February - Checkerboard

Block of the month

JANUARY HOMEWORK

- YOU HAVE A FOCUS FABRIC
- YOU HAVE COORDINATING FABRICS FOR THE BORDER BLOCKS
- At this point you need to know the answers to these questions:
  - What size is the main fabric, width and length.
  - What size do I want for the finished quilt? A wallhanging, bed size, throw size.
  - How many borders am I planning? Large quilt; plan for multiple borders for a small quilt maybe choose one border and smaller piecing.
  - What layout do I want? Traditional medallion or off set or sections.

Main fabric - Discussion or suggestions?

- Do I want to keep it as is?
- Do I want to cut it? Options:
  - Centerpiece
  - Off set
  - Cut into sections
    - Diagonal
    - Strips
    - Multiple sections

This months block is the checkerboard. It uses squares and/or rectangles.

Squares become 4 patch or 9 patch blocks but when sewn into strips they create a checkerboard.
Rectangles are also known as rails when sewn in rows.

This block can be made in any size using one and a half inch squares or six inch squares.

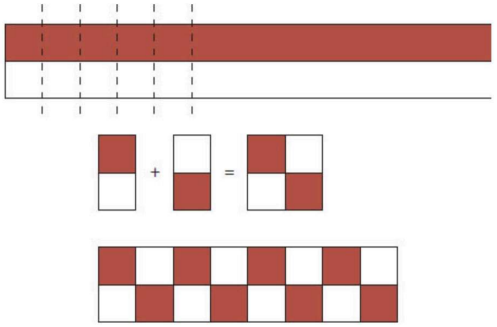
BOM - BLOCKS TO BORDERS

Checkerboard Options

Checkerboard border

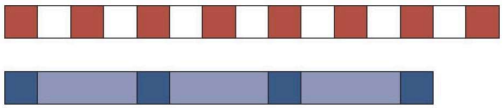
Scrappy checkerboard border

Constructing this border is the same as making four-patches. [redacted]



Construction process

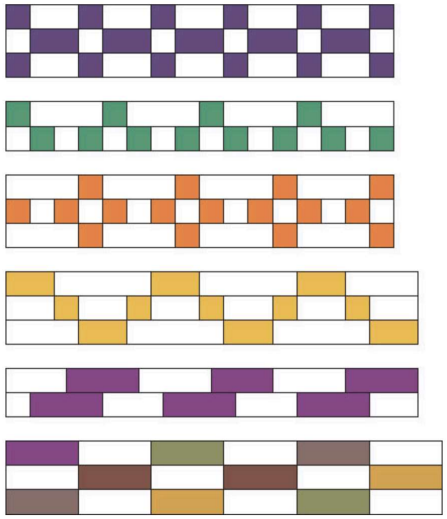
Below are a number of different ways to work with squares in borders.



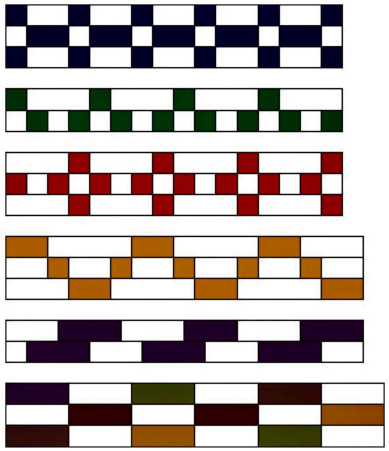
Different spacer sizes

RECTANGLES

Following through with the ideas of using squares, let's add rectangles into the mix, but still working with the idea of repeats and a checkerboard look.



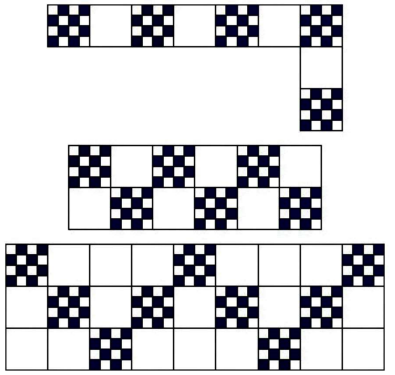
Rectangles mixed in



Rectangles mixed in

Checkerboard Blocks

Incorporating pieced checkerboard blocks into a border is another way to give a lot of graphic impact with simple piecing and math. Below are three ideas to try. These would be most effective in a small grid of 1″ or less.



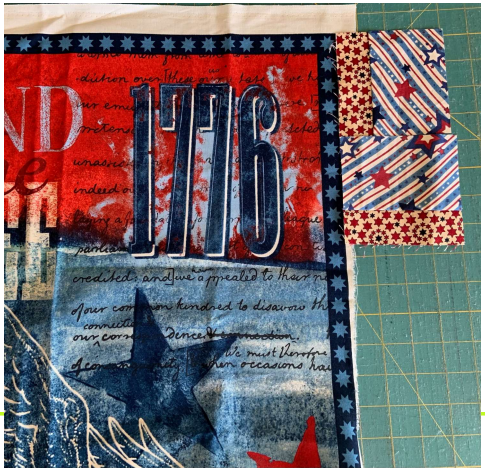
Using checkerboard blocks

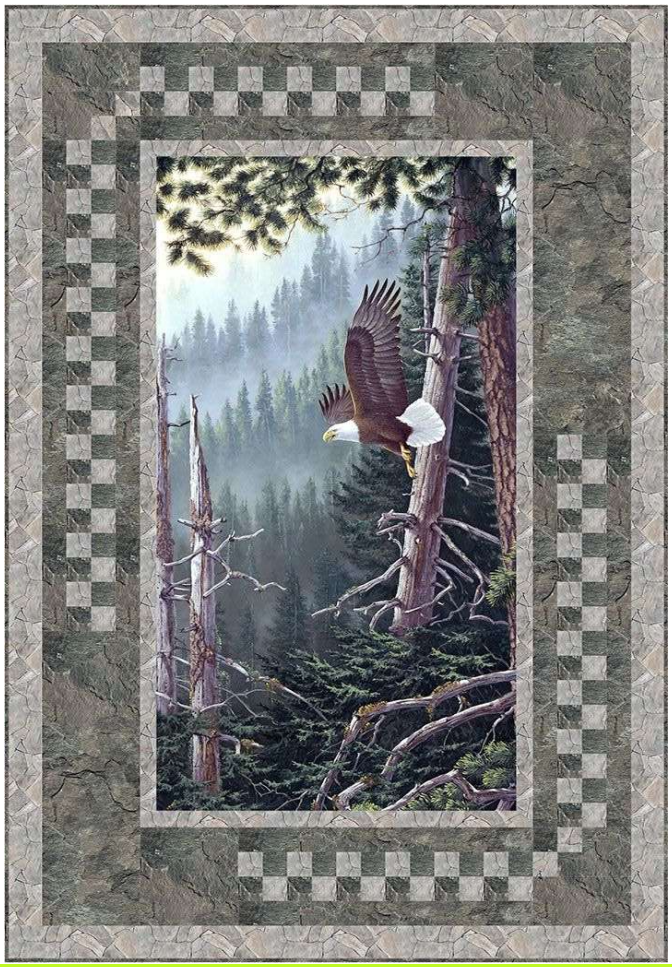
[redacted]

LEARNING ABOUT THE CHECKERBOARD

- How to decide what to do?
- Play, try it out. What looks good in a picture may not look good with your main fabric.
- Try different size squares of the same block.
- Try different color combinations.
- Try making 2-3 different patch blocks and rail blocks and lay them next to the main fabric in different combinations.
- Take pictures to get a better perspective on what looks best.

Checkerboard Designs Examples





There are five borders around this panel.

The gray fabric is the filler fabric; first and fifth border and part of the checkerboard.

The green gray darker is the floating fabric. Notice it is added to the two sides of the checkerboard causing the squares to float.

Bonus Information

Let's talk floating or filler borders

- A floating or filler border is the same thing but they have different design purposes.
- A filler border is fabric added for space, size or as interest to the design.
- A floater border blends with the background fabric or the edges of the border fabric that is on one or both sides. The purpose is to add space between the piecing.
- NEXT MONTH March - The bonus information will cover the math for determining the quantity of blocks.

This panel is offset, notice the extra leaves

Now look at the checkerboard border;

there are two different four patch color schemes.

Color choice makes a big difference.

Nice borders

three borders

This quilt uses rails. Large strips of fabric to make the quilt large, very fast.

The corners offer the interest in the border.

Let’s discuss.
What are your questions?
BLOCK OF THE MONTH