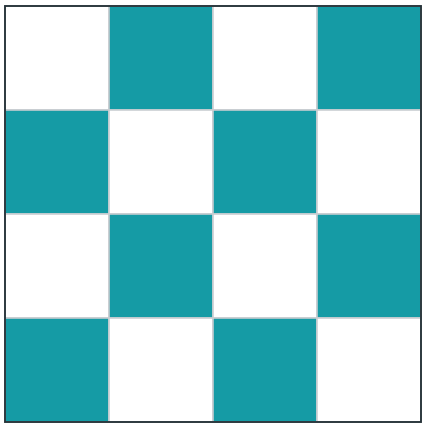
MY FIRST QUILT / BLOCK 04

# Checkerboard

12" finished • 12½" unfinished • Matching seam intersections



Block layout - diagram not to scale

## CUT FOR ONE BLOCK

All cutting sizes include ¼" seam allowances.

| Fabric | Qty | Cut size |
|---|---|---|
| White | 8 | 3½" × 3½" |
| Turquoise | 8 | 3½" × 3½" |

Cut 16 squares in total. Use quilting-weight cotton in white and turquoise. Each square finishes at 3" × 3".

## SEW THE BLOCK

**1. Lay out four rows.**
Alternate white and turquoise squares in a 4 × 4 grid. Start rows 1 and 3 with white; start rows 2 and 4 with turquoise. Keep the layout beside your machine so the colors stay in order.

**2. Sew the rows.**
With right sides together, sew four squares into each row using a consistent ¼" seam. Each row should measure 3½" high × 12½" wide. Press all seams toward the turquoise squares.

**3. Match the intersections.**
Place rows 1 and 2 right sides together. Nest the opposing seam allowances at all three intersections, pin, and sew with a ¼" seam. Repeat for rows 3 and 4, then join the two pairs in the same way.

**4. Press and measure.**
Press the horizontal joining seams gently to one side. Check that the colors alternate and your block measures 12½" × 12½". If the size is off, check your cutting and seam allowances before continuing.

Size check: four 3" finished squares across and four down make a 12" finished block. Keep the outer ¼" seam allowance on every side: 12½" × 12½" unfinished.

## A LITTLE HISTORY

Checkerboard patchwork repeats a simple square to create a larger design. The Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum holds a 20th-century Checkerboard Quilt with 224 squares. Our lesson uses 16 squares to practice the same repeating-grid idea.

History source: Smithsonian, Anacostia Community Museum - Checkerboard Quilt

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