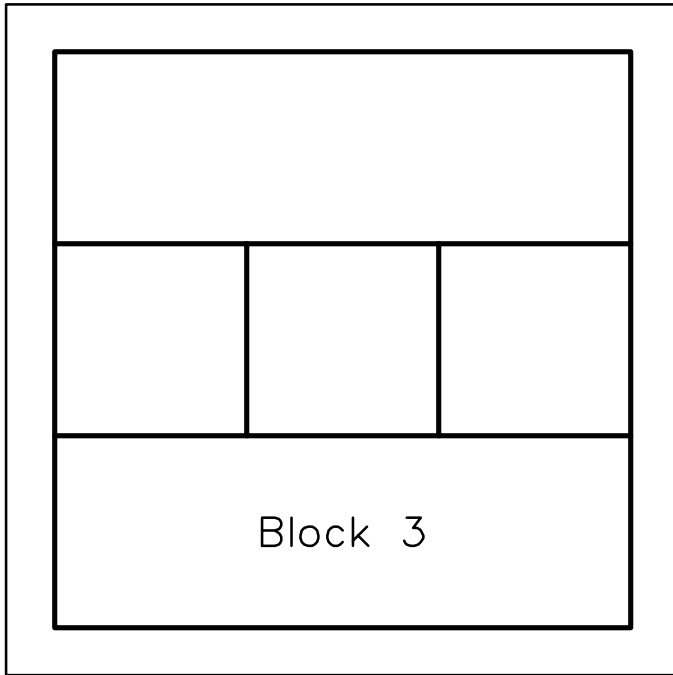
12" 9-Patch block



Design Challenge

9" 9-Patch block

Test box should
measure
2" square



Design Challenge

6" 9-Patch block

Test box should
measure
2" square

