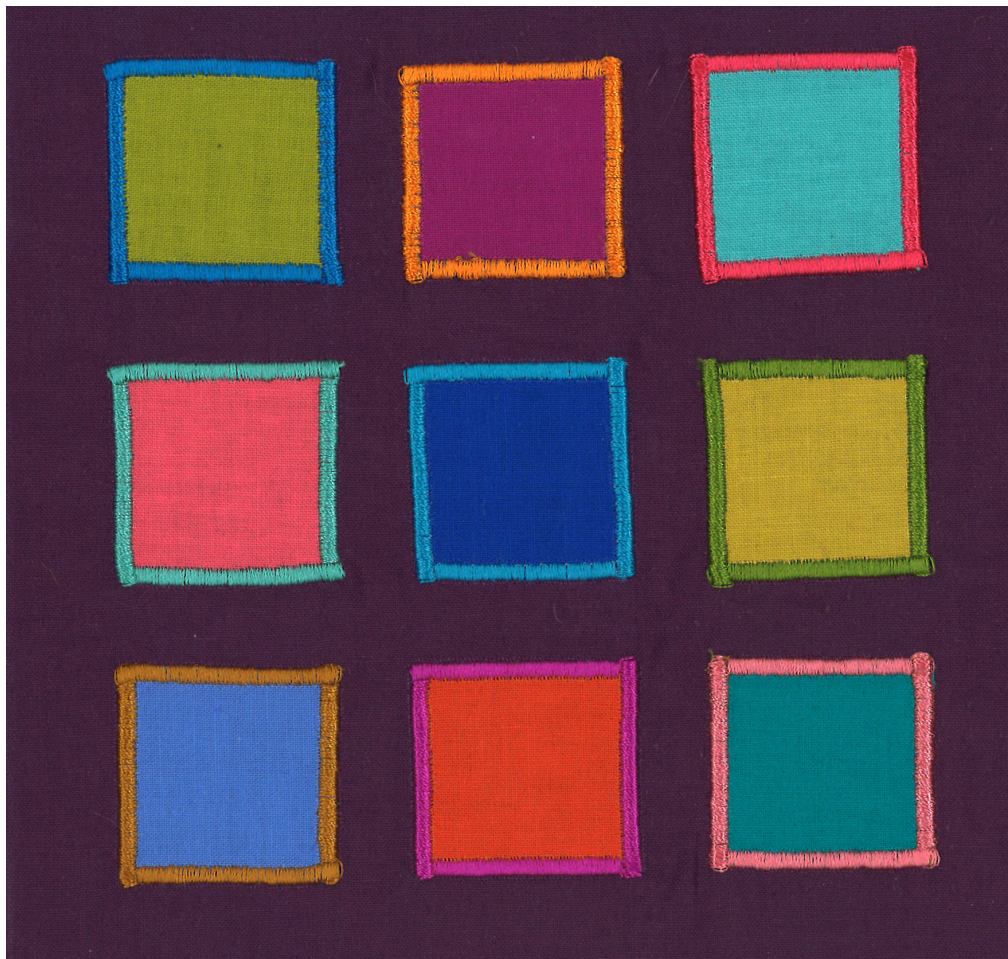


# Sarah Smith

## 9-Squares Applique Block

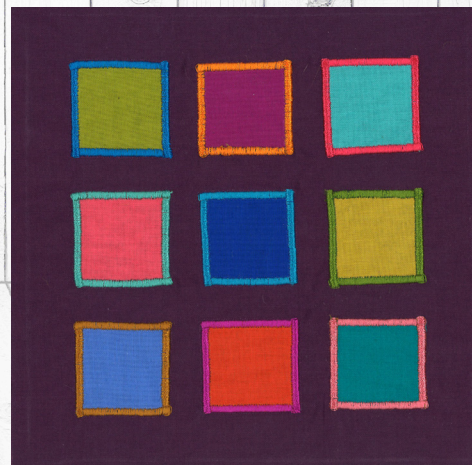


**JANOME**

WHAT'S NEXT

— a story in every stitch —

by Sarah Smith  
[www.SarahAnnSmith.com](http://www.SarahAnnSmith.com)



## Instructions:

**Fused Blocks:** You can fuse your fabric for each block or, as Sarah does, just fuse up a chunk of fabric large enough to yield all that you will need for the fused blocks in your project. You can always use leftovers in another project!

### 9-Squares Applique:

- Apply fusible web to the back of nine 1 1/2" or larger squares of fabric.
- Cut out 1 1/4" squares.
- Cut out a 7" square of Plum fabric. Since decorative stitching can shrink a block, it is safer to cut it a bit large and trim at the end.
- Place the darkest fabric in the center of the background fabric.
- Arrange the remaining squares around the center square with about 1/2" clearance.

\*Tip: Sarah found it easiest to fuse the center square. Then she placed a ruler underneath it and positioned the adjacent squares.

- Remove the ruler and fuse.
- Place the ruler above the center row to mark off a 1/2" clearance. Place the top row of fused squares, aligning them carefully with the already fused-to-the-background squares in the center row. Carefully remove the ruler and fuse the top row in place.
- Turn the block upside down and repeat to fuse the remaining squares. Be careful in placing your squares so that they do not extend beyond the 6" finished size.
- Place a 6" square of tear-away stabilizer or one to two layers of freezer paper under your block. Not using a stabilizer will cause your block to buckle, stretch, ripple and generally look bad.
- Use a dense satin stitch (a very short zigzag) to sew the squares.

---

[www.janome.com](http://www.janome.com)

**JANOME**  
WHAT'S NEXT

by Sarah Smith  
[www.SarahAnnSmith.com](http://www.SarahAnnSmith.com)

\*Tip: You will need to use the open-toe applique foot which has a small groove on the under side of the foot which permits the stitching to pass underneath the foot. Your stitch length will be determined by the thread you use and how tightly packed you like your stitching. Sarah likes a really dense satin stitch; with 40-wt trilobal (shiny) polyester thread. She used a 3.0 stitch width and a .30 stitch length with a size 14/90 Topstitch needle.

- Sarah chose to use a different color of thread on each square. She selected threads that match or blend with the colors in the range of solid fabrics, then mixed and matched them throughout this project.

- Sarah sewed from one end of the square to the other.
- Begin the second side of the square overlapping the stitching on the first side, as when piecing a log cabin block. Repeat until all four sides are stitched.
- When stitching is complete, remove the tear-away stabilizer and press. Be CAREFUL to lower the temperature of your iron from cotton to synthetic if you have used synthetic thread, or you may melt it.
- Trim the block to 6 1/2" x 6 1/2".

---

[www.janome.com](http://www.janome.com)

**JANOME**  
WHAT'S NEXT