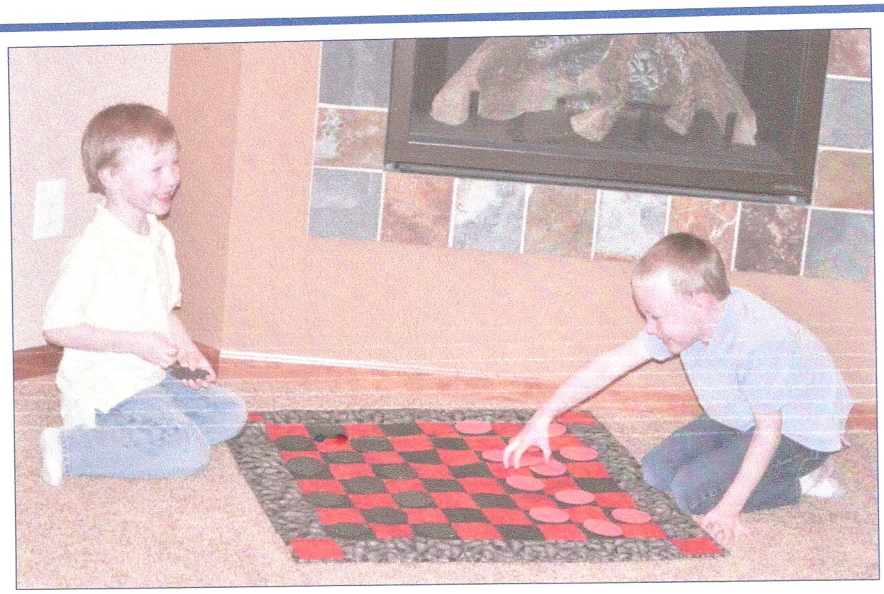
pellon
The Magic in the Middle

Large Checkerboard Mat The Easy Way



Skill Level: Beginner & All

Designed By
Connie Watkins

This washable checkerboard mat was made for young kids to play together on the floor with hockey pucks as checkers for a fun twist on the game. Painted wooden discs with stickers are a fun addition. The storage bag makes it easy to pack up once the game is over. What a fun project to sew together with mom, grandma or a girl scout leader. We used the traditional red and black colors for the game board squares but follow your own imagination.

Game Board Mat: 33 - 1/2" square Storage Bag: 22 1/2" x 14"

Fabrics Needed:

Black	1/2 Yard [32 3 - 7/8" cut squares]
Red	1/2 Yard [36 3 - 7/8" cut squares]

Yields 40 squares each color, remaining squares are used on the storage bag.

Backing & Borders:	1 Yard
Storage Bag: [same as backing]	1/2 Yard
Binding: [same as backing]	1/2 yard
Total if one fabric	2 Yards

Materials Needed:

Pellon® Quilter's Grid #820	1-1/2 Yard
Pellon® Fusible Fleece #987F	1 Yard
Black cotton thread 50 wt.	1 Spool

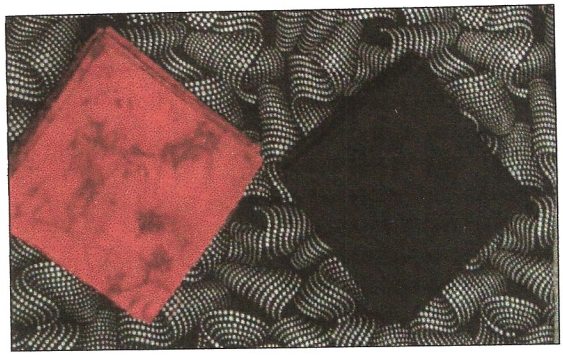
Tools Needed:

Standard machine sewing & related tools such as scissors, needles, pins, iron and ironing board, etc.
Standard rotary cutting tools such as mat, rulers and cutter.
One 'The Applique Pressing Sheet'™
Basting safety pins [Stainless Steel or Nickel Plated]

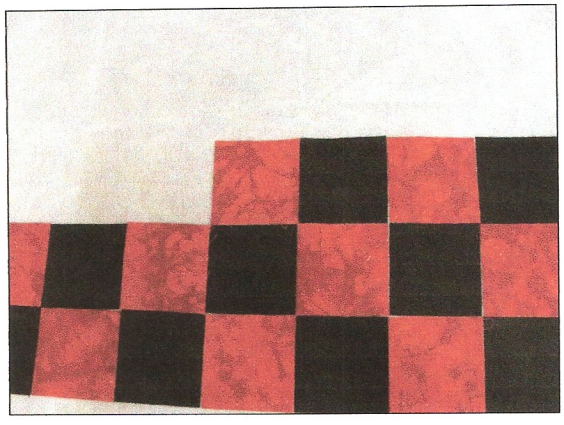
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To Construct the Large Checker Board Mat

Rotary cut forty red squares & forty black squares @ 3-7/8" .
The game board mat calls for 32 black & 36 red squares. Remaining squares are used on the storage bag.
From border fabric, cut four strips 4" x 30".



The rough side of Quilter's Grid™ is fusible. The grid lines are in accurate 1" increments. Place the Quilter's Grid rough side up on the ironing surface. Arrange the squares right side up and press in place.



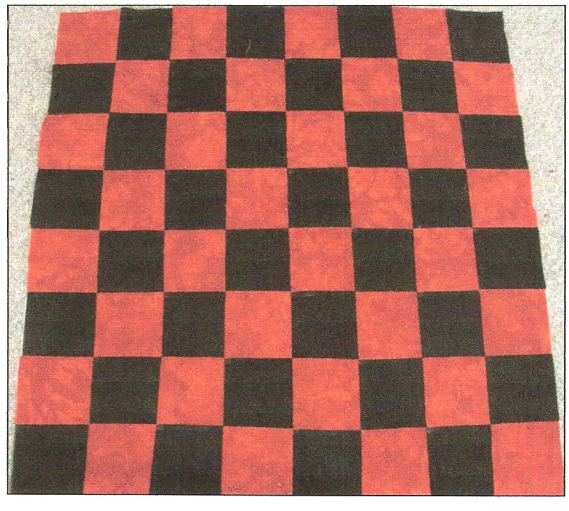
Tip! Cutting squares slightly smaller than full inch increments allows ample spacing at seams, preventing bulk.

Tip! Use 'The Applique Pressing Sheet'™ when pressing fabrics to the fusible side of Quilter's Grid™ to prevent fusing to your iron and transferring the melted substance to fabrics. Available at: Www.BearThreadDesigns.com.

Tip! Spray a mist over the fabrics prior to pressing to steam set nicely to the Quilter's Grid™.

See the image to the right for correct placement of the black and red squares. There are 8 rows x 8 rows. Alternate colors within each row. There will be two red corner squares and two black corner squares.

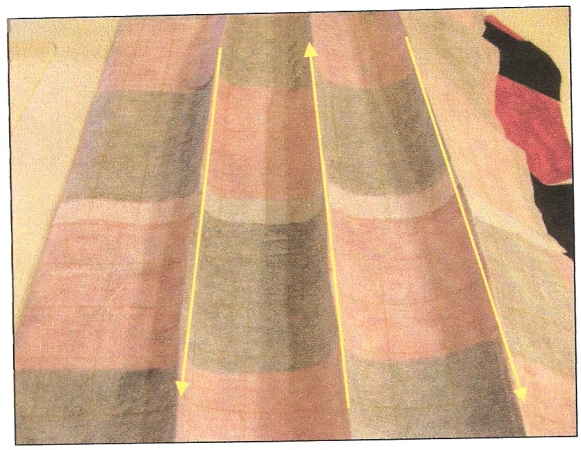
This game board mat can also be used for playing chess.



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Turn to the marked side of the Quilter's Grid™ [fabric is on opposite side] and fold on a marked line. Sew a 1/4" seam allowance the length of each row turning 180 degrees to go in a new direction each time. Clip each intersection where each square intersects.

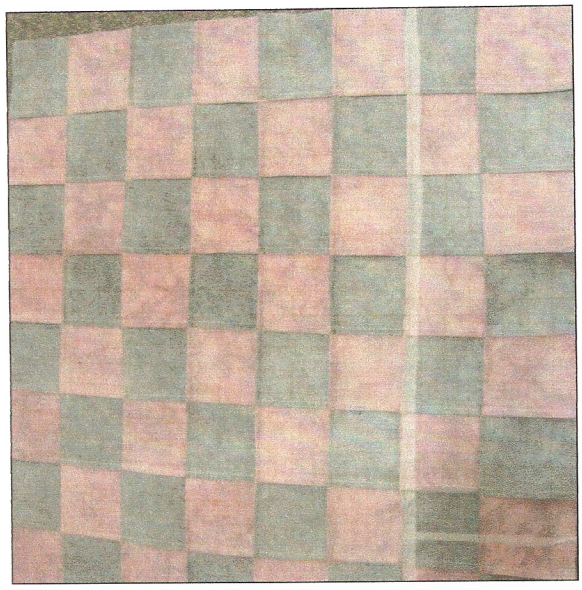
Using the pressing sheet, press all seam allowances in one direction.



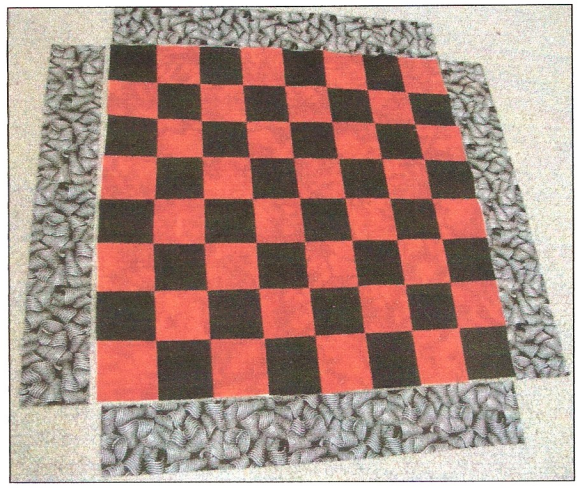
Turn and sew the seams using a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn180 degrees each row. Sew all rows, then clip 1/8" at each intersection and press the seam allowances all in one direction. [Use the pressing sheet]

Using a large rotary cutting ruler, mat and tool, cut the four outer sides straight.

Tip! The key to accurate sewing when using Quilter's Grid is to fold on the lines and sew seam allowances uniformly.

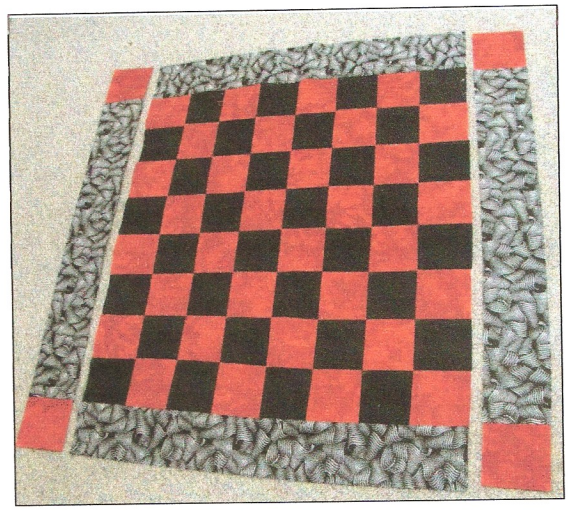


Sew one border strip to the top and bottom and press the seam allowances outward toward the borders.



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Sew a red 4" square to each end of the remaining two border strips. Align these to the sides of the checker board mat. Pin at corner intersections, then along the sides. Sew the two side borders using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seam allowances outward toward the borders.



Assemble [AKA sandwich] the three layers; backing, batting and top. The backing is right side down and slightly larger than the finished size. Smooth the batting with a cutting ruler or your hands.

Lay the top right side up, centered and squared. Smooth with a cutting ruler or your hands.

Pin using safety pins in a few locations.



Using a decorative blanket or feather stitch, sew along the seam lines of each row of squares in both directions. Stitch a straight line along the outer edge about 1/8" in from the cut edges.

Fusible Fleece batting is thin, soft and durable and can be stitched up to 4" apart.



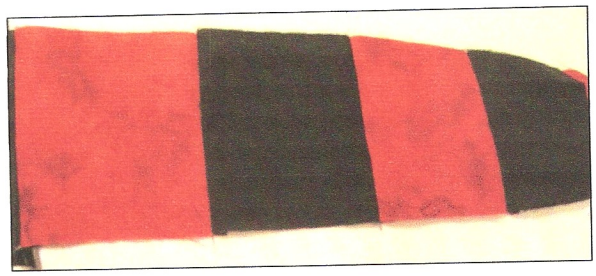
BINDING OR FINISHING: When quilting together layers as shown above, it is necessary to bind the cut edges. Follow the basic binding instructions provided.

The 'Sandwich Method' can also be used. Place the batting on a flat surface and smooth. Place the backing right side UP and smooth. Place the top right side DOWN, align to the backing and smooth. Pin together in a few places. With the top facing you, stitch around the edges with a 1/4" straight stitch. Leave a 4-5" opening and backstitch at the beginning and ending. Trim away the backing and batting using rotary cutting tools leaving a scant 1/4" seam allowance. Clip the four corners to remove bulk. Turn right side out, smooth outside edges. Straight stitch along the outside edges a scant 1/4" in from the edge. Fold under to close the opening as you stitch. This method is easier for beginners and is a nice finish for a small project such as this one.

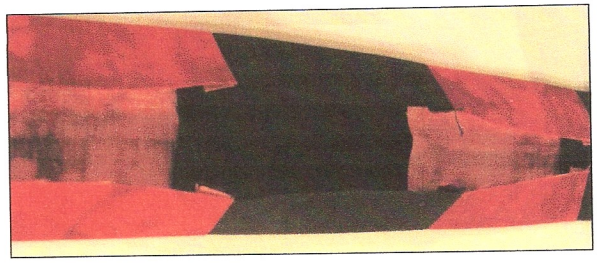
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Storage Bag

Stitch together a row of the leftover red and black 4" squares alternating colors. Press seams in one direction.

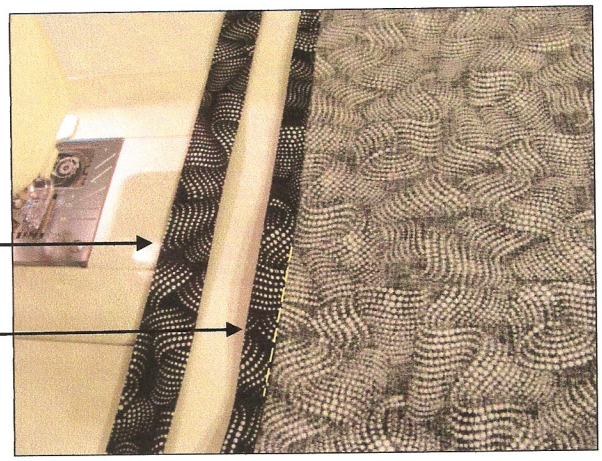


Fold and press under about 1" on each side of this strip/row, along both sides lengthwise.



Cut fabric 42" x 15". Cut one 2" strip x 42". Fold the narrow strip in half lengthwise with right sides in. Stitch a 1/4" seam along the raw edges the length of the strip. Put a safety pin at one end and thread it into the tube to pull the 'string' right side out. Press.

Fold under and press 1/2" two times, along one 42" side. Stitch closely along the fold to hem. Place the red and black strip made of 4" squares to the right side about 1" down from the hemmed long edge. Top stitch on both sides creating a channel for the tie string. Leave the ends open. Ends are folded under.



Fold this in half with right sides together with the 15" ends meeting. Stitch 1/4" seams along the two raw edged sides creating seams for the bottom and side.

Turn right side out and press. Pull the tie string through the red and black channel. Tie a knot at both ends of the tie string.



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