

Log Cabin Quilt - Beginner Friendly Tutorial

Introduction

In this tutorial, you will learn how to create a beautiful and modern Log Cabin Quilt using a neutral color palette. This guide is written for beginners and includes step-by-step instructions, tips, and diagrams. You will be able to make a full quilt by following this tutorial, block by block.

Materials Needed

- Quilting cotton in four shades: cream, beige, brown, and black
- Rotary cutter and self-healing cutting mat
- Quilting ruler
- Sewing machine and neutral thread
- Iron and ironing board
- Batting and backing fabric
- Safety pins or basting spray
- Scissors and quilting needles

Cutting Instructions

Each Log Cabin block is built from a central square surrounded by 'logs'. For one block, cut:

- Center: (1) 2.5" x 2.5" square in black
- Round 1: (2) 2.5" x 2.5" beige, (1) 2.5" x 4.5" beige
- Round 2: (1) 2.5" x 4.5" brown, (1) 2.5" x 6.5" brown
- Round 3: (1) 2.5" x 6.5" cream, (1) 2.5" x 8.5" cream
- Repeat for all blocks; make 20-30 blocks depending on your quilt size

Piecing the Blocks

1. Begin with the center square.
2. Sew the first beige strip to one side of the center square, right sides together.
3. Press the seam outward with an iron.

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4. Add the second beige strip, then the longer beige strip to form a U shape.
5. Continue adding logs in the same manner: brown strips next, followed by cream strips.
6. Press after each seam to keep the block flat and neat.
7. Trim the finished block to 8.5" x 8.5" if needed.

Assembling the Quilt Top

1. Arrange your blocks on a design wall or large surface before sewing.
2. Alternate block orientations to create a modern woven effect.
3. Join blocks row by row, using a 1/4" seam allowance.
4. Press seams open or to one side, as preferred.
5. Join the rows together to complete the quilt top.

Quilting and Finishing

1. Make a quilt sandwich: backing (right side down), batting, and quilt top (right side up).
2. Baste the layers using safety pins or basting spray.
3. Quilt as desired straight lines following the logs are a great beginner-friendly option.
4. Trim the excess batting and backing.
5. Bind the quilt with 2.5" wide strips joined end-to-end, folded in half lengthwise.
6. Attach binding to the front with a 1/4" seam and fold it to the back. Stitch by hand or machine to finish.

Final Tips

- Consistent seam allowance is key to matching corners.
- Use a walking foot if available when quilting.
- Try chain-piecing to speed up your block assembly.
- Pre-wash and press all fabric before cutting.
- Lay out your blocks before final assembly to plan your color balance.

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