QUILTDOM QUILT PLANNING CHEAT SHEET

How many blocks do I need?

Pick your quilt size and block size to see the layout, the pieced top and the border that finishes it.

Blocks across × down (total blocks), set side by side with no sashing. Add the border on all four sides; every layout lands within 6" of the target.

Quilt size target, finished	6" blocks	8" blocks	9" blocks	10" blocks	12" blocks
Crib / Baby 36 × 52"	**6 × 9** (54) top 36 × 54" no border	**4 × 6** (24) top 32 × 48" + 2" border	**4 × 6** (24) top 36 × 54" no border	**3 × 5** (15) top 30 × 50" + 2" border	**3 × 4** (12) top 36 × 48" + 2" border
Throw / Lap 50 × 65"	**8 × 11** (88) top 48 × 66" no border	**5 × 7** (35) top 40 × 56" + 4½" border	**5 × 7** (35) top 45 × 63" + 2" border	**5 × 7** (35) top 50 × 70" no border	**4 × 5** (20) top 48 × 60" + 2" border
Twin 70 × 90"	**12 × 15** (180) top 72 × 90" no border	**9 × 11** (99) top 72 × 88" no border	**8 × 10** (80) top 72 × 90" no border	**7 × 9** (63) top 70 × 90" no border	**5 × 7** (35) top 60 × 84" + 3½" border
Full / Double 85 × 90"	**14 × 15** (210) top 84 × 90" no border	**10 × 11** (110) top 80 × 88" + 2" border	**9 × 10** (90) top 81 × 90" + 2" border	**9 × 9** (81) top 90 × 90" no border	**7 × 7** (49) top 84 × 84" + 2" border
Queen 90 × 100"	**15 × 17** (255) top 90 × 102" no border	**11 × 12** (132) top 88 × 96" + 2" border	**10 × 11** (110) top 90 × 99" no border	**9 × 10** (90) top 90 × 100" no border	**7 × 8** (56) top 84 × 96" + 2" border
King 110 × 100"	**18 × 16** (288) top 108 × 96" + 2" border	**13 × 12** (156) top 104 × 96" + 2" border	**11 × 10** (110) top 99 × 90" + 5" border	**11 × 10** (110) top 110 × 100" no border	**9 × 8** (72) top 108 × 96" + 2" border

The quilt math in one box

Blocks across
quilt width ÷ block size, rounded

Blocks down
quilt length ÷ block size, rounded

Blocks needed
blocks across × blocks down

Top size
blocks × block size, in each direction

With sashing
(blocks × block) + (blocks + 1) × sashing

Final size
top size + 2 × border width

On point
block × 1.414 (a 12" block is about 17" across)

Cut a block
finished + ½" (12" finished = 12½" cut)

All sizes are finished, in inches, before binding. Target sizes match Quiltdom's Quilt Size Cheat Sheet. For a California king, use the king row and add a row of blocks.

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Finished size vs. cut size

The seam allowance math for the units most blocks are built from, using ¼" seams.

Cut sizes for basic units

Size of the square to cut for each finished unit. For easier accuracy, cut ⅛" to ¼" larger and trim to size.

Finished unit	1"	1½"	2"	2½"	3"	3½"	4"	4½"	5"	6"
Square add ½"	1½"	2"	2½"	3"	3½"	4"	4½"	5"	5½"	6½"
Half-square triangle 2 at a time, add ⅞"	1⅞"	2⅜"	2⅞"	3⅜"	3⅞"	4⅜"	4⅞"	5⅜"	5⅞"	6⅞"
Quarter-square triangle 4 at a time, add 1¼"	2¼"	2¾"	3¼"	3¾"	4¼"	4¾"	5¼"	5¾"	6¼"	7¼"

Flying geese

A goose finishes twice as wide as it is tall. No-waste: 1 large square for the goose, 4 small squares for the sky.

Finished goose	No-waste method (makes 4): squares	Stitch and flip (makes 1): rectangle + squares
1 × 2"	1 at 3¼" + 4 at 1⅞"	2½ × 1½" + 2 at 1½"
1½ × 3"	1 at 4¼" + 4 at 2⅜"	3½ × 2" + 2 at 2"
2 × 4"	1 at 5¼" + 4 at 2⅞"	4½ × 2½" + 2 at 2½"
2½ × 5"	1 at 6¼" + 4 at 3⅜"	5½ × 3" + 2 at 3"
3 × 6"	1 at 7¼" + 4 at 3⅞"	6½ × 3½" + 2 at 3½"
4 × 8"	1 at 9¼" + 4 at 4⅞"	8½ × 4½" + 2 at 4½"
6 × 12"	1 at 13¼" + 4 at 6⅞"	12½ × 6½" + 2 at 6½"

Which block sizes divide cleanly

Finished unit size when a block is drafted on a grid, with the square to cut. A dot means the unit falls off the ⅛" ruler marks: choose another grid or block size.

Block	2 × 2 grid	3 × 3 (nine patch)	4 × 4	5 × 5	6 × 6
6"	3" (cut 3½")	2" (cut 2½")	1½" (cut 2")	·	1" (cut 1½")
8"	4" (cut 4½")	·	2" (cut 2½")	·	·
9"	4½" (cut 5")	3" (cut 3½")	2¼" (cut 2¾")	·	1½" (cut 2")
10"	5" (cut 5½")	·	2½" (cut 3")	2" (cut 2½")	·
12"	6" (cut 6½")	4" (cut 4½")	3" (cut 3½")	·	2" (cut 2½")
15"	7½" (cut 8")	5" (cut 5½")	3¾" (cut 4¼")	3" (cut 3½")	2½" (cut 3")
16"	8" (cut 8½")	·	4" (cut 4½")	·	·