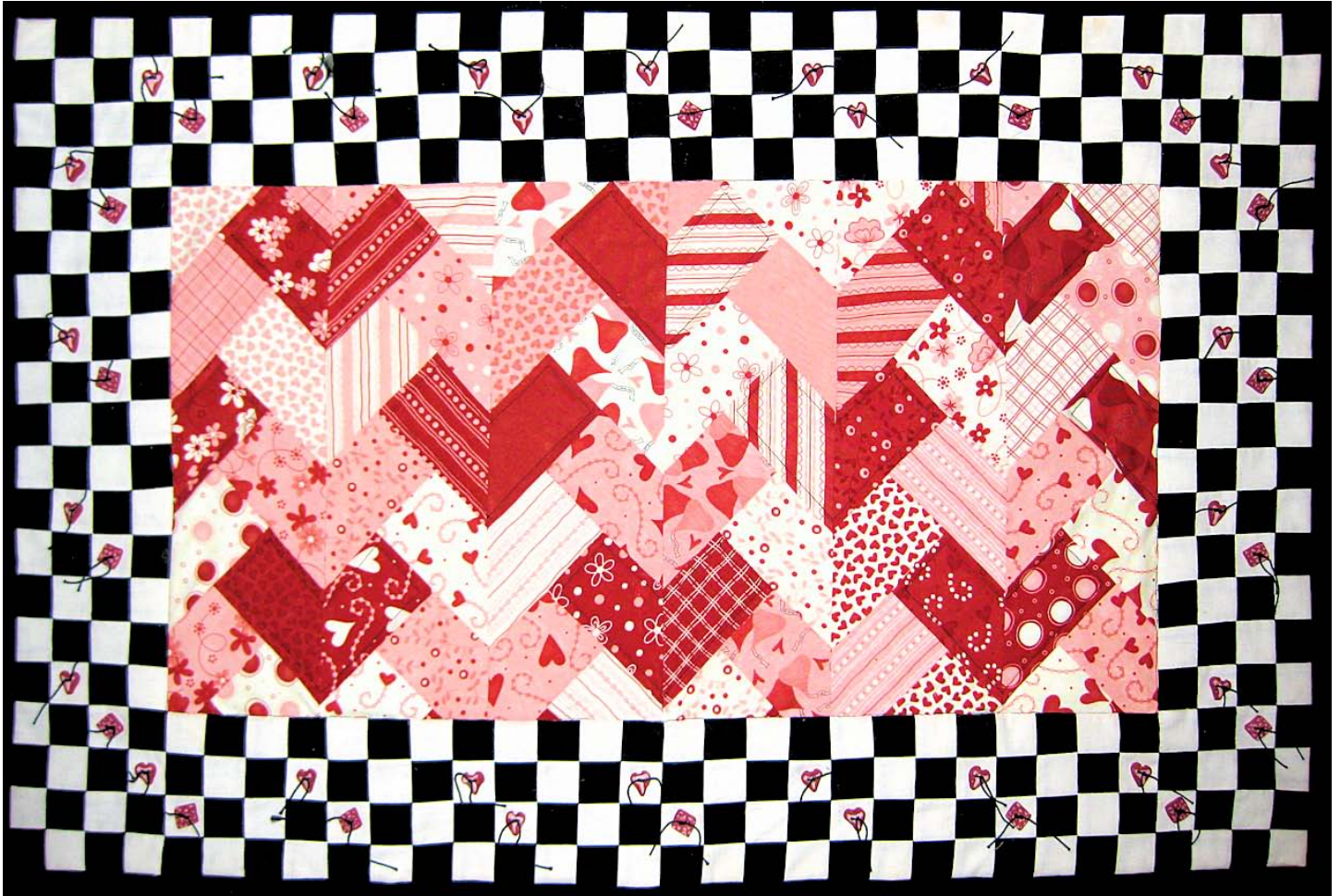


MIRKWOOD DESIGNS presents...  
**Checkerboard Quilt Border Tutorial**



**This Valentine's Day Friendship Braid wall hanging measures 22 x 34 inches.  
The center portion was echo quilted, and the border was "button quilted" in alternating squares.**

Note: This tutorial explains how to make the checkerboard border of the quilt.  
For the **Friendship Braid** portion, please see the **Friendship Braid Quilt Tutorial** at  
<http://www.mirkwooddesigns.com/projects/friendship-braid.pdf>



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**Checkerboard Quilt Border Tutorial**

**Supplies and Tools**

- ¾ yard each of black and white fabric (for larger quilts, you'll need more fabric)
- Ruler
- Rotary cutter
- Basic sewing supplies
- 

**IMPORTANT:** For the checkerboard border to match perfectly all the way around the center, your quilt center must measure either “evenly” or “oddly” each way, PLUS half an inch. If the width is 12½ inches, the height must be an even amount (plus half an inch). Similarly, if the width is 15½ inches, the height must be an odd amount (plus half an inch).

For example: 12 ½ x 18 ½ = GOOD (both are even)

15 ½ x 29 ½ = GOOD (both are odd)

12 ½ x 15 ½ = BAD

13 ½ x 24 ½ = BAD

**ALSO:** It is essential that you maintain an exact ¼-inch seam allowance, otherwise your checkerboard will not match.

**Instructions**

1. Cut 1 ½ inch strips from the black and white fabrics.
2. Sew one black strip to one white strip. Press toward the black. Repeat with the rest of the strips.
3. Sew the two black/white units together, making sure to alternate colors. See Figure 1.



Figure 1.

4. Repeat, making several black/white/black/white units. Press toward the black.
5. Cut the units crosswise into 1 ½ inch segments.
6. Sew the segments together, rotating them so that they make a checkerboard pattern. Press seams in the back of each border in one direction. See Figure 2.

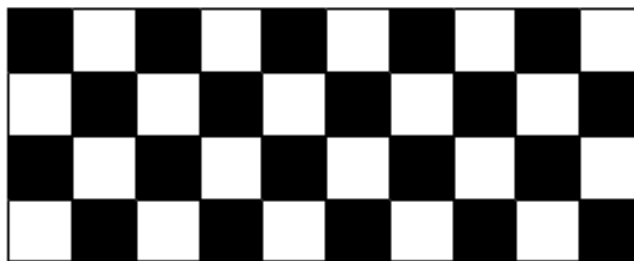


Figure 2.

## Checkerboard Quilt Border Tutorial

7. Measure the width of your quilt center and make two identical checkerboard borders that measurement.
8. Sew the checkerboard border to the top and the bottom of the quilt center. Press seams toward center.  
**IMPORTANT: Make sure that the same color square is in the opposite diagonal corner, as shown in the circled areas in Figure 3.**

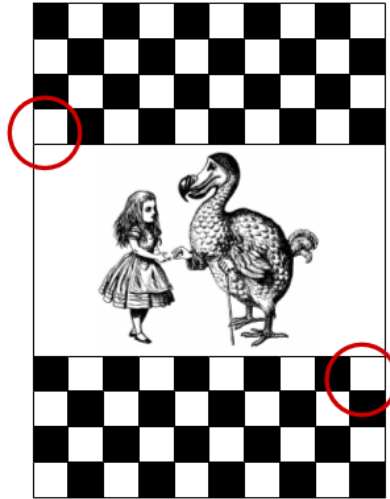


Figure 3. Note that the two circled squares are the same color.

9. Measure the height of the quilt including borders and make two checkerboard borders that measurement.  
**IMPORTANT: Make sure that the checkerboard pattern matches on both borders as shown in Figure 4.**

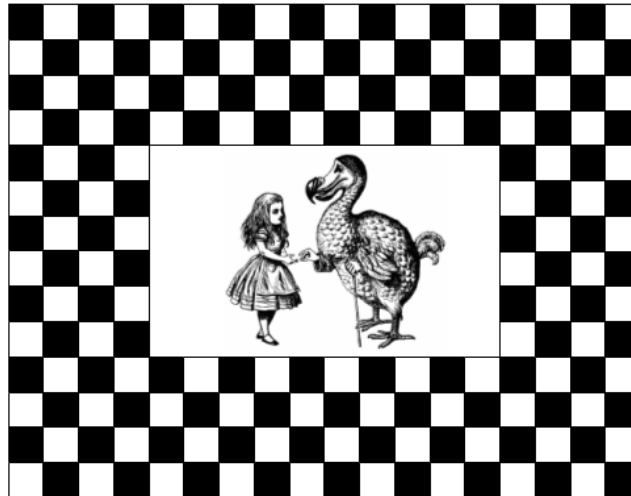


Figure 4. Note that the side checkerboard borders match perfectly.

### REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE THREE RULES FOR MAKING A CHECKERBOARD BORDER:

1. Make sure that the width and height measurements of the center of the quilt are both either even or odd numbers (plus half an inch).
2. Make sure to use an exact  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance when sewing the border units.
3. Make sure when sewing on the borders that the checkerboard pattern is maintained around the whole border.