

# Creating your own Log Cabin Quilt Block

Try quilting with scrap fabric or new quilting cottons by piecing a Log Cabin Block. Before you begin, keep these three baselines in mind:

1. **Iron:** When you choose the fabrics, take a moment to iron them. *Ironing* is the back and forth motion on top of the fabric (or with a pressing cloth in between if the fabrics are delicate, wool or silk) that gets the wrinkles out.
2. **Press:** After each seam, you will want to *press* the fabric by placing the iron flat and holding it for a few seconds. Fix each seam by pressing it as you fed it through the sewing machine. Then open up the pieces, fold the seam allowances to one side (usually the side with the darker fabric) and press again from the front side of the block.
3. **Seams:** Patchwork seams are usually 0.25” wide. Quarter inch presser feet help define your seam width, as do markings on the throat plate. If your sewing machine doesn’t have either of these guides, measure 0.25” from the hole into which the sewing machine needle dips out and mark it with a line of painter’s tape. Sewing a straight line takes practice!
4. **Value and Layout:** While you don’t need any plan or order in your patchwork block, there are oodles of design possibilities with the Log Cabin block. Here’s one reference:

[http://www.connectingthreads.com/tutorials/Inspiration-Log\\_Cabin\\_layouts\\_D68.html](http://www.connectingthreads.com/tutorials/Inspiration-Log_Cabin_layouts_D68.html)

Your Log Cabin Block can be any size square that you wish. At FiberCamp, I began with a 3” square. This included 0.5” for the seam allowances all around.

Take time to check your block’s “squareness” as you build your block. I generally do this each time the block shape is, well, square. Don’t worry if there are small wiggles to trim away. Doing this at each square moment will create an even block in the end. And, unsewing is all part of quilting!

Enjoy!