

Americana Checkerboard

Make a fabric checkerboard and matching storage bag in navy, red and cream fabrics for an Americana look.

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PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Skill Level: Intermediate

Board Size: 31½" x 31½"

Bag Size: Approximately 7" x 18"

MATERIALS

- 1 fat quarter navy/cream stripe
- 1 fat quarter red/cream stripe
- 2 fat quarters navy/cream star prints
- 2 fat quarters cream prints
- ½ yard red print
- 1 yard blue print
- Backing 37" x 37"
- Thin batting 37" x 37"
- All-purpose thread to match fabrics
- 24 wooden 2⅜" diameter checker disks
- Red and blue acrylic paint
- Glazing medium (optional)
- Dark brown stencil cream (optional)
- Acrylic protective spray (optional)
- Blank stencil plastic (optional)
- Stencil brush (optional)
- ⅝ yard narrow red poly cord
- 1 cord stop
- Basic sewing tools and supplies

Checkerboard

Cutting

1. Cut three 3½" x 21" A strips from each navy star fat quarter.

2. Cut three 3½" x 21" B strips from each cream fat quarter.

3. Cut two 1¼" x 12½" C strips each red/cream and navy/cream stripes.

4. Cut two 1¼" x 13¼" D strips each red/cream and navy/cream stripes.

5. Cut two 3½" x 13¼" E strips each red and blue prints.

6. Cut two 3½" x 16¼" F strips each red and blue prints.

7. Cut two 2¼" by fabric width strips each red and blue prints.

Completing the Checkerboard

1. Sew an A strip to a B strip with right sides together along length; press seams toward A strips. Repeat to make six strip sets.
2. Subcut the A-B strip sets into (32) 3½" A-B units as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1

3. Join four A-B units to make a row as shown in Figure 2; press seams toward A. Repeat to make eight rows.



Figure 2

6
FAT
QUARTERS

4. Join the rows, turning every other row as shown in Figure 3; press seams in one direction.

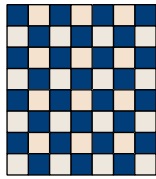


Figure 3

5. Join one red C and one navy C on the short ends to make a C border strip; press seam to one side. Repeat to make two C border strips.

6. Sew a C border strip to opposite sides of the pieced center referring to the Placement Diagram for positioning of colors; press seams toward C border strips.

7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 red and navy D strips to make D border strips.

8. Sew D border strips to the top and bottom of the pieced center; press seams toward D border strips.

9. Repeat steps 5 and 6 with red and blue E strips to make E border strips.

10. Sew E border strips to opposite sides of the pieced center; press seams toward E border strips.

11. Repeat steps 5 and 6 with red and blue F strips to make F border strips.

12. Sew F border strips to the top and bottom of the pieced center; press seams toward F border strips to complete the pieced top.

13. Sandwich batting between the completed top and prepared backing; pin or baste layers together to hold flat.

14. Quilt as desired by hand or machine.

15. When quilting is complete, remove pins or basting and trim edges even.

16. Fold each binding strip in half along length with wrong sides together and press.

17. Place a blue binding strip on the right side of the pieced top at the seam between the blue and red border strips as shown in Figure 4, leaving a 4" tail extending onto the red border.

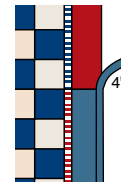


Figure 4

18. Sew binding strip to the pieced top beginning 3" from the blue/red border seam, mitering corner, stopping 3" from the blue/red border seam and leaving the remainder of the strip loose on the adjacent side as shown in Figure 5.

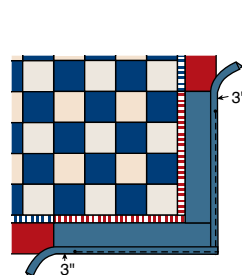


Figure 5

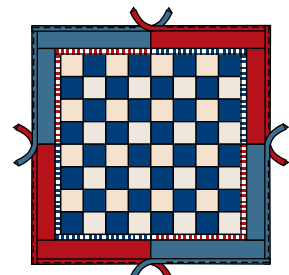


Figure 6

19. Repeat steps 17 and 18 with the remaining binding strips, sewing red binding to the red edges and blue binding to the remaining blue edges and leaving ends loose as shown in Figure 6.





6 FAT QUARTERS

20. Unfold the loose ends of binding strips; fold these loose ends and crease at the exact spot that the strips will meet the blue/red border seam as shown in Figure 7. Trim excess from binding strips $\frac{1}{4}$ " from creases.

21. Join the binding strip ends with a straight seam to meet exactly at the center seams on each side of the top, again referring to Figure 7; press seams open.

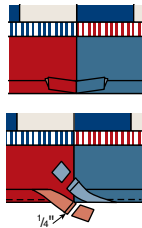


Figure 7

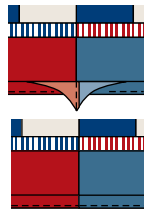
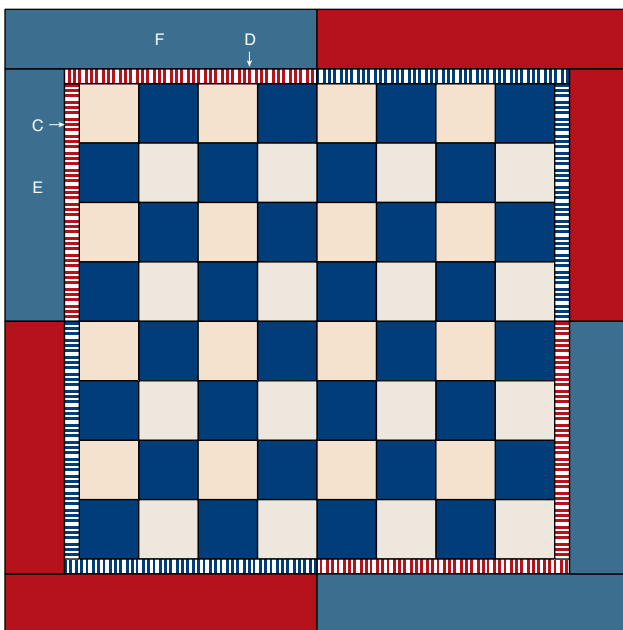


Figure 8

22. Refold the joined binding strip in half; stitch to the edges of the quilted top, with binding and border seams matching as shown in Figure 8.

23. Press binding away from the quilt edges and turn to the back side; hand- or machine-stitch binding in place to finish.



Americana Checkerboard
Placement Diagram $31\frac{1}{2}$ " x $31\frac{1}{2}$ "



Storage Bag

Cutting

1. Cut one 15" x $18\frac{3}{4}$ " G piece blue print.
2. Cut one 15" x $12\frac{3}{4}$ " H piece blue print for lining.
3. Cut one $9\frac{1}{2}$ " x 15" I strip navy/cream stripe for bag upper lining/casing.

Completing the Bag

1. Sew I between G and H as shown in Figure 9; press seams toward G and H. Measure $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the G/I seam and fold the pieced unit with wrong sides together as shown in Figure 10. Press to make a sharp crease; unfold.



Figure 9

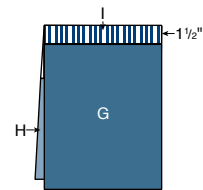


Figure 10

2. Fold the unit along length with right sides together; press to create side crease as shown in Figure 11. Make a mark $\frac{3}{8}$ " below G/I seam for casing, again referring to Figure 11.

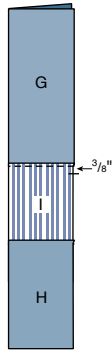


Figure 11

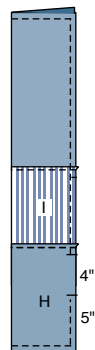


Figure 12

3. Stitch a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, locking stitches at each side of casing opening and leaving a 4" opening for turning 5" from bottom ends referring to Figure 12; stitch across each end, again referring to Figure 12; press seams open.

4. At each end of the bag, reposition to match bottom seam with side crease or seam at each corner; pin. Measure and mark a line $1\frac{3}{4}$ " from point, perpendicular to end seam. Stitch across marked line, securing stitches at each end. Trim excess, leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance referring to Figure 13.

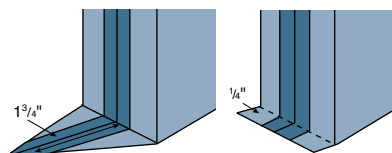


Figure 13

5. Turn the stitched unit right side out through opening; press crease at end seams and between ends of seams to form a boxed base. Turn in seam allowance at opening; hand-stitch opening closed.

6. Insert lining into body, arranging crease in I piece to be the top of the bag. Topstitch through both layers along the seam between the I and G

pieces and $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the G piece to form the casing as shown in Figure 14.

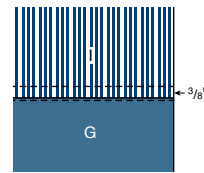


Figure 14

7. Insert cord through casing. Attach cord stops and knot ends.

8. To store checkers and mat, fold mat in quarters and then roll tightly and insert into bag along with checkers.

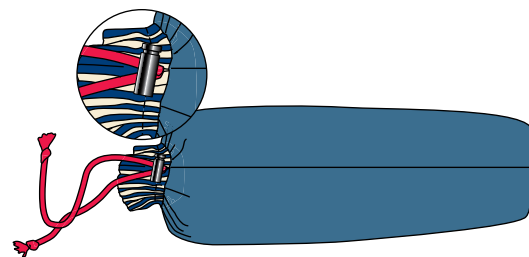
Making Checkers

1. Prepare optional star stencil using blank stencil plastic and pattern given.

2. Paint 12 each red and blue checkers, mixing paint with glazing medium for a more transparent finish.

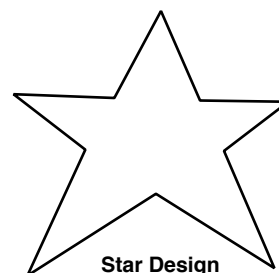
3. Stencil a brown star onto one side only of each checker.

4. Antique checkers with stain and finish with acrylic protective spray. ♦



Storage Bag

Placement Diagram 7" x 18"



Star Design

Paint one design on each wooden circle as instructed

When printing pattern pieces check to make sure your print settings are set to print at 100 percent and page scaling displays "None."