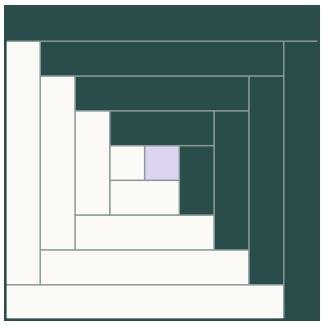
A QUILTPLAN BLOCK PATTERN

LOG CABIN

One square, and logs round and round it.



17 pieces, 3 fabrics

Log Cabin starts with one small square and grows outward, a narrow log at a time, round after round. Lights go on two sides and Darks on the other two, so every block is split corner to corner into a light half and a dark half, and how the blocks are turned in a quilt decides the whole design.

SKILL Beginner

SEAMS ¼″ throughout

SIZES 9″ and 18″ finished



Cutting

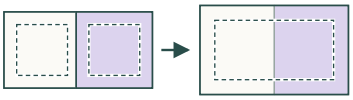
Cut, for one block	9″	18″
1 Center: cut 1 square	1½″ sq	2½″ sq
2 Lights: cut 1 square	1½″ sq	2½″ sq
3 Lights: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 2½″	2½″ × 4½″
4 Darks: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 2½″	2½″ × 4½″
5 Darks: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 3½″	2½″ × 6½″
6 Lights: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 3½″	2½″ × 6½″
7 Lights: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 4½″	2½″ × 8½″
8 Darks: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 4½″	2½″ × 8½″
9 Darks: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 5½″	2½″ × 10½″
10 Lights: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 5½″	2½″ × 10½″
11 Lights: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 6½″	2½″ × 12½″
12 Darks: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 6½″	2½″ × 12½″
13 Darks: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 7½″	2½″ × 14½″
14 Lights: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 7½″	2½″ × 14½″
15 Lights: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 8½″	2½″ × 16½″
16 Darks: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 8½″	2½″ × 16½″
17 Darks: cut 1 rectangle	1½″ × 9½″	2½″ × 18½″

Fabric, for one block

Buy at least	9″	18″
Center	¼ yd	¼ yd
Lights	¼ yd	¼ yd
Darks	¼ yd	¼ yd

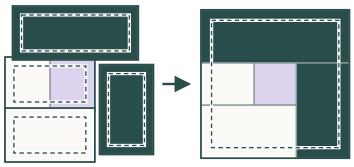
Worked out the way QuiltPlan's shopping list does it: 42″ of usable width, 15% for waste, rounded up to the quarter yard. For a whole quilt, place the block in the app and it totals every block for you.

Sewing it



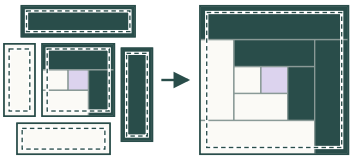
1 · Start in the middle

Sew the (2) square to the left side of the (1) square and press toward (2), away from the center. From here on, press after every log, always toward the log just added.



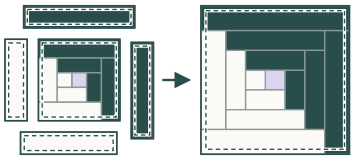
2 · Round 1

Sew (3) along the bottom, (4) down the right side and (5) across the top, pressing each away from the center. Lay each log against its edge first: it should match exactly. The unit measures 3½" for a 9" block, 6½" for 18" square.



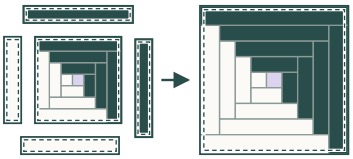
3 · Round 2

The same way round: (6) on the left, (7) along the bottom, (8) on the right and (9) across the top. Lights stay on the left and bottom, Darks on the right and top. It measures 5½" for a 9" block, 10½" for 18" square.



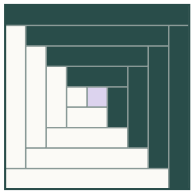
4 · Round 3

(10) on the left, (11) along the bottom, (12) on the right and (13) across the top. It measures 7½" for a 9" block, 14½" for 18" square. If it is off, straighten it now, taking only slivers and keeping the center square at the center.



5 · Round 4

(14) on the left, (15) along the bottom, (16) on the right and (17) across the top, the last log.



6 · Check it

The block measures 9½" for a 9" block, 18½" for 18" square, the Lights filling one half corner to corner and the Darks the other. Trim only slivers to square it, measuring from the center square.

Good to know

- Lift and lower the iron rather than sliding it: narrow logs stretch, and a stretched log makes a wavy block.
- Keep turning the block the same way as you add logs. Change direction and the block becomes a Courthouse Steps instead.
- Turn finished blocks so their dark halves meet and they make diamonds; line them up all the same way and they make diagonal stripes. Lay out several before sewing them together.
- **Why these sizes?** At 9" and 18" every piece of this block lands on a ruler line. At other sizes the app still works out the cutting for you.
- **Want a different size or a whole quilt?** Log Cabin is in QuiltPlan's block library. Place it on a quilt and the app gives you the cut list, the yardage and the shopping list for every block at once.

Center Lights Darks