Disappearing Nine-Patch Block

General Description: This quilt is great for an old-fashioned “I spy” quilt. The corner fabrics in each block are made with focus fabrics. Find bright fabrics showing flowers, fish, hearts, foods, trains, houses, etc. – anything you think has eye-appeal! You can use motifs from the same fabric as long as they are cut from different-looking parts of the fabric (“fussy cutting”). For example, if there are several cats on your fabric, cut several – a different cat on each 3 ¾” square. The bright blue sashing and bright red cornerstones (or setting squares) will work with almost any focus fabric.

Step 1: Cutting Directions
Cut the following for each block:
(4) 3 ¾” x 3 ¾” squares of focus fabric (A).
(4) 3 ¾” x 3 ¾” squares of bright blue fabric (B). This will be the sashing in the final block.
(1) 3 ¾” square of bright red (C). This becomes the cornerstone.

Step 2: Sewing
Sew these nine squares into a nine-patch (3 squares by 3 squares) with the C block in the center and the focus fabric squares on the outside corners. This block should measure 10 ¼”.

Step 3: Cutting the Block
Cut this block exactly in half vertically through the center of the blue and red squares. You’ll have two rectangles that measure 5 1/8” x 10 ¼” (See figure 2 below)
Cut these two rectangles exactly in half horizontally. You will have four squares now that measure 5 1/8” x 5 1/8”. Trim these along the red/blue sides to 5” x 5”.

Step 4: Arranging
Turn these 5” blocks in various directions. You can see that you can arrange and rearrange them in different ways. There are many possibilities! Leave them unsewn so the winner of the blocks can choose a setting (s)he likes best. If you were to sew the pieces back together, the finished block will be a 9 ½” square (unfinished).

The quilt’s overall pattern will emerge as the 5” units are combined into the larger blocks and arranged side by side.