This series of free patterns has been designed to inspire and encourage you to get out those precious pre-cuts and get sewing! This month I want to show you how the simple nine-patch block really brings the 2½" strip into its own to create this beautiful Irish Chain design. This large cushion can be a scrappy project, so great for using up those left over jelly roll strips, or you could use a 20pc strip set and make a full size quilt!

You will need:	Notes:
• Six or seven 2½" x WOF strips in co-ordinating fabrics	• Read through instructions before you start
• 60cm background fabric, cut into six 2½" x WOF strips and four 6½" squares	• WOF = Width of fabric
• 24" square of wadding	• Always use a ¼" seam allowance unless otherwise stated.
• 60cm for cushion back and a 24" cushion pad	

1. The nine-patch quilt block is one of the easiest to make, made even more so by sewing and cutting up strip sets, an ideal use for those 2½" jelly roll strips. As we're making a cushion here, you won't need many units, so leaving two background strips aside for the borders, cut your remaining strips in half, and then group them into sets of three as below - you will need four sets with two coloured and one background strip, and two sets with two background strips and one colour.
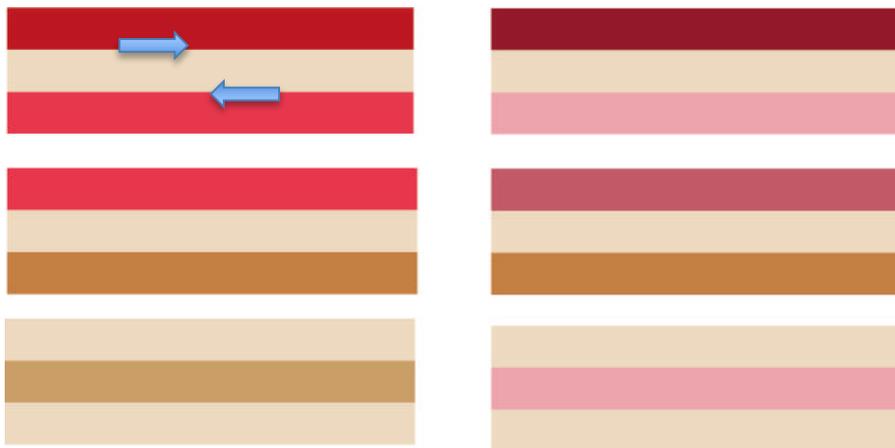
Before you start sewing, take your stitch length down to about 1.8 so your stitches won't come loose when you cut across the seams.

2. Sew each of the sets together, alternating the direction in which you sew indicated by the arrows on the first set above, this will stop your seams from curving and distorting the unit. Press seams towards the coloured fabrics

3. Lay out your first strip set onto your cutting mat, and use your ruler and rotary cutter to even up one end. Then cutting across the seams, cut into 2½" x 6½" units. You should get eight units from each strip set, though for this cushion you only need 15 in total (10 with two colours and one background, 5 with two background and one colour), so maybe just cut a couple at a time and have a play with the layout trying to make them as different as possible,

it helps if you lay them out in the design of the whole cushion to get a better idea of how the overall look will work.

4. Once you are happy with the units, sew each of the nine-patch blocks together – as you have pressed the seams in opposite directions, you should be able to lock them into each other to help match up the seams. For more on this, check out my Beginner's Quilt tutorial online at http://www.sewmotion.com/the_piecing.html
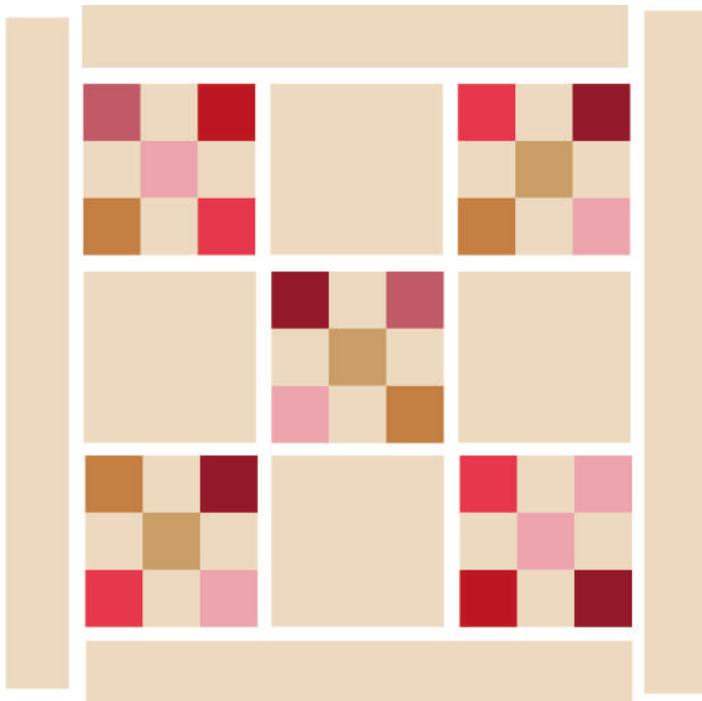
5. Lay your blocks out into three rows, inserting a 6½" background square between each one, and sew the three rows together, press seams towards the background squares. Then sew the rows to each other into one unit, this time pressing seams open to reduce the bulk.

6. From each of your two border strips, cut one 18½" strip and one 22½" strip so you end up with two of each.

7. Sew the 18½" border strips onto the top and bottom of your panel, press seams outwards, then attach the 22½" strips to the sides, press seams outwards.

8. Lay your cushion panel face up onto your wadding and baste with curved safety pins or basting spray and quilt as you wish. You could stitch-in-the-ditch down your main seams to simply secure the wadding, or you could quilt wavy lines across the whole width – or what about quilting your walking foot's width away from either side of each of the seams, both vertically and horizontally carrying on across the background squares, so you end up with a 1" grid across the whole top.

9. Once quilted, trim the edges neatly, and attach your cushion backing – for a simple envelope backing, cut your 60cm down to two 22½" x 15½" rectangles, hem one of the longest lengths on each one. Lay your quilted panel face up, then lay one your hemmed rectangles face down on top, lining up the top and sides raw edges, then place the second rectangle face down, again lining up the bottom and side edges, pin well and sew together with a ¼" seam allowance, go over the stitching at the corners a second time to secure well. Turn the right way out, lightly press, insert your pad and your large cushion is complete! If you would rather insert a zip, check out my online tutorial here http://blog.sewmotion.com/2016/01/the-tricky-issue-of-zip.html

You could of course extend this design into a full size quilt, I have included a couple of layouts on the next page to give you some ideas, if you just remember that you get sixteen 2½" units from a full width of fabric, you can imagine that you'll get quite a few blocks from a small amount of jelly roll strips.
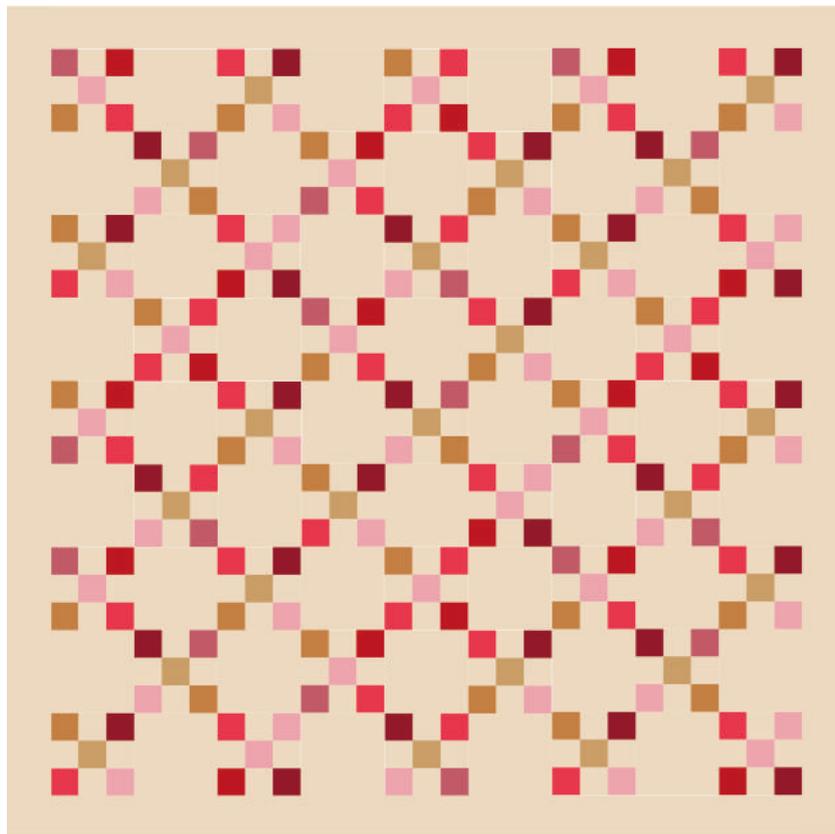
This layout is totally scrappy like the cushion above and measures approx. 60" square. It is made up of 41 nine-patch blocks, 40 6½" squares and 3½" borders. These nine-patch blocks are made up of 82 units with two coloured and one background strip and 41 units with two background strips and one colour which you should be able to get out of a 20pc strip set.

For the background fabric you will need 2.5m, cut into
• twelve 2½" x WOF strips for the nine-patch units, see above.
• Seven 6½" x WOF strips, cut into forty 6½" squares
• Six 3½" x WOF strips for the borders.

• 40cm of fabric cut into six 2½" strips for the binding
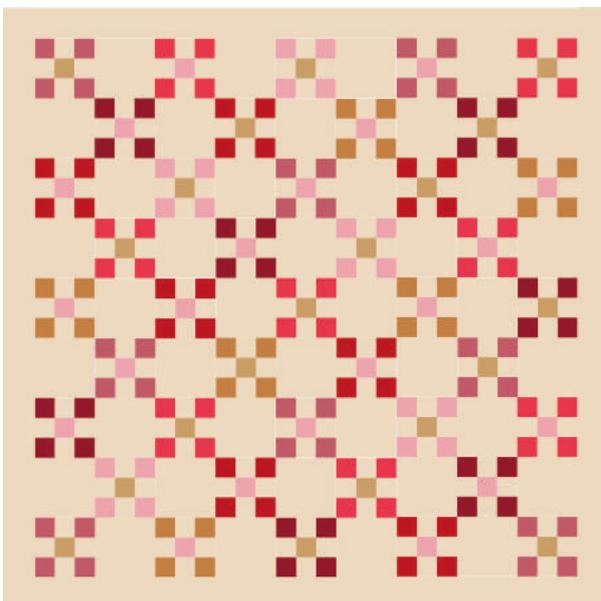
If you like your nine-patches a little more uniform, why not make each one in the same fabric?

I think this quilt would look amazing in my Coonawarra Red fabrics, click below to see my full collection of quilting strip sets.
http://bit.ly/2uQEioN

I hope you have enjoyed this month's Pre-Cut Party Pattern - I would love to see your creations, please send me a photo, or if you share them on social media tag @Sewmotion

For more free patterns visit my Pre-Cut Party page http://bit.ly/2hQJgZ3

Skill Level: = Easy = Intermediate = Advanced

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