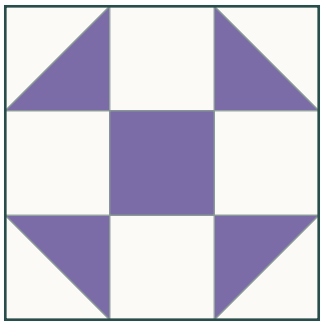
A QUILTPLAN BLOCK PATTERN

SHOOFLY

A nine-patch with triangle corners.



13 pieces, 2 fabrics

A nine-patch with half-square triangles in its four corners, plain squares between them and one square in the middle, so the Main fabric makes a simple four-pointed shape. Named for the farmhouse fly swatter, it is a classic first block with triangles.

SKILL Beginner

SEAMS ¼″ throughout

SIZES 6″, 9″, 12″ and 15″ finished



Cutting

Cut, for one block	6″	9″	12″	15″
① Background: cut 2 squares, for triangles For half-square triangles, two at a time with the Main squares. Trim each to half an inch bigger than its finished size.	3″ sq	4″ sq	5″ sq	6″ sq
② Background: cut 4 squares The middle of each side.	2½″ sq	3½″ sq	4½″ sq	5½″ sq
③ Main: cut 2 squares, for triangles For half-square triangles, two at a time with the Background squares.	3″ sq	4″ sq	5″ sq	6″ sq
④ Main: cut 1 square The center.	2½″ sq	3½″ sq	4½″ sq	5½″ sq

Fabric, for one block

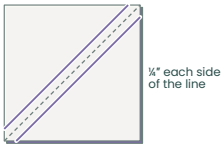
Buy at least	6″	9″	12″	15″
☐ Background	¼ yd	¼ yd	¼ yd	¼ yd
■ Main	¼ yd	¼ yd	¼ yd	¼ yd

Worked out the way QuiltPlan's shopping list does it: 42″ of usable width, 15% for waste, rounded up to the quarter yard. For a whole quilt, place the block in the app and it totals every block for you.

Good to know

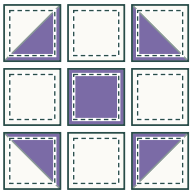
- Lay the block out beside the machine before you sew. A corner triangle turned the wrong way is the usual mistake, and it only shows once the rows are joined.
- Pick a Background and a Main with plenty of contrast: the whole block is the shape the two fabrics make together.
- **Why these sizes?** At 6″, 9″, 12″ and 15″ every piece of this block lands on a ruler line. At other sizes the app still works out the cutting for you.
- **Want a different size or a whole quilt?** Shoofly is in QuiltPlan's block library. Place it on a quilt and the app gives you the cut list, the yardage and the shopping list for every block at once.

Sewing it



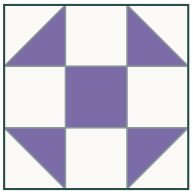
1 · Make 4 half-square triangles

Draw a line corner to corner on the back of each (1) square. Lay each on a 3 square, right sides together, sew a quarter inch either side of the line, cut on the line and press toward the Main. Two pairs make 4. Follow the Half-Square Triangles guide.



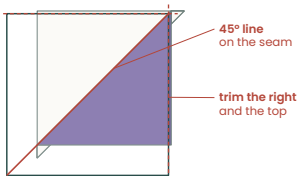
3 · Lay it out

Three rows of three: a half-square triangle in each corner, its Background half on the outside and its Main half toward the center; a (2) square in the middle of each side; the 4 square in the center.



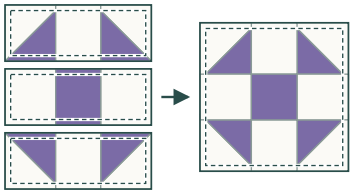
5 · Join the rows

Lay the middle row on the top row, right sides together, and slide the seams until they butt: they nest. Pin and sew with the triangles on top, so you can see each point a quarter inch in. Add the bottom row the same way and press the long seams toward the middle row. The block measures half an inch more than it will finish.



2 · Trim them

Lay a square ruler's 45 degree line on the seam, trim two sides, turn the unit, line the cut edges up and trim the other two. Each comes out the size of a (2) square, the seam running exactly into two opposite corners.



4 · Sew the rows

Sew each row with a quarter inch seam. Press the top and bottom rows out toward their half-square triangles and the middle row in toward the 4 square. Every seam is pressed toward the Main, so none shadows through the Background, and the rows' seams face opposite ways.

Background Main