

Grandma's 9-Patch Car Town & Fishing Game

By Susan Ternyey

Ideas for Squares:

- train station, train museum, fire station . . .
- the neighborhood or construction site
- the beach/seaside, mall, race track or other vehicle track—skateboards to motocross, etc.
- airport, air show, or balloon rides, fireworks . . .
- downtown or city streets
- the farm, ranch, or farmer's market
- park, café, golf, library, or school, baseball, golf . . .
- zoo, animal farm or reserve, aquarium, or circus
- Grandma's house, camp out, fishing, boating, lake, forest, mountains . . .

1. Trim squares to 9 or 10 inches.
2. Cut sashing borders for roads:
(for 45" wide fabric you can tear six 3" strips the width of the fabric, cut your 9"x3" strips from the ends of the six 45"x3" strips)
 - 6 strips 10"x3" for 10" squares, 9"x3" for 9" squares
 - 2 strips about 33"x3"
 - border: about 140" or so, by 3"
3. Sew a 9" or 10" sashing to the bottom of squares 1 and 2. Attach squares 1, 2, and 3 into the first column of squares. Trim. Less experienced sewers should use ½" seams, more experienced may wish to use 1/4" seams.
4. Sew the other 2 columns of squares similarly. Trim.
5. Sew a 33" strip to the right side of the first column of squares. Trim.
6. Sew column 2 to the right of the first 33" strip. Similarly attach the second 33" strip and the third column.
7. Sew the border along one side of the 9-patch. Cut the border at the end. Sew the border along the next side of the 9-patch, and so on, around the entire array.
8. Cut the back to fit the front (fish pond fabric—could be plain blue, a water, or fish pattern fabric; flannel to use as a flannel board, denim for a picnic blanket, if desired).
Optional: sew or embroider some fish onto the fish pond.
9. Optional: attach a pocket for keeping the fish. Cut 2 same-size rectangles. Attach them to each other with a zipper. Sew the other 3 sides together. Pin in place on the front or back (car town, or fishing pond).
10. Sew front to back (car town to fish pond), right sides together—leaving an 8 or 10" opening to turn (if attaching a pocket, leave that section open for turning). Clip corners.
11. Turn right side out; optionally press. Sew the opening shut by hand.
12. Sew around the outer edges to keep the front and back in shape.
13. Optional: sew, paint, or embroider lines down the centers of the roads.

14. Cut out fish from paper, cardstock, felt, vinyl, or a fish fabric (reinforce and stabilize edges). You can use a cookie cutter as a pattern, or find a simple line drawing online, or perhaps a coloring book.
15. Put paper clips on the mouths of the fish.
16. Attach a magnet to a string, and the string to a pole (or fish without the pole).

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