

# Let the Games Begin: A Game Board Quilt



52" x 64"



The checkers and pouch

**W**hat could be more fun than a quilt that you can play games with? A classic checkerboard pattern serves its intended purpose when it's centered on a lap-sized quilt and coupled with a bag of checkers. Each checkerboard square is 3" and is quickly strip pieced. If you find your time short, the quilt can be made into a simple roll-up game board using fast2fuse and some ribbons. The directions for this variation, as well as the checkers and pouch, follow the main directions.

## Materials

- 1/2 yard white fabric for game board
- 1/2 yard black fabric for game board
- 3/8 yard dark pink fabric for first border
- 5/8 yard purple fabric for second border
- 2 3/8 yards flower print fabric for outer border
- 3 1/3 yards for backing
- 5/8 yard for binding
- Batting: 56" x 68"
- 1/3 yard each of light and dark prints for checkers
- 1/3 yard each of 2 prints for checker pouch
- 1 yard narrow ribbon for pouch drawstring
- 1/2 yard regular-weight fast2fuse interfacing for checkers

## Cutting

- From both the white fabric and the black fabric, cut 4 strips 3 1/2" wide.
- From the pink fabric, cut 4 strips 2" wide.
- From the purple fabric, cut 4 strips 3 1/2" wide.
- From the flower print fabric, cut 2 strips 10" wide. From the length of the remaining piece, cut 2 strips 16" x 58".
- From the binding fabric, cut 7 strips 2 1/2" wide.
- From each pouch print, cut 1 circle 9" in diameter.

## How-To

1. Sew the white and black strips together, alternating the colors. Press the seams toward the black fabric.

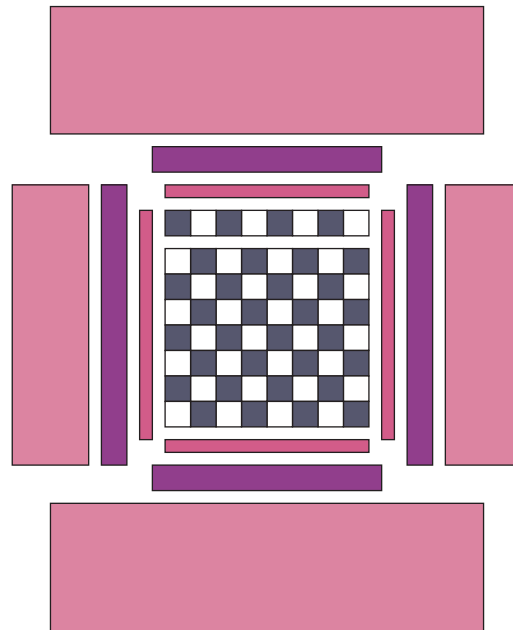


Piece the alternating strips.

2. Cut the strip set into 8 segments 3 1/2" wide.
3. Arrange the segments to form a checkerboard, as shown in the Assembly Diagram. Join the segments, pressing the seams in the same direction.

## Finishing

1. Sew the first, second, and outer border strips to the quilt following the directions for Borders (page 14).
2. Prepare the layers for quilting following the directions for Sandwiching & Basting (page 14). Machine quilt as desired.
3. Make and attach the binding following the directions for Binding (page 16).



Assembly Diagram



If you use a plain border fabric, the border can be turned into a friendship border where loved ones can write special messages to the recipient.

## Making the Checkers

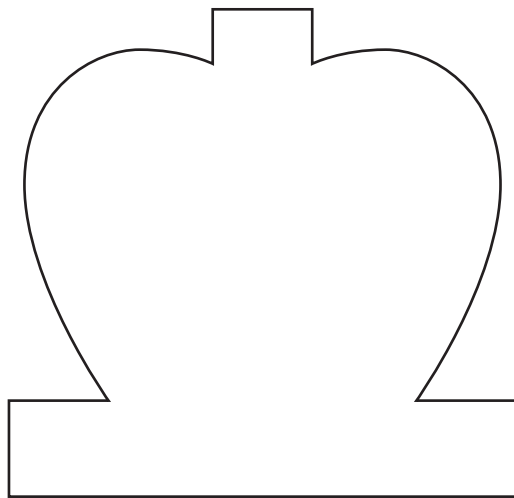
1. Fuse the light print to one side of the fast2fuse interfacing. Fuse the dark print to the other side.
2. Make a 2½" circle template and trace for each checker. (Note: In the game of checkers, each side has 12 checkers. I made 30 double-sided checkers to allow for losses.) Carefully cut out each checker.



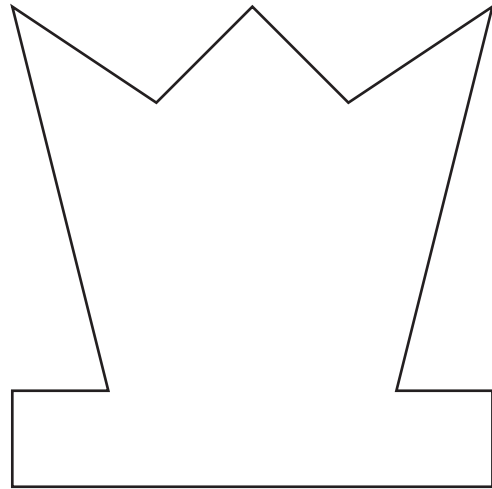
Checkers are easy to make when you use a template.

### Prefer Chess?

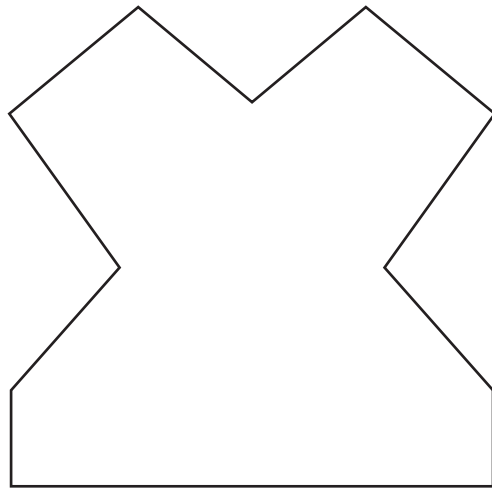
Using fast2fuse with a different fabric fused to each side, cut out these shapes in the numbers listed to create a chess game for your board.



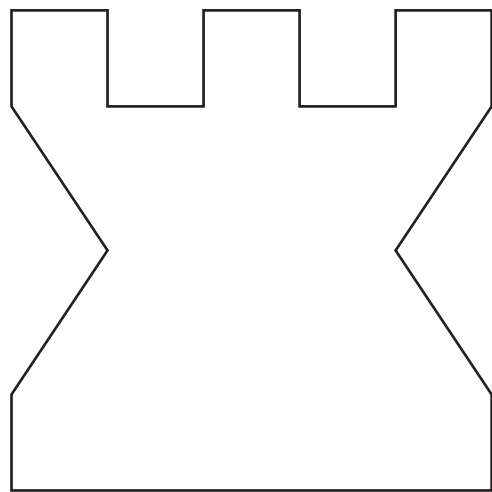
King: Make 2



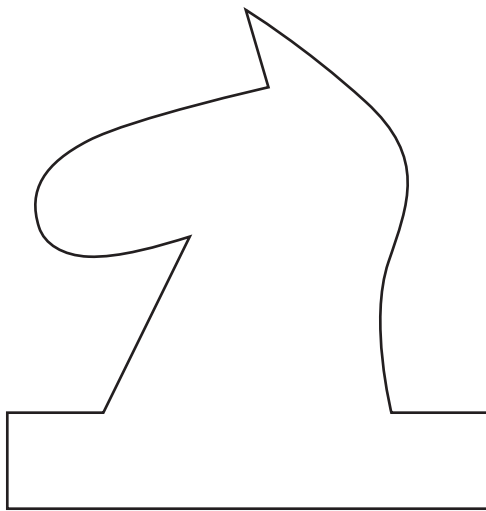
Queen: Make 2



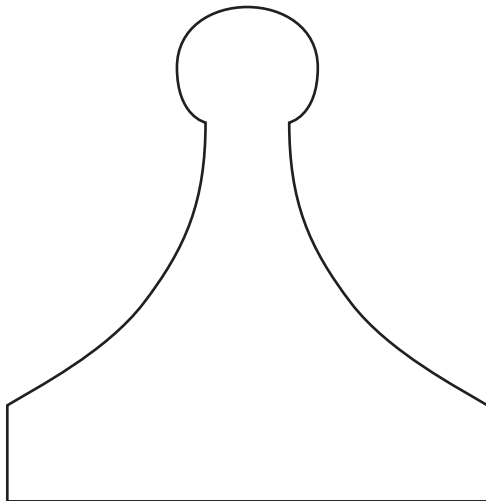
Bishop: Make 4



Rook: Make 4



Knight: Make 4



Pawn: Make 16

## Making the Pouch

1. Place the 9" print circles right sides together. Sew with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance around the perimeter, leaving a 4" opening.
2. Turn right side out and press. Stitch the opening closed.
3. Thread an embroidery needle with narrow ribbon and sew a running stitch about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge of the pouch. Tie the ribbon ends together and pull. Voilà! A bag is formed, perfect for holding the checkers or other game pieces.



*If you're not in a hurry, or you are concerned about unraveling, you can sew 8 small buttonholes around the edge to thread the ribbon through. Or, use 8 small grommets/eyelets along the edge and thread the ribbon through them.*



Pouches are wonderful for holding all of those loose pieces.



# Roll-Up Game Board



Game boards don't have to be part of a quilt.

1. Follow the directions for making the game board (page 42). Add the first border.
2. Spray baste the game board to a piece of batting 1" larger all around and quilt as desired.
3. Cut a  $\frac{7}{8}$ -yard piece of fast2fuse to the size of the batting. Fuse a piece of coordinating fabric to the back of the fast2fuse.
4. Using your rotary ruler, mark lines every 2" on the wrong side of the fast2fuse and sew along each line. These lines will help the fast2fuse "roll" better.
5. Spray baste the quilted game board to the wrong side of the fast2fuse and press together well.

6. Trim the edges to the outline of the game board using a rotary ruler and rotary cutter. Then, using the cap from the can of spray baste as a template, mark and trim each corner of the game board.

7. Cut 2 pieces of ribbon 24" long and slip the ends between the fast2fuse and the quilted game board. Press in place.

8. Using a topstitch needle and a complementary color of rayon thread in both the top and the bobbin, carefully edgestitch around the perimeter of the game board, following the tips and techniques on page 53 for the *Walker Bag*. Be careful not to sew the ends of the ribbon together. Your board is ready to roll (sorry, again)!



Carefully edgestitch around the outside of the game board.



Roll it up when you're done!