



## Diamond Pattern (Harlequin)

### Supplies Needed:

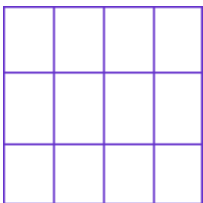
- Two different paint colors – Basecoat and coordinating color for diamond pattern
- 1" or 2" low-tack/safe-release tape
- 9" roller frame and cover
- Mini roller frame and cover
- Roller pan with liner
- Pencil, colored pencil or chalk to mark lines
- Tape measure, carpenters level, straight edge

**Step 1:** Figure out the size your diamond pattern is going to be. A rule of thumb is that the height of the diamond should be twice the width.

**Tip:** If you want a full diamonds across the wall as seen in this illustration, first measure the width of your wall. Divide by the number of diamonds you want horizontally. In this case it is 4. Use that measurement as the width of the diamond and multiply by 2 for the height. Depending on the size of your walls you may need to adjust the height of the diamond to create the pattern you see in this illustration. Once you have figured out how big your diamond will be you can move on to step 2.

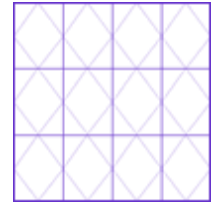
**Step 2:** When you have all your supplies ready, and the room cleared for painting, paint your base coat of paint on the wall with the lighter of the two colors you have decided to use. Let it dry at least 4 hours or overnight for best results.

**Step 3:** Once you have calculated the width and height of your diamonds it is time to draw your lines vertically down the wall where your diamonds will be. Measure the width of the diamond using your level. Draw a straight line the exact width of the diamond all the way down the wall/area vertically. Keep going across the wall/area until all vertical lines are drawn. Start with the wall/area you see as you enter the room. After you finish that wall/area, draw your lines on either side starting from the ends of the wall/area you just completed. Some adjustments may be necessary once you reach the ends of the other walls/area. You can adjust the width of the diamonds slightly, **but never adjust the height.** Draw horizontal lines the height of your diamond the entire length of the wall/area. You will now have a grid pattern on the wall/area you are painting.



**Step 4:** Find the middle of each rectangle and mark the top, bottom, right and left side.

Then connect the dots by drawing lines to form your diamond pattern. Keep in mind that all these lines will have to be erased at some point, so you may not want to make too dark a line with your pencil. Chalk, however will wipe off more easily. It is possible to connect the dots with tape without drawing lines. If you do not feel confident, **DRAW THE LINES** that will form your diamond. Don't attempt to tape all the way down your wall in one line as it is difficult to keep the tape straight enough on the wall/area without a partner. Rather, tear off a piece of tape just long enough to cover each side of your diamond.



**Step 5:** Using the mini roller, paint to fill in the diamond patterns. Let the paint dry. Remove tape and check for any areas that need touching up.

#### **ADDITIONAL TIP**

When taping the diamonds, put your tape just outside your line and erase the lines using a 'nosed' eraser because it leaves no residue. If you paint your diamonds with a dark paint color it will cover the pencil marks, so you won't have to erase. When in doubt, erase pencil marks or use a color pencil similar to your paint colors!



## Polka Dots (Swiss Dots)

### Supplies Needed:

- Two different paint colors – Basecoat and coordinating color for polka dot pattern
- Premade circle stencil or blank stencil sheets. Available at craft stores and online retailers.
- Compass, round object(s) for pattern
- Pen knife
- 1" or 2" low-tack/safe-release tape
- 9" roller frame and cover
- Stencil or small brush
- Roller pan with liner
- Tape measure, carpenters level, pencil

**Step 1:** When you have all your supplies ready, and the room cleared for painting, paint your base coat of paint on the wall using one of the two colors you have decided to use. Let it dry at least 4 hours or overnight for best results.

**Step 2:** Make stencils for the dots. Use a compass to trace circles on stencil sheets. If you don't have a compass, use a round object like a dinner plate. Cut the circles out of the sheet with a sharp pen knife using safe cutting practices to create your stencil. If you want a variety of dot sizes, use a variety of size patterns and cut out different-sized circles.

**Step 3:** Decide on your pattern and mark with light pencil mark or a small piece of tape where the center of each polka dot will be on the wall.

**Step 4:** Tape your stencil to the wall using low-tack/safe-release tape.

**Step 5:** Using your stencil brush or small paint brush start painting from the outer edge of the circle towards the center to avoid paint seeping under the stencil. Remove the stencil carefully. Do this for all circles. You may need a second coat depending on your desired results.



## Stripes (Horizontal and Vertical)

### Supplies Needed:

- Two different paint colors – Basecoat and coordinating color for stripe pattern
  - **NOTE: You may want to paint more than one color stripe OR tone-on-tone (the same color for two stripes utilizing different sheens) so plan accordingly when purchasing paint.**
- 1" or 2" low-tack/safe-release tape
- 9" roller frame and cover
- Mini roller frame and cover
- Roller pan with liner
- Pencil, colored pencil or chalk to mark lines
- Tape measure, carpenter's level, straight edge

**Step 1:** Choose vertical or horizontal stripes. Horizontal stripes make a room appear more spacious; vertical stripes make the ceiling appear higher. Striping is a very simple technique. And the final effect can add to the perceived size and dimension of a room. Just remember to measure and tape carefully.

**Step 2:** When you have all your supplies ready, and the room cleared for painting, paint your base coat of paint on the wall using the lighter of the two colors you have decided to use first. Let it dry at least 4 hours or overnight for best results.

**Step 3:** After the base coat is completely dry, begin measuring and marking the walls for the stripes. Measure the wall, starting in the corner that's least seen. Next, divide the wall. Stripes should be between 4" and 12" wide. (Tip: A width of less than 4" would be too narrow and busy; more than 12", too wide and heavy.) Place the first strip of tape or mark in that obscure corner where you began measuring.

**Step 4:** Using a tape measure, plot/mark the wall with lines corresponding to the width of the stripes you wish to paint, this will keep you from having to measure each stripe as you tape the wall.

If your stripes are going to be the same width measure the wall and divide by that number or measure the wall and divide by an odd number to reach a desired stripe width.

**Tip:** An odd number of stripes will insure the stripes at the corners are the same color. This makes the design more cohesive. If you plan to paint all the walls with stripes you will need to adjust accordingly.

**Step 5:** Next, use a level or straight edge to create the outline for your stripes. Use low-tack /safe-release tape.

**Tip:** Remember that because you will be painting only every other stripe, you'll need to tape out the pattern so that every other stripe is outlined by the tape. Make sure to tape outside the chalk line; fresh paint will cover up the lines.

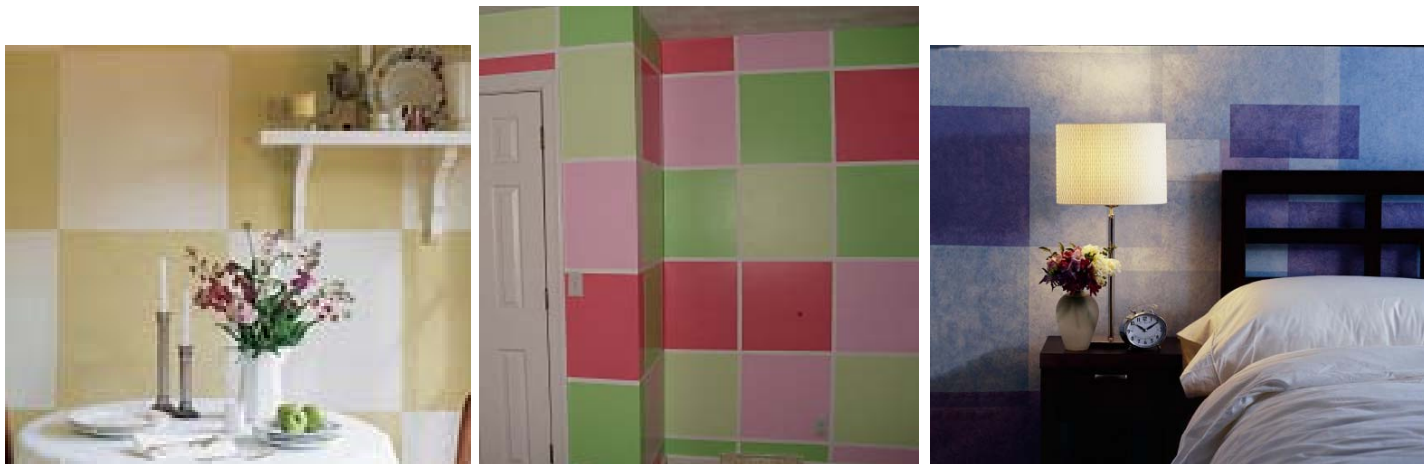
**Tip:** If making the lines with a chalk line, use blue chalk because red or yellow is a permanent color.

**Tip:** If the measurements don't work out perfectly, any small differences likely won't be seen because you started in an obscure corner. If you want to be more exact, adjust the width of the stripes on the last wall. A 1/4" to 1/2" difference won't be visible to the eye.

**Step 8:** Paint over the tape line with the second paint color, making sure to cover the entire area of each stripe.

**Step 9:** Allow to dry and remove the tape OR Remove the tape once you've painted the wall, angling away from the freshly painted area as you pull.





## Squares (Checkerboard)

### Supplies Needed:

- Two different paint colors – Basecoat and coordinating color for square pattern
- 1" or 2" low-tack/safe-release tape
- 9" roller frame and cover
- Mini roller frame and cover
- Roller pan with liner
- Pencil, colored pencil or chalk to mark lines
- Tape measure, carpenter's level, straight edge
- Utility knife

**Step 1:** When you have all your supplies ready, and the room cleared for painting, paint your base coat of paint on the wall using the lighter of the two colors you have decided to use. Let it dry at least 4 hours or overnight for best results.

**Step 2:** Measure your wall for length and height. Then divide the length and height by the measurement of the desired square size. Mark the squares using a carpenter's level, a pencil (or chalk) and low-tack painter's tape. Make adjustments to the size of your squares as needed to fit the size of your wall. Lay out your grid on the wall. Begin by measuring the desired size of the square down from the top of the wall and use small and light pencil marks going across the wall. (Marks may show through).

**Tip:** Make the squares all one size with a set pattern (checkerboard) or do a variety of different sizes in a random pattern.

**Step 3:** Place a horizontal strip of tape across the wall with the top edge of the tape at your first measurement. Press the tape edges down firmly to prevent the second color from bleeding into the adjacent square. From the bottom edge of the tape strip just applied, measure the desired size of the square down and apply your next strip of tape.

Continue to apply horizontal strips of tape all the way down the wall. Check your lines with a carpenter's level occasionally, to make sure they are true.

**Step 4:** Starting at the left edge of the wall, measure the desired size of the square across and make a vertical cut in the tape with a utility knife. From that point, measure across the tape, ***just the width of your tape*** and make another cut. Remove the cut section of tape you created. ***This cut section will be the width of the tape only.***

This is where you will lay your vertical strips of painter's tape to make your squares. Measure across the desired square size from the cut section, cut and remove another tape-wide section. Repeat the process across the rest of the wall space.

**Step 5:** To complete the block pattern, apply vertical strips of tape crossing through the cut spaces you just made. Continue until the wall has your checkerboard pattern. Be sure to press the tape edges down firmly to prevent the second color from bleeding into the adjacent box.

**Step 6:** Paint and fill in the squares with the topcoat (second color) using a mini roller. Fill in every other box down and across, using the same technique.

**Step 7:** Allow to dry and remove the tape OR Remove the tape once you've painted the wall, angling away from the freshly painted area as you pull.



## Wall Graphics

Wall graphics add a customized look to your children's room and are easy to accomplish with the right tools.

### Supplies Needed:

- Art Projector
- Art: You can use an image from your child's bedding, a favorite book or clip art
- Small to medium size paint brushes
- Pencil
- Paint in your selected colors
  - **NOTE:** Since you are painting only small areas, a quart of paint will usually be sufficient.
- Paint Tray
- Roller cover and frame
- Paint brush for cut in around trim

**Step 1:** When you have all your supplies ready, paint the walls your desired base color. Let dry for four hours or overnight for best results.

**Step 2:** Project the image you have selected on to your wall, position and size to your satisfaction.

**Step 3:** Using a pencil, trace the design on to the wall using a light touch. If you feel confident, you can keep the image projected on the wall and begin painting following the outlines of the projected image.

**Step 4:** Begin painting your design with the colors you selected.

**Tip:** Let each color dry to the touch so you don't accidentally smudge one of your colors.

**Step 5:** Sit back and enjoy with your child.