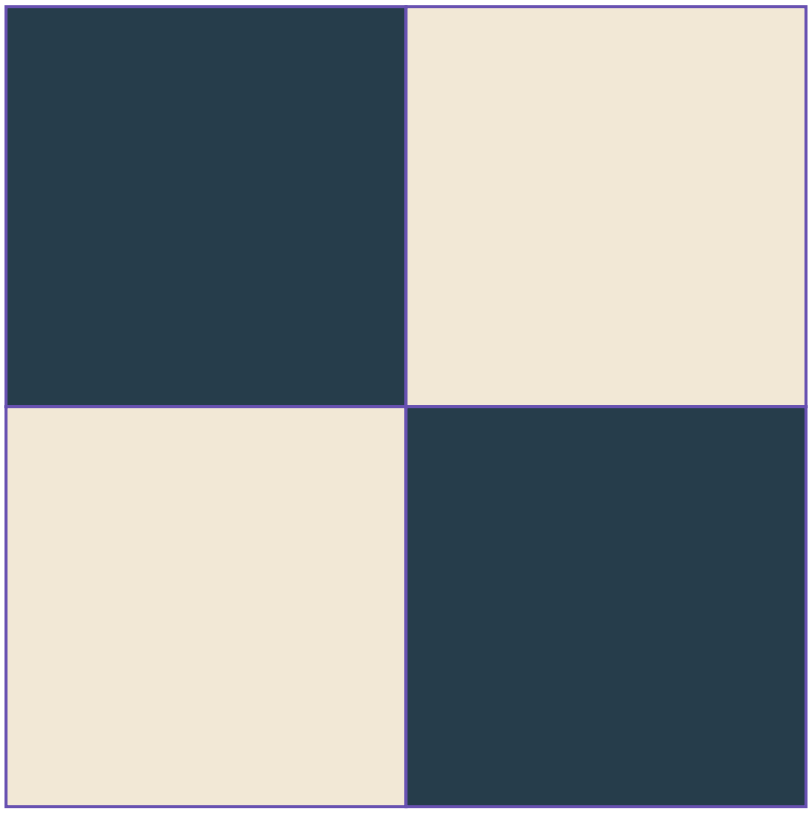
Four-Patch Study

One block, or a 48 × 60 in quilt.
Cutting, pressing and illustrated assembly.



FINISHED BLOCK

12 x 12 in

Before joining to a quilt:
12 1/2 × 12 1/2 in.

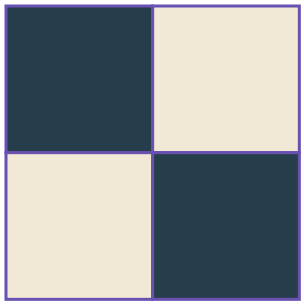
CUT FOUR SQUARES

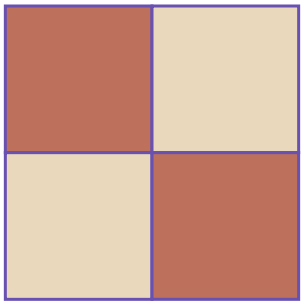
Navy: two squares
Cream: two squares
Each: 6 1/2 × 6 1/2 in.

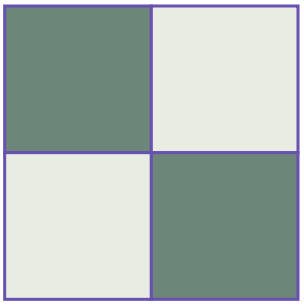
Use a 1/4 in seam allowance throughout assembly.

Make the contrast your own

Keep the alternating arrangement and explore a different pair of colors.





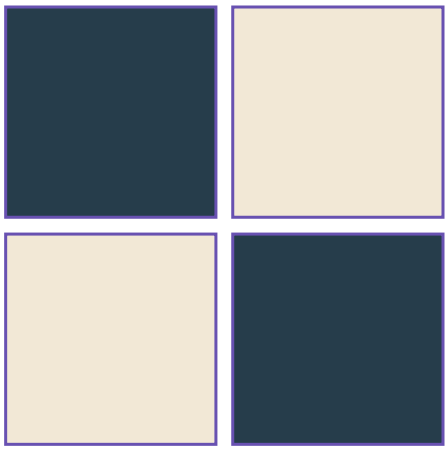


Sew one block

Cut sizes include seam allowances. Diagrams show arrangement, not actual size.

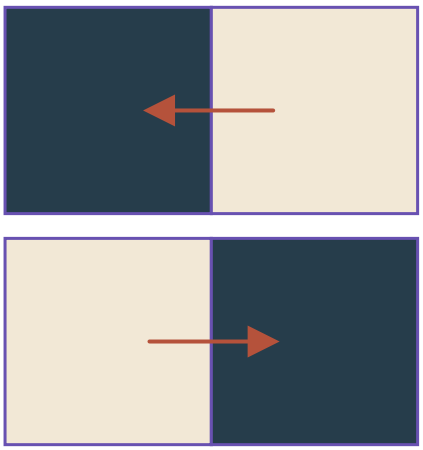
01 Arrange the squares

Place navy squares at opposite corners. Keep any one-way motifs upright before sewing. This method suits scraps and directional prints.



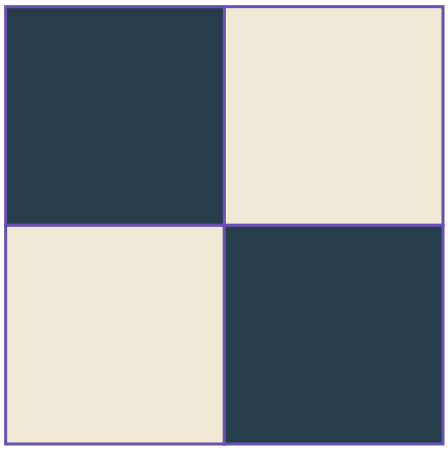
02 Sew the rows

Sew each row right sides together with a 1/4 in seam. Chain piece the pairs without cutting thread between them. Press both seams toward navy; the arrows point in opposite directions.



03 Join and check

Place rows right sides together and nest the center seams before sewing a 1/4 in seam. Check: 12 1/2 in square. For one block, press to one side. For the quilt, use the column pressing plan on page 5.



Check your seam allowance on a test block before cutting for a larger quilt.

Cut a batch by strips

Example: 20 blocks, each 12 in finished, make a 48 × 60 in top in a 4 × 5 layout. Use two contrasting, non-directional fabrics.

Measure before you cut

Measure usable width after removing selvages; do not assume the bolt width. Reserve 1 in along each set for squaring its ends. Strips and crosscuts are 6 1/2 in wide. One set uses one strip of each color.

Usable width	Segments per set	Sets for 20 blocks
36 in	5	8 (8 strips of each color)
40 in	6	7 (7 strips of each color)
42 in	6	7 (7 strips of each color)

For a different block count

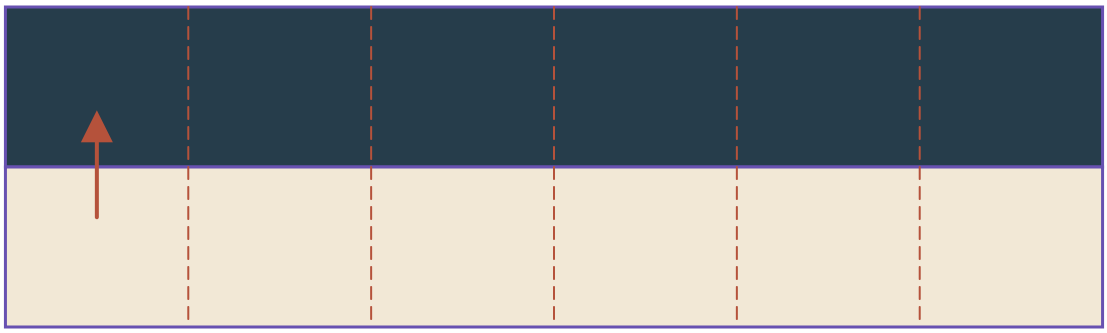
Segments needed = 2 x block count.
Segments per set = (usable width - 1 in) / 6 1/2 in, rounded down.
Sets needed = segments needed / segments per set, rounded up.
Pair segments across sets: an odd yield is still usable.

Worked cut list: 40 in usable width

From EACH color, cut:
6 strips 6 1/2 × 40 in; crosscut 6 segments per set.
1 strip 6 1/2 × 27 in; crosscut 4 segments per set.
Total: 7 strips per color, 40 segments, 20 blocks.
Minimum cutting depth: 45 1/2 in per color. Allow extra for fabric preparation and shrinkage. Save the short-set offcuts.

Sew the batch

All seams are 1/4 in. Sew and measure one test block before cutting the whole batch. Diagrams show arrangement, not actual size.



Arrow: press toward navy. Dashed lines: crosscut the sewn set.

01 Sew, press, then crosscut

Sew a navy and cream strip right sides together along one long edge. Press toward navy without sliding the iron. Check: the opened set is 12 1/2 in across. Square its ends within the 1 in reserve, then crosscut the planned 6 1/2 in segments. Each is 6 1/2 × 12 1/2 in.

02 Nest and chain piece the blocks

Turn crosscuts sideways into two horizontal rows: navy LEFT in the upper row, navy RIGHT in the lower row, as on page 2. Nest their vertical seams and chain piece the horizontal joins, right sides together, with a 1/4 in seam. Check: 12 1/2 in square. Press by column on page 5.

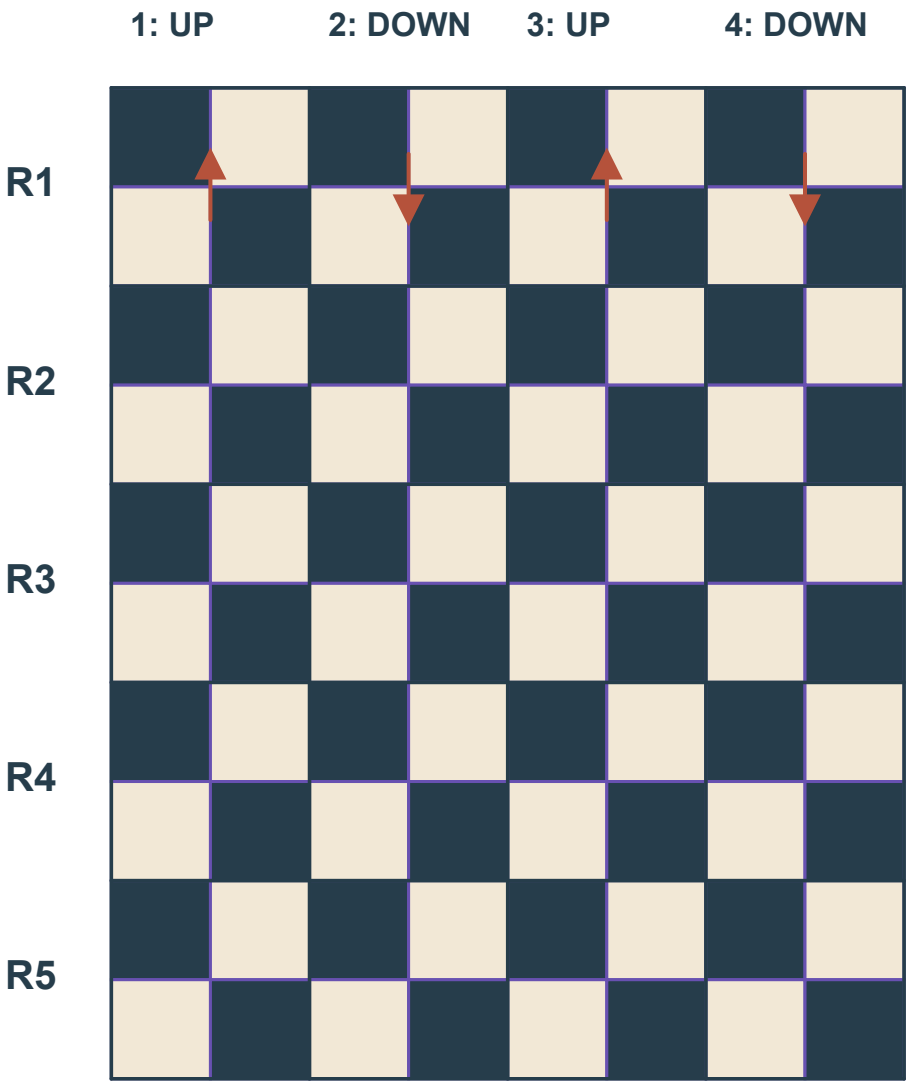
Keep directional prints upright

Turning a segment 180 degrees also turns its printed motifs upside down. If all motifs must stay upright, use the individual-square method on page 2 and orient each square before sewing. You can still chain piece those pairs. For a scrappy batch, mix compatible non-directional strip sets.

Next: arrange and press the blocks on page 5, join rows on page 6, and finish on page 7.

Plan the whole quilt

20 blocks in 4 columns and 5 rows. Nominal finished size: 48 × 60 in. No sashing or borders. Keep navy at the upper-left and lower-right of EVERY block.



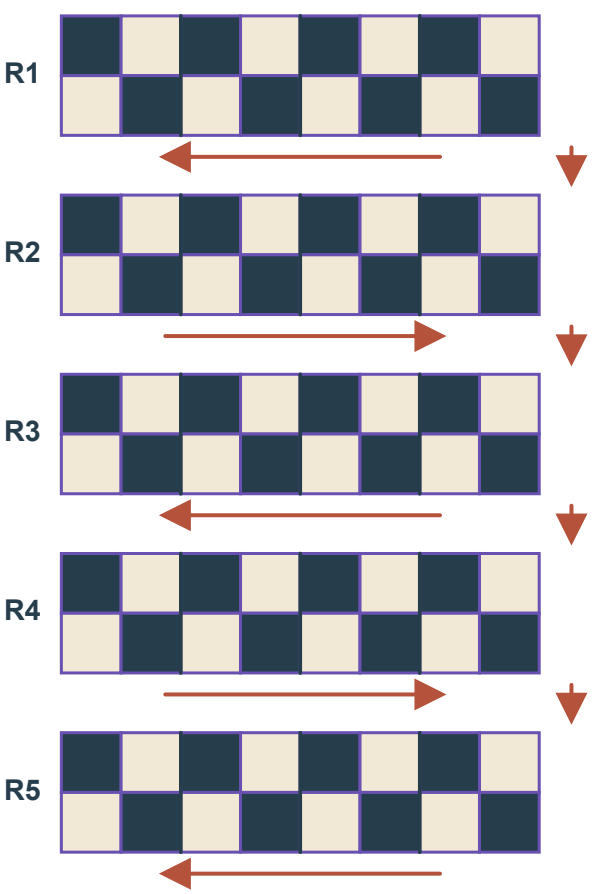
Heavy lines mark block boundaries. Keep the small checkerboard continuous; do not turn alternate blocks a quarter turn.

Press the block centers by column

Before joining blocks, press each block's center horizontal seam UP in columns 1 and 3, DOWN in columns 2 and 4. Repeat in all five rows. The first-row arrows show these directions. Repress earlier blocks if needed.

Join the quilt rows

Use a 1/4 in seam throughout. Label the five quilt rows R1 to R5 and keep them in order. All measurements below include outer seam allowances.



Horizontal arrows show pressing of the NEW block-joining seams. Downward arrows show the row-joining order. Diagrams are not actual size.

01 Make five rows

Sew four blocks across each row, right sides together. Match and nest their center horizontal seams. You can chain piece neighboring block pairs across the five rows, then join the pairs. Press the NEW block-joining seams LEFT in R1, R3 and R5; RIGHT in R2 and R4.

02 Join R1 through R5

Place R1 and R2 right sides together. Align the ends and nest every vertical seam, including the seams inside the blocks. Pin intersections and sew. Add R3, R4 and R5 in order. Press the long row-joining seams toward the bottom, without stretching the top.

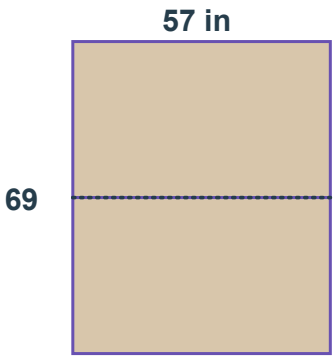
Check before quilting

Each completed row: 48 1/2 × 12 1/2 in.
Assembled top: 48 1/2 × 60 1/2 in.
Keep the outer seam allowances. Do not trim the top down to its nominal finished size.

Finish the quilt

Additional materials for 40 in usable fabric width. Yardage minima exclude preparation and shrinkage. Backing and batting extend at least 4 in beyond the unquilted top on every side.

Material	Cut for this quilt
Backing	Two 35 × 57 in panels; 3 1/4 yd minimum.
Batting	One 57 × 69 in piece, or larger.
Binding	7 strips 2 1/2 × 40 in; 1/2 yd minimum.



01 Piece the backing

Use non-directional fabric. Cut two 57 in lengths across the fabric, then trim each panel to 35 × 57 in. Sew the 57 in edges together with a 1/2 in seam; press open. The backing measures 57 × 69 in. Save the side offcuts.

02 Layer, baste and quilt

Lay the backing right side down, batting next, then center the top right side up. Smooth and baste from the center outward. Quilt through all three layers, following the batting maker's maximum stitch spacing. Ask a longarm quilter about their backing-size requirements before cutting.

03 Trim and bind

Trim batting/backing even with the quilted top. Join binding strips diagonally and press joins open. Fold lengthwise, wrong sides together; make at least 230 in. Align raw edges with the quilt FRONT and sew a 1/4 in seam. Miter corners, join tails, then fold to the back and stitch over the seam.