# Checkers board and pieces

US terms



Finished size

**The board about 17¼ in (44 cm) square with its edging, without the tie, each of its squares about 2 in (5 cm) and each piece about 1½ in (4 cm) across**

Skill

**Easy**

Worked in rounds, with 88 pieces and color changes.

Yarn

**Medium (4), 4 colors**

Hook

**5 mm (US H-8)**

Gauge

**14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)**

In single crochet.

## You will need

| | |
|---|---|
| Yarn A: forest green, some of the squares | **about 195 yd (178 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn B: cream, some of the squares | **about 175 yd (160 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn C: barn red, some of the pieces | **about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn D: charcoal, some of the pieces | **about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate** |

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking and a spray bottle.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

## Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

| | |
|---|---|
| **ch** | chain stitch |
| **sl st** | slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch) |
| **sc** | single crochet (UK dc, double crochet) |
| **st** | stitch |
| **rnd** | round |
| **RS** | right side |

## Gauge

**14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)** in single crochet.

**Check your gauge on the piece.** Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 3 of the square the piece measures about 2 in (5 cm) across. If yours is larger, use a smaller hook; if it is smaller, use a larger hook.


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## Before you start

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch.
- At the start of a round, same st is the stitch the round before was joined in.
- A round worked in each st around begins in the st the round before was joined in.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- Straight stitch (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back at one end of the stitch and put it down at the other end.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, the board along a side: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 11½ in (29 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 13¼ in (34 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 21¾ in (55 cm).

## Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch and sc is double crochet.

### Square: make 64

Make 32 in A and 32 in B. The lines say A; for the cream squares, read B in its place.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With A, make a magic ring. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Ch 1, 8 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join | **(8 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | Ch 1, sc in same st, 3 sc in next st, **[**sc in next st, 3 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sl st in first sc to join | **(16 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 3** | Ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next st, 3 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 3 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next st, sl st in first sc to join | **(24 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail. | |

### Piece: make 24

Make 12 in C and 12 in D. The lines say C; for the charcoal pieces, read D in its place.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With C, make a magic ring. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Ch 1, 6 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join | **(6 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join | **(12 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail. | |

### Assembly

**1.** Weave in the ends of every square and every piece. Block every square to the same size, about 2 in (5.1 cm) along each side: pin it out on a flat surface, spray it with water and let it dry. Pin the pieces out to even circles in the same way.

**2.** Lay the 64 squares out in 8 rows of 8, right sides up, a green square in the lower left corner and the colors by turns


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from there, so that no two squares of one color lie side by side.

**3.** Join with a slip stitch seam in A. A corner is the middle sc of 3 sc in one stitch; a side is the 7 sts from one corner to the next, both corners counted. Hold two squares that lie side by side with right sides together, and work 1 slip stitch through both in each of the 7 sts of the side, from corner to corner, under both top loops of the stitch on both squares. Join the squares of each row first, then join the rows to each other with one long seam each, going straight on from one pair of squares to the next. Fasten off at the end of each seam.

**4.** Border, round 1: with B and the right side facing, join with a slip stitch in any corner sc of the board and ch 1, which does not count as a stitch; work 3 sc in each of the four corner sc of the board and 1 sc in each of the other sts along the edges (54 on each side), so that each of the two corner sc that meet at a seam has 1 sc; slip stitch in the first sc to join (228 sc). Fasten off.

**5.** Border, round 2: join A with a slip stitch in the middle sc of any corner, ch 1, 3 sc in the same sc, 1 sc in every sc along the edges and 3 sc in the middle sc of each of the other three corners; slip stitch in the first sc to join (236 sc). Fasten off.

**6.** Tie: with A, ch 120 (about 28 1/8 in (71.5 cm) long) and fasten off. Fold the chain in half. Hold it behind the middle of one edge of the board, put the hook from the front to the back through round 2 of the border, draw the fold through to the front, put the two ends through the fold and draw them up.

**7.** Stars: turn a piece wrong side up. With B, work three straight stitches that cross over the magic ring, each 1 in (2.5 cm) long, so that their six ends lie evenly round like the points of a star. Take the needle only under the top strands of the stitches of the wrong side, so that nothing of the star shows on the right side. Draw the beginning and the end of the yarn under the star and cut them. Work a star on every piece.

**8.** To set the game out, lay the board with a green corner at the lower left of each player and put 12 pieces of one color, plain side up, on the green squares of the three rows nearest to each of them. A piece that becomes a king is turned over to its star. To put the game away, lay the pieces on the board, roll it up toward the edge with the tie, and wind the tie round it and knot its ends.

## Finishing

- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 88 pieces.

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.


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