

SEWING.COM FREE PATTERN

# Baby Blanket Quilt

## Start-to-Finish Sewing Pattern

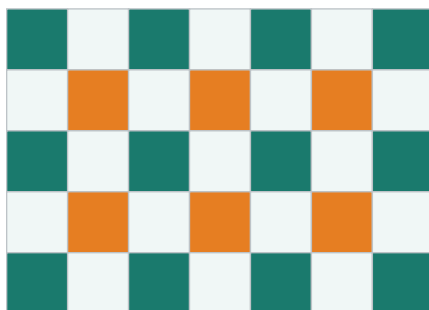
---

Finished Size: 36" x 42"

Skill Level: Beginner

Active Time: 6 to 8 Hours

Block Type: Simple Patchwork Squares



*Simple patchwork grid layout (not to scale)*

For personal use only. Not for resale or redistribution.

[sewing.com](https://www.sewing.com)

## FABRIC & SUPPLIES

Gather everything before you cut. Interrupting construction to find supplies is the largest source of beginner errors.

Item	What to Buy	Cost Est.
Quilt Top	1.5 yards quilting cotton (or 1 charm pack + 0.5 yd solid)	\$8 to \$18
Backing	1.25 yards quilting cotton (42 to 44 inch wide)	\$6 to \$12
Binding	1/3 yard quilting cotton (coordinating color)	\$3 to \$5
Batting	1 package crib-size (45" x 60"), cotton or cotton-poly	\$8 to \$14
Thread	50-weight cotton, neutral color (gray or cream)	\$4 to \$6

**Estimated Total: \$29 to \$55**

### FIX-IT TIP:

Pre-wash all quilting cotton before cutting. Cotton shrinks 3 to 5 percent in the first wash. A finished quilt made from unwashed fabric will pucker after laundering.

## TOOLS CHECKLIST

- Rotary cutter (45mm) with fresh blade
- Self-healing cutting mat (18" x 24" minimum)
- Acrylic quilting ruler (6" x 24")
- Iron and pressing surface (no steam for patchwork piecing)
- Curved safety pins for basting (about 40)
- Walking foot for quilting stage (check your machine model)
- Seam ripper
- Sewing machine with fresh 80/12 needle

## CUTTING GUIDE

This pattern uses a simple patchwork grid of 5-inch squares. The finished size of each square is 4.5 inches (after 1/4-inch seam allowance on each side). The finished quilt measures approximately 36 inches wide by 42 inches tall.

### Quilt Top:

Cut 63 squares at 5" x 5" (7 columns x 9 rows). If using 2 fabrics: 32 squares of Fabric A, 31 squares of Fabric B. If using a charm pack: use 63 pre-cut 5" squares.

### Backing:

Cut 1 piece at 40" x 46" (4 inches larger than finished top on all sides).

**Binding:**

Cut 5 strips at 2.5" x WOF (width of fabric). Join with diagonal seams to make one continuous strip approximately 170 inches long.

**SEAM ALLOWANCE TEST (Do This Before Cutting)**

1. Cut three strips of scrap fabric at 1.5 inches wide.
2. Sew them together with a 1/4-inch seam allowance. Press seams to one side.
3. Measure the center strip. It must equal exactly 1 inch.
4. If it does not, adjust your needle position or add a tape guide to your throat plate.

## CONSTRUCTION: STEP BY STEP

Follow these steps in order. Do not skip pressing. A quilt pressed at each seam lays flat. A quilt pressed at the end puckers.

### 1 Machine Pre-Flight

Install a fresh 80/12 universal needle. Clean the bobbin case and feed dogs. Thread the machine with 50-weight cotton. Sew a test seam on a scrap of your quilting cotton. Check that the stitch is even on both sides. If the top thread loops on the underside, increase top tension slightly. If the bobbin thread shows on top, decrease top tension.

### 2 Arrange the Layout

Lay out all 63 squares in a 7-column by 9-row grid on a flat surface (floor, bed, or design wall). Alternate Fabric A and Fabric B in a checkerboard pattern. Step back and check that color placement looks balanced before sewing anything.

### 3 Sew Squares into Rows

Pick up each row left to right, stacking squares in order. Sew the first two squares right sides together with a 1/4-inch seam. Without cutting the thread, feed the next pair (chain piecing). Continue until all 7 squares in the row are joined. Repeat for all 9 rows.

### 4 Press Every Row (Non-Negotiable)

Press Row 1 seams to the right. Press Row 2 seams to the left. Alternate direction for each row. This nesting pattern allows seam intersections to lock together when you join rows. Use a dry iron. Lift and press down; do not slide the iron across the fabric.

### 5 Join Rows Together

Pin Row 1 to Row 2 at every seam intersection, right sides together. The opposing seam allowances should nest against each other and lie flat. Sew with a 1/4-inch seam. Press the joining seam in one direction. Add Row 3 to the unit. Continue adding rows in order until the top is complete. Press the completed top flat.

### 6 Make the Quilt Sandwich

Lay the backing fabric wrong side up on a flat surface. Smooth it and tape the corners to hold it flat. Center the batting on top. Center the quilt top right side up on the batting. Smooth from center outward. Pin-baste with curved safety pins every 4 to 6 inches across the entire surface.

### 7 Quilt the Layers

Attach a walking foot. Set stitch length to 3.0mm. Starting from the center of the quilt, sew straight lines from top to bottom along every vertical seam line (stitch in the ditch). Then sew horizontal lines along every horizontal seam. This grid pattern secures all three layers evenly. Remove safety pins as you reach them.

### 8 Trim and Square Up

Using your ruler and rotary cutter, trim the batting and backing even with the quilt top on all four sides. Make sure corners are square (use the corner markings on your ruler). A consistent edge is essential for clean binding.

**9****Prepare the Binding**

Join your 5 binding strips end to end using diagonal seams: place two strips right sides together at a 90-degree angle, sew diagonally from corner to corner, trim to 1/4-inch seam allowance, and press open. Fold the entire binding strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press.

**10****Attach the Binding**

Starting midway along one side (not at a corner), align the raw edges of the binding with the raw edge of the quilt front. Sew with a 1/4-inch seam. Stop 1/4 inch before each corner, backstitch, and remove from the machine. Fold the binding up at a 45-degree angle, then fold it back down along the next edge. Continue sewing. When you return to the starting point, overlap the binding tails by about 2 inches, trim, and join.

**11****Finish the Back**

Fold the binding to the back of the quilt so the folded edge just covers the machine stitching line. Pin in place. Hand-stitch with a blind hem stitch or machine-stitch close to the folded edge. For a first quilt, machine stitching the back is faster and produces a secure result.

## PRESSING PROTOCOL QUICK REFERENCE

- Press every seam before crossing it with another seam.
- Alternate pressing direction per row (Row 1 right, Row 2 left, etc.).
- Use a dry iron during piecing. No steam until the quilt top is complete.
- Lift and set the iron down. Do not slide it across patchwork seams.
- Press the completed top from both the front and back before sandwiching.

## FINISHED QUILT CARE

### First Wash

Machine wash cold, gentle cycle. Use a mild detergent (no bleach, no fabric softener). Dry on low heat or lay flat to dry. The quilt will soften and develop a gentle crinkle after the first wash. This is normal and desirable.

### Ongoing Care

Wash as needed using cold water and gentle cycle. Avoid high heat in the dryer. Store folded (not hung) to prevent stretching. If you notice pilling on cotton batting, reduce agitation time.

### Repairs

If a seam opens, re-sew it with a 1/4-inch seam from the back. If binding wears at an edge, remove the worn section and replace with a new strip of binding sewn in place. A well-made quilt can be repaired and used for years.

## COMMON BEGINNER MISTAKES (AND HOW TO FIX THEM)

### Blocks are different sizes:

Your seam allowance is inconsistent. Re-do the 1/4-inch seam test. Use a seam guide on your machine.

### Quilt top is wavy:

You slid the iron instead of pressing. Press from the front and back on a flat surface. If minor, quilting and washing will relax the distortion.

### Binding corners are lumpy:

The 45-degree fold was incomplete. Unpick the corner, re-fold the binding at a clean 45-degree angle, and re-sew.

### Thread bunching on the underside:

This is a threading or tension problem, not a quilting problem. Re-thread the machine completely (top and bobbin). Clean the bobbin area. Test on scrap before continuing.

### Quilt sandwich shifted during quilting:

Not enough basting pins. Add more pins (every 3 to 4 inches) and always start quilting from the center outward.

### You just learned the full quilt construction sequence.

Cutting, piecing, pressing, sandwiching, quilting, and binding.

Every future quilt uses these same steps. You are ready for the next one.

Find more free patterns and guides at [sewing.com](https://www.sewing.com)