In the late 1920’s, newspapers around the country began printing syndicated columns devoted to quilting. This month’s "Never Enough Nine Patch" was introduced in the Chicago Tribune on March 17, 1937 by Nancy Cabot. Offering patterns on a daily rather than weekly basis, Nancy Cabot published more than 2,000 designs from 1933 to 1945. She wrote that this block “dates back to the early 19th century when weaving was a major household occupation in the New England states. The shuttles are apparent in a single block, and an entire quilt is one of the most strikingly beautiful examples of patchwork in existence.” (Adapted from The Quilter’s Album of Patchwork Patterns by Jinny Beyer, 2009)

Unfinished block is 12-1/2” square; finished block is 12” square. Sew scant 1/4” seams.

Fabric:

Fabric #1: white tone-on-tone
A. 12 - 2-1/2” square
B. 1 - 3-1/4” x 6-1/2”
C. 1 - 6-1/2” square

Fabric #2: green
D. 3 - 4-1/2” square
E. 1 - 3-1/4” x 6-1/2”
F. 1 - 6-1/2” square
G. 12 - 2-1/2” square

Patch Assembly:
Square in a Square
1. Pin two - 1A to opposing corners of 2D. Sew on the diagonal (red line at left).
Patch Assembly (cont'd.)

Square in a Square

2. Trim corners, press to dark.

3. Pin 2 - 1A to the remaining corners of 2D. Sew on the diagonal (red line at left).

4. Trim corners, press to light.

5. Finished patch - Make 3

Half Square Triangle (HST) Patch

6. Pin 1C on 2F right sides together. Sew on red line, cut on green.

7. Pin 1B on 2E right sides together. Sew on red line, cut on green.

8. Press to dark. Make 12

9. Trim to 2-1/2" square.

Block Assembly:

10. Layout of HSTs and G.

11. Sew patches as shown.

12. Orient 6 patches each as shown.

13. Layout as shown.

14. Sew patches as shown.

15. Sew rows as shown.

16. Final block.

17. Blocks might make a quilt like this.

Note: Be sure to carefully follow the HST layout; 6 HST's are oriented dark to the left, 6 dark to the right.
For those of you who access this pattern from our website or through email, the following is a mini-TSW about how to press the patches.

(From connectingthreads.com)

Pressing tip: You’ll end up with a lot of bulk at the center intersection, so before you press, carefully using a seam ripper, pick out 2-3 stitches from two of the seams, on the seam allowance side. This will allow you to open up the center to form a teeny tiny pinwheel on the backside. Finger press this open until you are happy that the bulk is removed. Now you can iron it open. The rest of the seam can be pressed to the dark side like all the others. As you press, don’t move the iron around too much or it will twist your beautiful center.

Looking at the back of the Flying Shuttles block, you might choose to press the intersections circled in red to reduce bulk and help with locking the seams with adjacent patches.