

Ripe Tomato Lattice

Churn Dash blocks warm up a scrappy summer kitchen



Quilt name: Ripe Tomato Lattice

Subtitle: Churn Dash blocks warm up a scrappy summer kitchen

Pattern type: Throw-size lattice with oversized Churn Dash blocks and scrappy four-patch squares

Skill level: Confident beginner to intermediate (quarter-inch piecing, chain piecing, accurate pressing).

1. Finished size

- **Finished quilt size:** 60 in × 72 in (1.52 m × 1.83 m)
- **Block layout:** 4 × 4 oversized Churn Dash blocks, separated by lattice sashing and scrappy four-patch squares
- **Design components:**
 - Oversized Churn Dash blocks (finished 15 in × 15 in)
 - Scrappy four-patch squares (finished 7.5 in × 7.5 in)

- Lattice sashing strips (tomato-red and cream)
- Narrow pinwheel border echoing the lattice colors

2. Materials and yardage

Yardages are based on typical 45 in- and 42 in-wide quilting fabrics. For scrappy sections, assume you can substitute within the stated fat-quarter sizes. Exact yardage may vary with fabric width and cutting layout.

Recommended fabric palette (vintage seed-catalog)

- **Tomato red** (lattice and accent corners): ~1.0 yd
- **Cream** (lattice): ~1.0 yd
- **Vine green** (churn dash centers/cornerstones, binding): ~1.0 yd (binding included)
- **Honey gold** (scrappy and churn dash pieces): ~0.5 yd
- **Soft butter gingham** (scrappy four-patches and alternate): ~0.75 yd
- **Whisper of slate blue** (small scrappy accents): ~0.25 yd
- **Backing: butter-yellow gingham**: 3.25 yd
- **Batting** (70–80% cotton or cotton/poly blend): 72 in × 84 in
- **Binding** (included in vine green yardage above): 6/8 yd total from a single fabric is sufficient; listed again below.

Fat quarter option (alternative)

If you prefer fat quarters for scrappy sections: Choose 12–16 FQs covering honey gold, butter gingham, slate blue, and small tomato/cream accents in addition to the main lattice fabrics.

- **Tomato red (lattice)**: 1.5 yd equivalent
- **Cream (lattice)**: 1.5 yd equivalent
- **Vine green (centers/cornerstones + binding)**: 1.5 yd equivalent
- **Scraps/FQs**: enough to cut the churn dash and four-patch pieces listed below

Notions

- Thread to match (neutral or cream works well)
- Rotary cutter, 6 in and 12 in rulers, and a 1/4 in piecing foot (recommended)
- Pressing tools, pins or clips
- Quilting thread for topstitching (optional)
- Basting supplies (spray or safety pins)

3. Cutting

Cut with a consistent **1/4 in seam allowance**. Press seams toward the darker fabric unless otherwise noted.

Helpful trim sizes:

- **Finished lattice unit width:** 1.5 in (with 1/4 in seams on each side)
- **Oversized Churn Dash block:** 15 in finished built from a 6 × 6 grid feel (use the pieces below)
- **Four-patch square:** 7.5 in finished

A) Churn Dash block pieces (make 16 blocks)

Each Churn Dash block finishes at 15 in × 15 in. Pieces below include seam allowances.

Fabric/role	Piece	Count (per block)	Cut size	Count (total)
Center churn (vine green)	Squares	1	4.5 in	16
Dash blades (tomato red)	Strips	2	1.5 in × 9.0 in	32
Dash blades (cream)	Strips	2	1.5 in × 9.0 in	32
Corner squares (dill-green / vine green accents)	Squares	4	2.75 in	64
Side triangles (scrap pool)	Half-square triangles (HST)	8	2.75 in finished → cut 4.0 in squares (pair for HST)	128 HST (64 pairings)
Outer churn surround (honey gold / gingham)	Rectangles	4	3.5 in × 7.0 in	64

To make the HST: Cut 4.0 in × 4.0 in squares from two fabrics. Pair one red/cream or green/cream style square, sew 1/4 in from the diagonal on both sides, then cut apart and trim to 2.75 in × 2.75 in.

B) Scrappy four-patch squares (make 25)

Each finishes at 7.5 in × 7.5 in.

Fabric/role	Piece	Count	Cut size
Scrappy mix (butter gingham, honey gold, slate blue)	Squares (1/4 of patch)	4 per block × 25 = 100	4.0 in

Assemble four squares into a 2 × 2 patch. Press seam allowances open for best accuracy at junctions.

C) Lattice sashing (tomato-red and cream) + cornerstones

The lattice separates the oversized blocks and frames the four-patch squares.

Role	Fabric	Count	Cut size
Horizontal lattice strips	Tomato red	18	1.5 in × 64 in
Horizontal lattice strips	Cream	18	1.5 in × 64 in
Vertical lattice strips	Tomato red	18	1.5 in × 52 in
Vertical lattice strips	Cream	18	1.5 in × 52 in
Cornerstones (dill-green)	Vine green	64	1.75 in × 1.75 in

Tip: Cut lattice strips slightly long, then square/trim as needed when assembling rows. Accurate block sizing saves time.

D) Border: narrow pinwheel border echoing the sashing

Border component	Fabric	Count	Cut size
Border corner pinwheels (HST units)	Tomato red/Cream	16 units	HST to finish 3.0 in (cut 4.0 in squares)
Inner border strips	Cream	2 × 1	1.75 in × 66 in (for sides and top/bottom as needed)
Outer border strips	Vine green	2 × 1	2.25 in × 70 in
Pinwheel sashing strips (connecting)	Tomato red	4	1.25 in × 66 in

E) Backing

- Backing: piece to at least **72 in × 84 in**
- If piecing the backing, plan a center seam. Press seams open for easier quilting.

F) Binding

- Binding length needed: approximately **300 in**
- **From vine green:** cut 8 strips × 2.5 in wide × 42–45 in long (join to make a single long strip, then fold and press)
- **Binding finish:** 1/4 in to 1/2 in (final varies with quilting thickness)

4. Piecing / block construction

A) Make the oversized Churn Dash blocks (16)

1. **Lay out the block** on a design surface: center a 4.5 in vine green square. Surround with outer rectangles (3.5 in × 7.0 in) and corner squares (2.75 in).
2. **Prepare HSTs** to form the angled corners of the churn dash shape. Pair HSTs so each block has 8 pieces total, with fabric choices oriented consistently.
3. **Assemble top and bottom halves:**
 - At each side, place two angled HSTs to form one stepped diagonal edge.
 - Add outer rectangles and corner squares.
4. **Create the churn “dash” band:**
 - Use two 1.5 in × 9.0 in tomato strips and two 1.5 in × 9.0 in cream strips.
 - Sandwich/alternate to match the layout so seams land cleanly against the angled HSTs.
5. **Sew rows:** sew each row left-to-right, press seams toward the darker fabric.
 - Before joining halves, check that the block measures **15.5 in** including seam allowances (so it trims to 15 in).
 - If needed, trim to square: 15.5 in × 15.5 in.
6. **Press and label** finished blocks. Keep a consistent “top” orientation so lattice intersections align.

B) Assemble scrappy four-patch squares (25)

1. Pair two squares into a row; stitch with 1/4 in seams.
2. Make two rows, then stitch rows together to form each 7.5 in block.
3. Press seams open. Set aside.

C) Build lattice rows (row-by-row assembly)

The quilt top is assembled in a grid: Churn Dash blocks and four-patch squares alternate, with lattice sashing between them.

1. **Dry lay out** the quilt top on a large floor or design wall.
 - Center: 4 × 4 churn blocks with four-patch squares filling the spaces between.
 - Cornerstones sit at all lattice intersections where strips meet blocks and four-patches.
2. **Sew lattice strip pairs** by alternating tomato and cream strips across each row.
 - Place a cornerstone (1.75 in × 1.75 in) at each intersection point.
 - Pin or clip carefully so the cornerstone edges align with the strips' raw edges.

3. Attach lattice to blocks:

- For accuracy, stitch lattice strips to block sides first, then add the four-patch squares to complete the row.
- Press seams toward the lattice strips.

4. **Join rows** once each row is complete. Press seams consistently top-to-bottom.

Accuracy check: After joining each row, measure the total width. Target final interior (before borders) should come very close to **60 in × 72 in** minus border thickness. If you are off by more than 1/4 in, correct early.

5. Quilt top assembly

A) Add the pinwheel border

1. Inner border strips:

- Stitch cream inner strips to all four sides, mitering corners if you prefer mitered finishing, or butt-join with corner units.

2. Pinwheel units:

- Assemble the 16 pinwheel HST units (per cut list) into the corner areas and/or placed intervals depending on your layout.
- Sew pinwheels into the corners so the tomato and cream echoes appear as a rhythmic frame.

3. Connecting strips (tomato red):

- Stitch the tomato red connecting strips along the sides to complete the pinwheel band.

4. Outer border:

- Add the vine green outer border strips around the perimeter.
- Trim any overhang and square the quilt top to final size: **~60 in × 72 in**.

B) Final pre-quilting check

- Verify top measures evenly (difference between diagonals ideally within 1/2 in).
- Press the entire top lightly to release puckers.
- Mark the center and major quilting areas if using a pantograph or quilting template.

6. Basting, quilting and binding

A) Layering

1. On a clean surface, lay batting down smoothly.
2. Place backing right side down (wrong side up) and smooth wrinkles out.

3. Add the quilt top right side up.
4. Baste using safety pins or spray basting, ensuring the lattice and border edges are flat.

B) Quilting plan: wandering tomato-vine motif

- **Motif scale:** quilting lines spaced about 2.5–3.5 in apart across the field.
- **Line theme:** a gentle meander/vine that echoes the tomato lattice connections, with occasional small “leaf” turns.
- **Thread suggestions:**
 - Top thread green for vine paths, or neutral tone to let color blocks stand out.
 - Bottom thread to match backing.

C) Quilting steps

1. Quilt from the center outward to avoid shifting layers.
2. Use a walking foot if machine quilting; for long-arm, use your preferred spacing for consistent meanders.
3. Quilt borders with the same directionality (long border strips can distort—check after quilting each section).
4. Trim batting and backing to match the quilt top edges after quilting.

D) Binding

1. **Join binding strips** into one long strip using diagonal seams.
2. **Press** strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.
3. **Attach binding** to the front using your preferred method (whipstitch by hand or machine stitch from the front, then finish by hand on the back).
4. **Miter corners** neatly:
 - Stop stitching 1/4 in from the corner, fold binding up and away, then fold back down to create the miter, continue stitching.
5. Finish by securing the final segment on the back. Press binding flat.

7. Finishing notes

- **Pressing:** After quilting and binding, press lightly with steam (avoid flattening texture in the lattice intersections).
- **Wash considerations:** If using gingham/print fabrics, pre-wash if desired. Expect slight shrinkage; yardages are sized to accommodate typical quilting shrink.
- **Color balance:** For the scrappy four-patches, aim for a mix of (1) gingham, (2) honey gold, and (3) slate blue so no single color dominates.
- **Troubleshooting:**
 - If blocks don't meet lattice properly, re-square trimmed blocks to exact measurements before assembly.

- If corners buckle, check that four-patch squares are pressed correctly (open seams) and that seam allowances are not adding bulk at intersections.
- **Label:** Add a small label to the backing corner with the date and palette for future heirloom documentation.

End of pattern: Ripe Tomato Lattice (Kitchen Garden Heirloom Throw)