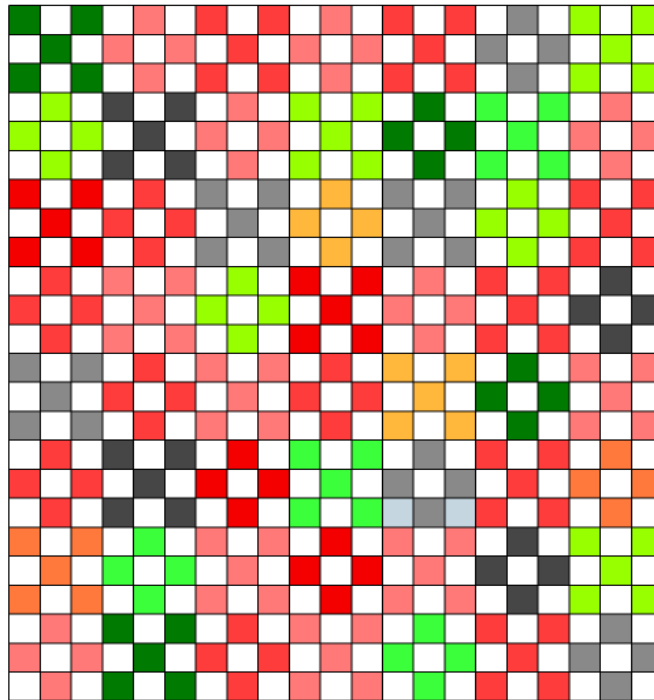


Checker Cakes Quilt



A quilt pattern by Sarah Fulks – SnuggleBugStitching

Layer cakes are my favorite pre-cuts. If you're new to quilting and haven't heard of layer cakes, they are packs of pre-cut 10" squares. There are typically 42 pieces in a pack. I end up using them a lot. Most of the layer cake patterns I've made end up having at least one or two layer cake squares left over.

Sometimes I use them in a simple squares floral quilt that I get a lot of requests for, but I never use the whole layer cake for these either.

I end up with a lot of orphaned 10" squares. They're just so pretty that it's hard to leave them unused. So, I decided to come up with patterns for using these lovely little squares.

This is one of those patterns. It's great for quilters who love making scrap quilts. It's a checkerboard style quilt – alternating between high volume and low volume squares. It's also distinctly a nine-patch quilt, so it is constructed a little differently than most checkerboard quilts.

I designed the dimensions to make the most efficient use of layer cake squares, but it would also be perfect for getting some of your larger scraps out of your stash and into a lovely quilt.

- Beginner Quilt Pattern
- Finished Quilt Top = approximately 57"x66"
- All Seam allowance are ¼ inch
- All units are in inches
- All seams should be pressed to the sides, going toward the high volume fabric.
- Read through the entire pattern before beginning

Recommended Tools

-Rotary Cutter

-Self-healing cutting mat – I recommend using an 18"x24" cutting mat. For this pattern, a smaller mat will be easier to work with.

-Ruler – for this pattern, I used a 12.5" square ruler. You need a ruler that has ¼" increments marked.

-Straight pins or clips – These are optional. I don't use them for piecing the quilt top in this pattern. Use them if they help you.

Glossary

-Layer Cake – a pack of pre-cut 10" squares in coordinating colors and prints. Typically, there are 42 squares per pack. This pattern is designed for layer cake squares.

-Nested seams – this is a process that involves pressing your seams to the sides. The seams that have to match up will be pressed in opposite directions. This makes sort of a ridge that you can feel when you are putting your fabrics right sides together and trying to align your seams. Nesting your seams makes it much easier to get your seams to match up nicely. I have a post on Instagram that talks about nested seams and has a brief video of me aligning them.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUNCtGXrKcu/>

-High volume – these are the darker fabrics

-Low volume – these are the lighter fabrics

-WOF – Width of Fabric. Fabric requirements for the binding is calculated based on cutting strips along the width of fabric. The width of fabric is measured from selvedge edge to selvedge edge.

-Selvedges or selvedge edge – these are the edges that run along the length of the fabric.

They may be a different texture or color than the rest of the fabric and often have writing on them. Width of fabric is measured from selvedge edge to selvedge edge.

Fabric Requirements

Quilt Top

	Amount Required
High Volume Fabrics	28 Layer Cake squares
Low Volume Fabrics	28 Layer Cake squares

***Instructions and diagrams are for the size top I made. The finished top is approximately 57"x66". However, it would be pretty easy to adjust the size by just adding more columns and/or rows of squares. With the seam allowance, each square is 8.25". So, every column you add will add 8.25" to the width of the finished quilt top, and every extra row will add 8.25" inches to the length of the finished quilt top. Be sure to adjust your backing, batting, and binding amounts if you change the size of the quilt top.

***If you wanted to make this pattern only using one layer cake, it will make a quilt top that is approximately 49.5"x57". Depending on your layer cake, you may not have exactly half low volume and half high volume for a clear-cut checkerboard style top, but it will still make you a pretty quilt.

***Finished size listed (approximately 57"x66") is for the quilt top. Once you have it quilted, add binding, and wash and dry it, your finished quilt will be slightly smaller – cotton shrinks. I DO NOT recommend pre-washing your layer cake squares to avoid shrinkage as they may not survived the ordeal. If they do manage to survive, they will not be large enough to get the cuts you need for this pattern.

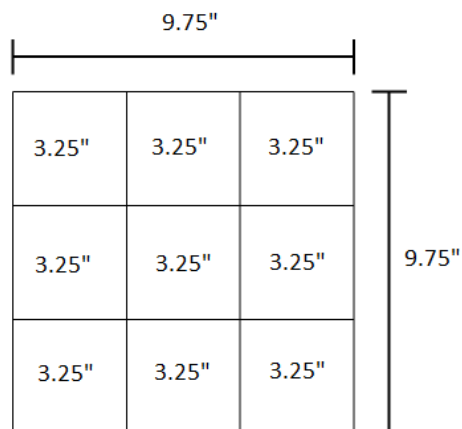
Finishing Material Requirements

	Amount Required
Backing	4 yards
Batting	64"x72"
Binding	½ yard

***Fabric for the binding was calculated based on cutting 2.5" strips along the width of the fabric (42"). You will need 7 strips.

Cutting Instructions

- 1) Prior to cutting the layer cake squares, I like to go through and pair up my high volume and low volume squares. This will help ensure that you are happy with how the prints in each individual block looks together. If possible, I also try not to have any pairs that are exactly the same. This will help ensure that no two blocks in the finished quilt top are exactly alike.
- 2) Once you have your layer cake squares paired up into one high volume, and one low volume, you can begin cutting your layer cake squares. We will cut both the high volume piece and the low volume piece at the same time.
- 3) Stack a high volume square and a low volume square right sides/pretty sides together. Stack them as neatly as you can. If you're using left over prints from multiple packs, the two squares may not be the same size. Place your smaller piece on top so that you can be sure that you don't cut the pieces from that square too small.
- 4) Use your square ruler to trim the stack to 9.75". Be careful to keep the squares perfectly stacked.
- 5) Cut (9) 3.25" squares according to the diagram below



***I do have a video of me demoing the cutting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIPUigBypg0&t=23s>.

Assemble your Nine-Patch Blocks

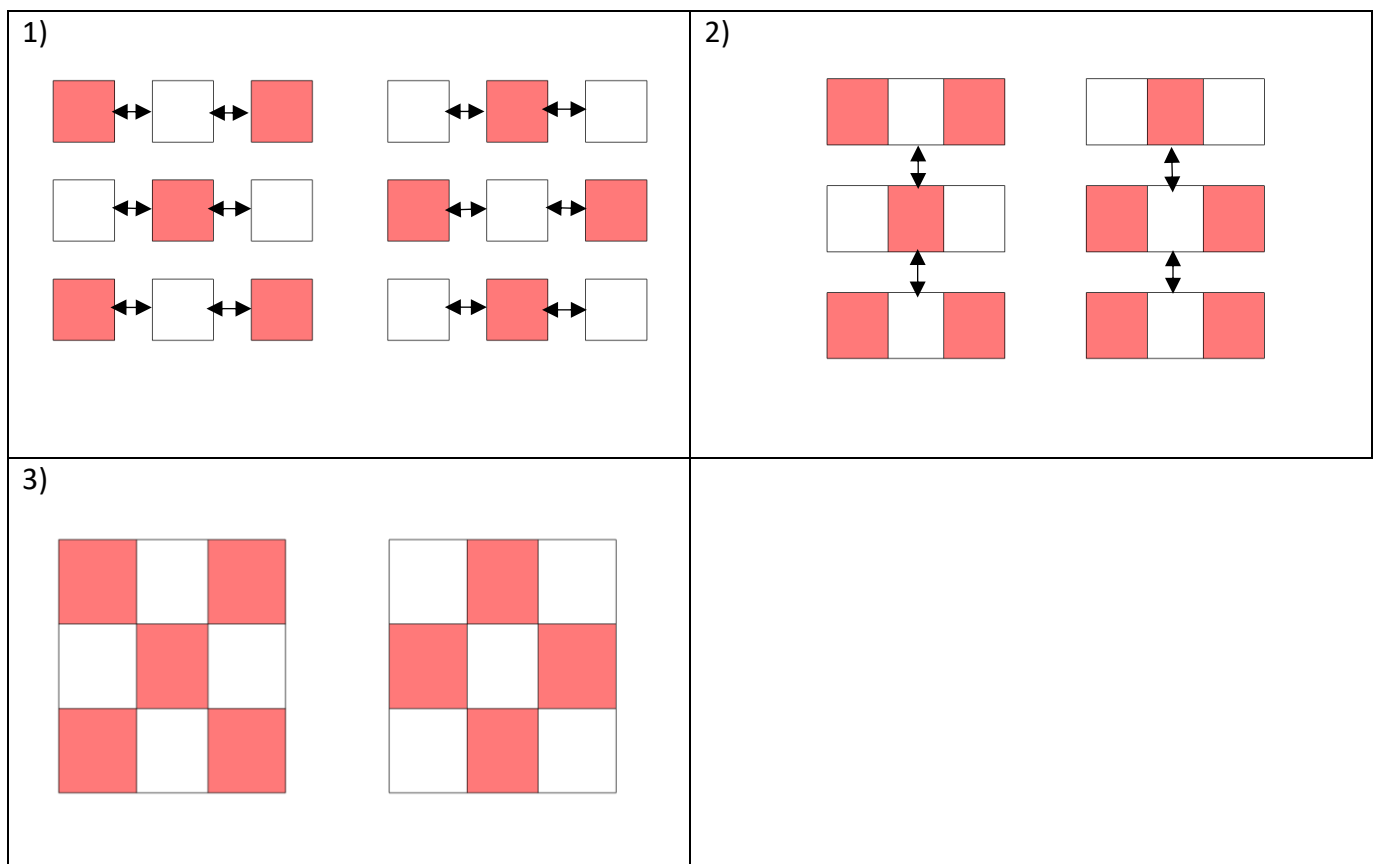
***Tip – keep your cut squares on your cutting mat and carefully move the mat next to your sewing machine. If you can keep those perfectly stacked, it will save you the step of lining your squares up when you go to chain piece them.

-Each high volume/low volume pair will make two nine-patch blocks that opposite match. So, the two squares will have the same prints but one will have 5 high volumes and the other will have 5 low volumes.

-You will have a total of 28 pairs and make a total of 56 nine-patch blocks.

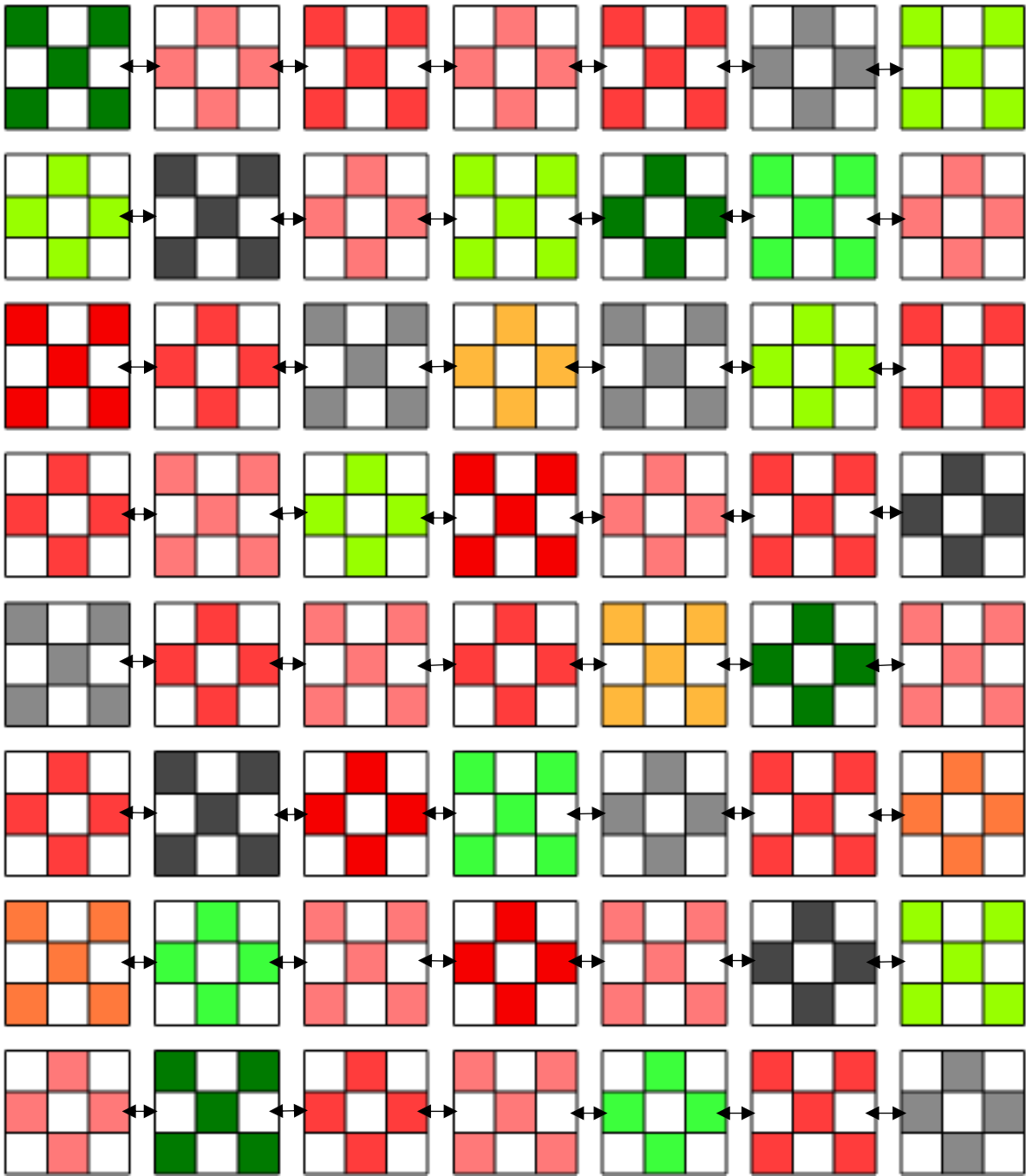
-Sew your nine-patch blocks together as shown in the diagrams below. I do have a video of me demoing chain piecing these blocks at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpibUTehXHE&t=2s>.

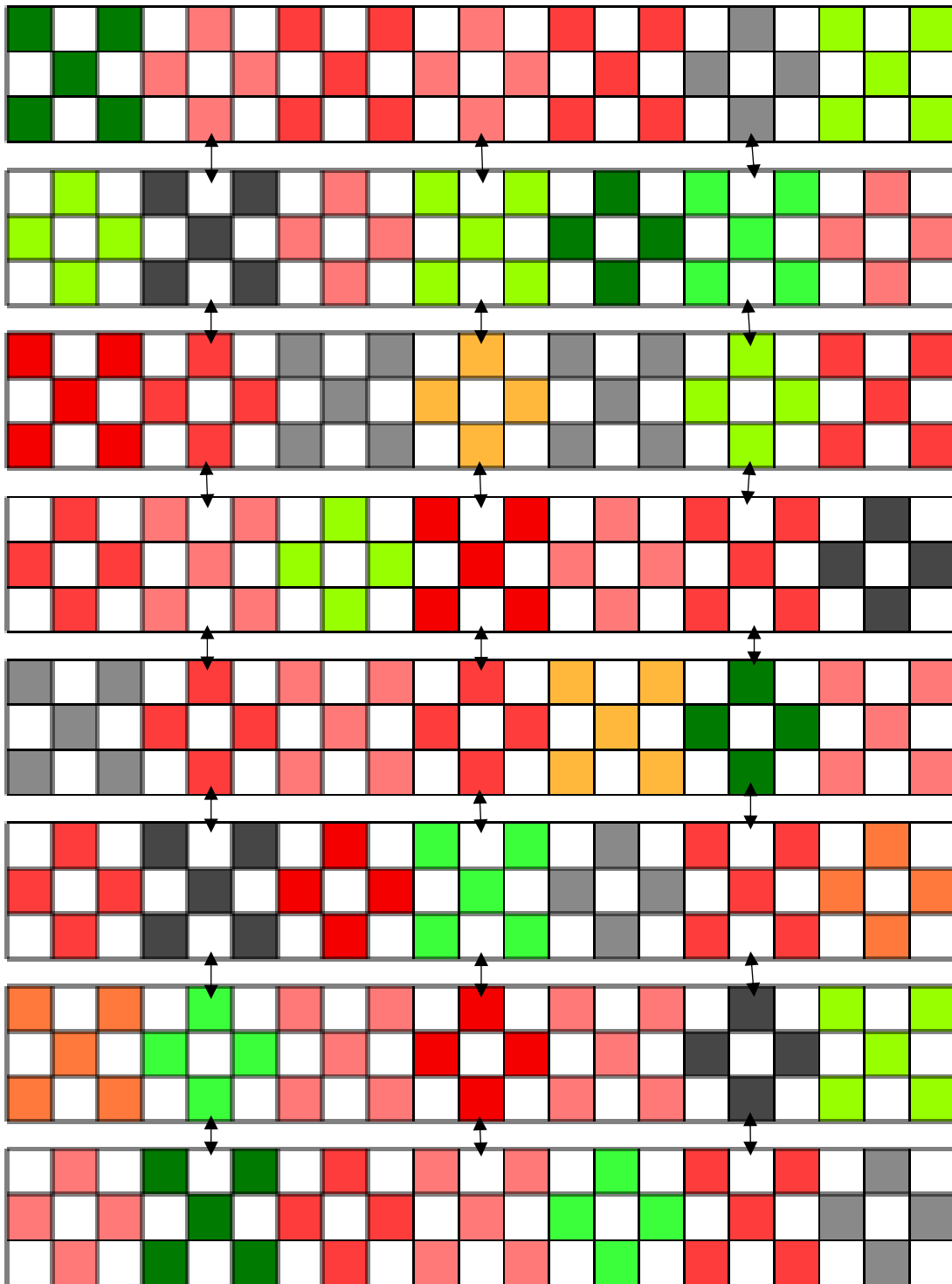


Quilt Top Assembly

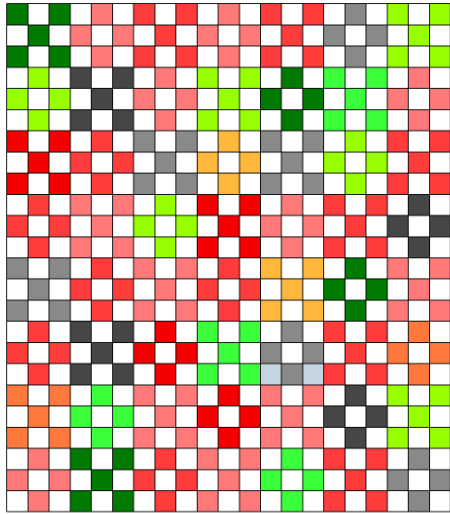
-Assemble your rows as shown in the diagram below.



-Your rows should now look like the diagram below. Sew them together as shown.



-Your finished quilt top should look like the diagram below.



Finishing Your Quilt

- 1) Make your backing. Your backing should be the same size as the batting (page 4). I do have a post on a no fuss method for making backing at <https://snugglebugstitching.com/?p=591>.
- 2) Baste your quilt using your favorite basting method. I do have a post on basting at <https://snugglebugstitching.com/?p=462>.
- 3) Quilt as desired.
- 4) Make your binding so that you can bind your quilt. Note that the binding amount listed in this pattern (page 4) was calculated based on binding strips cut 2.5" wide along the width of fabric (42"). Changing the width of the binding strips could change the yardage needed. Visit my blog at <https://snugglebugstitching.com/?p=476> for some information about my favorite binding method.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at https://snugglebugstitching.com/?page_id=242.

I'd love to see what you made!

For Instagram, use: #checkercakesquilt #snugglebugstitching @snugglebugstitching

*****Copyright - NO sharing or duplicating allowed*****