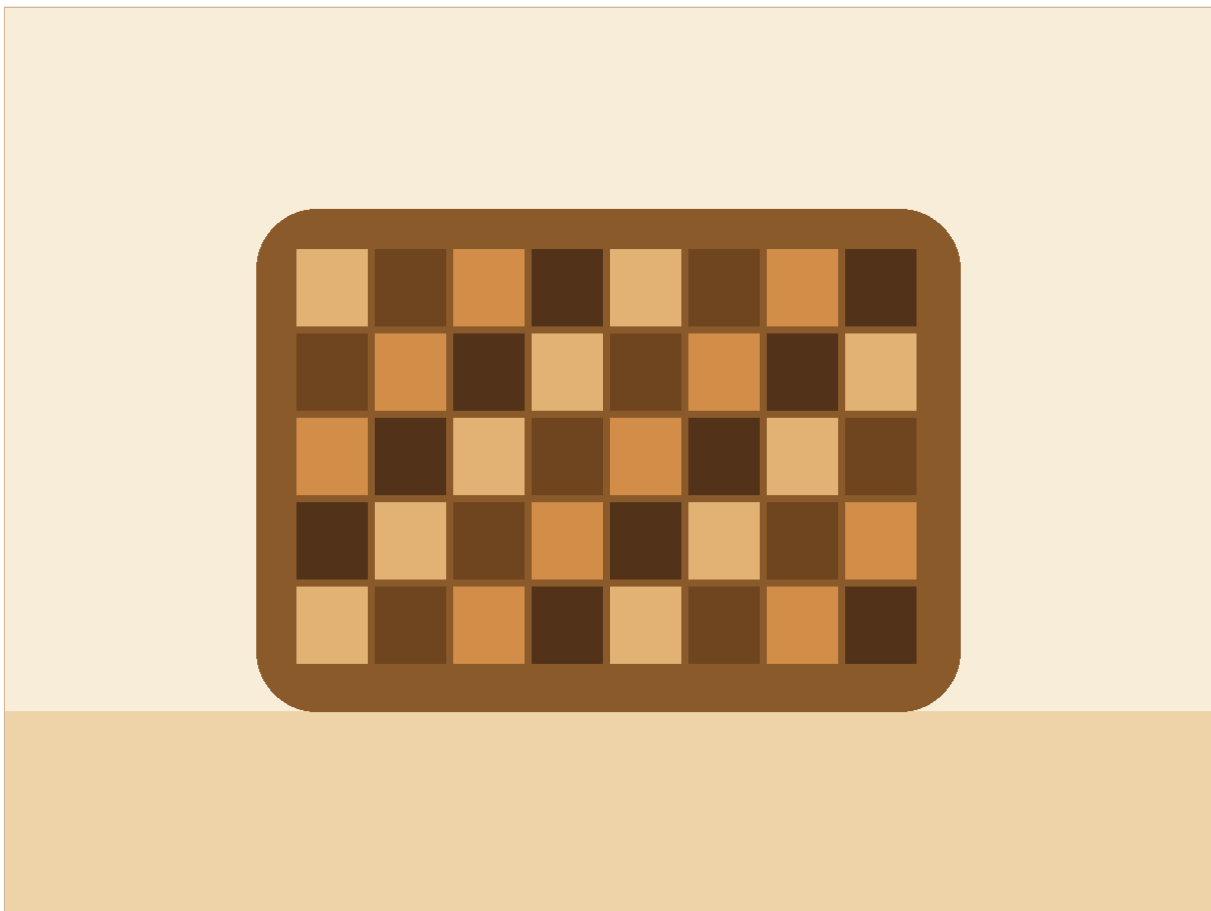


# End-Grain Cutting Board

*by Logan*



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## Overview

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### This is an Example plan, has not been validated

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The checkerboard end-grain board: the classic woodworking gift, and the project that teaches you glue-ups. End grain is kinder to knife edges and self-heals shallow cuts, which is why butcher blocks are built this way.

The trick that makes it easy: you do **two** glue-ups. The first makes a striped slab; the second crosscuts that slab and rotates the pieces to expose end grain. No piece-by-piece checkerboard assembly.

#### Materials

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##### Finishing

- 1 × Food-safe mineral oil — 8 oz
- 1 × Board butter (oil + beeswax)

##### Hardware & consumables

- 1 × Waterproof wood glue (Titebond III) — 8 oz
- 4 × Rubber feet with screws

##### Lumber & sheet goods

- 4 × Hard maple — 2" × 2" × 24"
- 4 × Walnut — 2" × 2" × 24"

#### Tools

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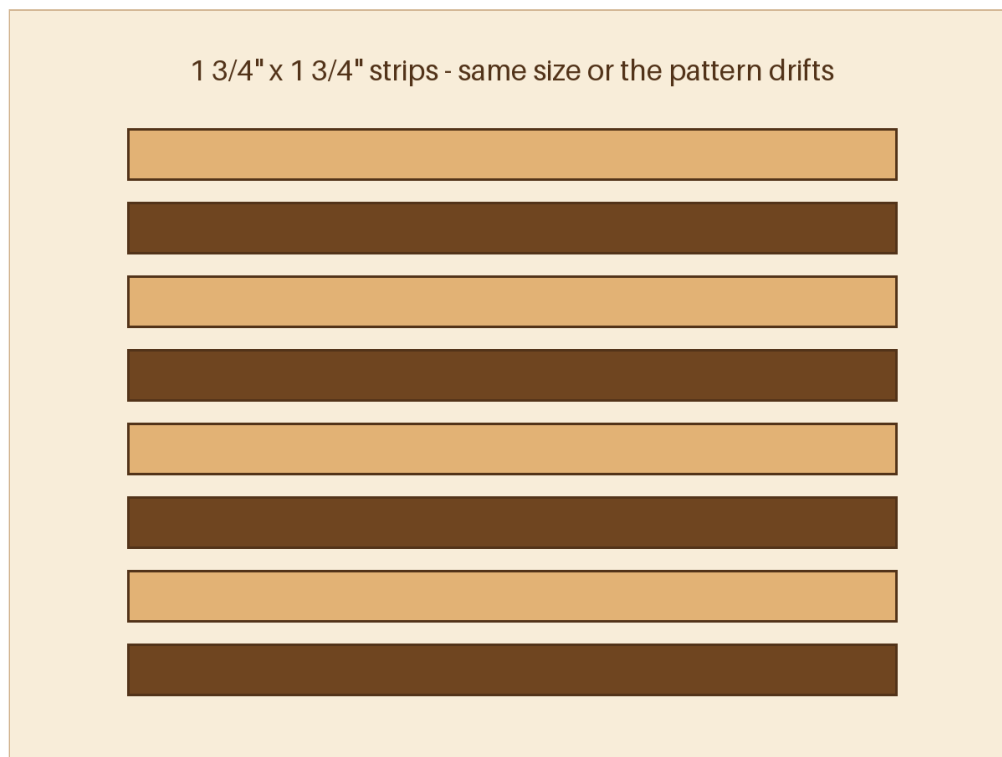
- Table saw — Ripping strips and crosscutting the slab
- Thickness planer — Flattening after the first glue-up **ONLY** — never plane end grain (*or: Hand plane, Random orbit sander*)
- Clamps — At least four 24" clamps
- Random orbit sander — 80 through 220 grit

## Build steps

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### Step 1 — *Mill the strips*

Rip your maple and walnut into clean, square  $1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}''$  strips, 24" long. Alternate-species strips must be the **same** dimensions or the checkerboard will drift — check with calipers if you have them.



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## Step 2 — *First glue-up: the striped slab*

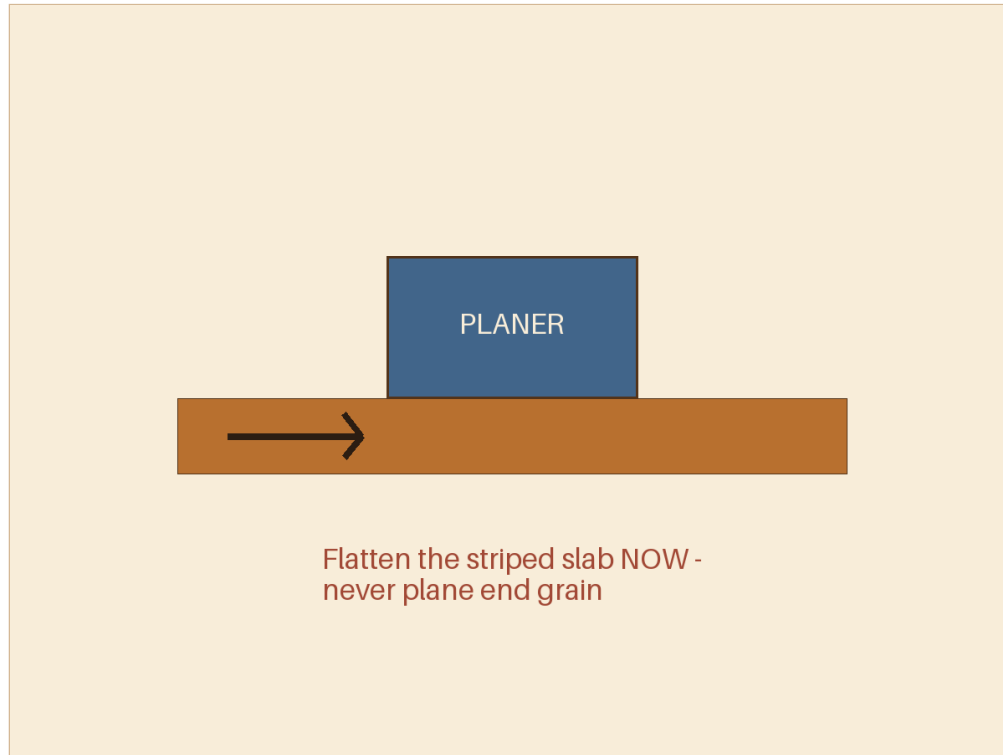
Glue the strips face-to-face, alternating maple and walnut, into one striped slab. Even clamp pressure, glue on every face. Let it cure overnight — this joint gets crosscut tomorrow and needs full strength.



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### Step 3 — Flatten the slab

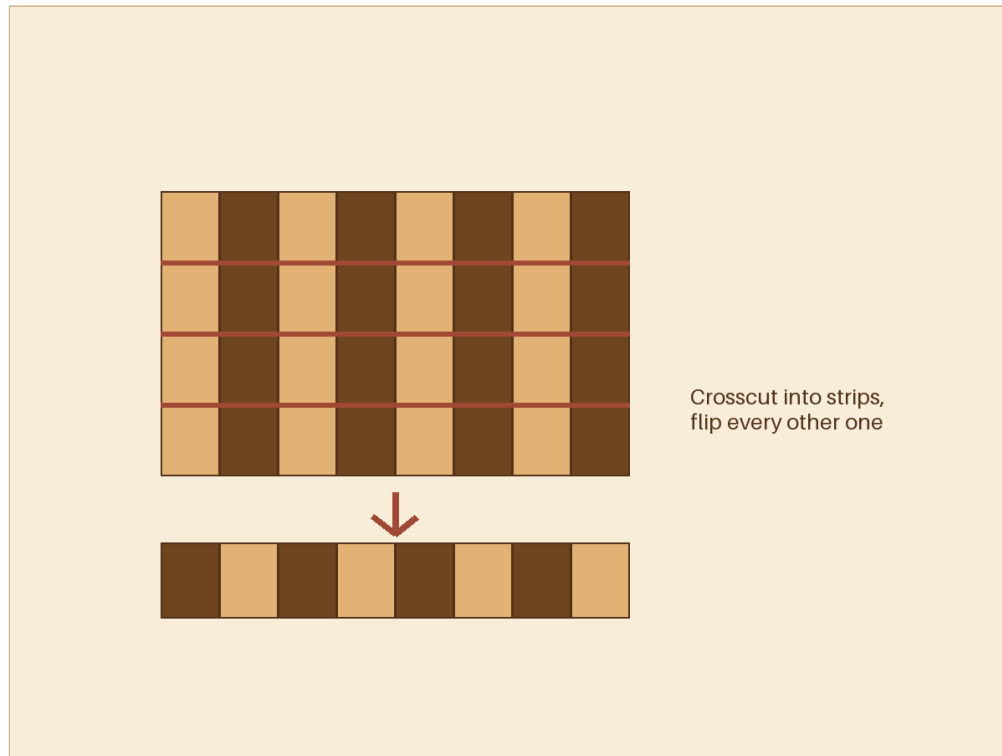
Scrape off the dried squeeze-out and run the slab through the planer (or hand-plane it) until both faces are flat and parallel. This is your last chance to use the planer — the next glue-up produces end grain, which planers tear out **violently**. Do not skip flattening now.



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#### Step 4 — *Crosscut and rotate*

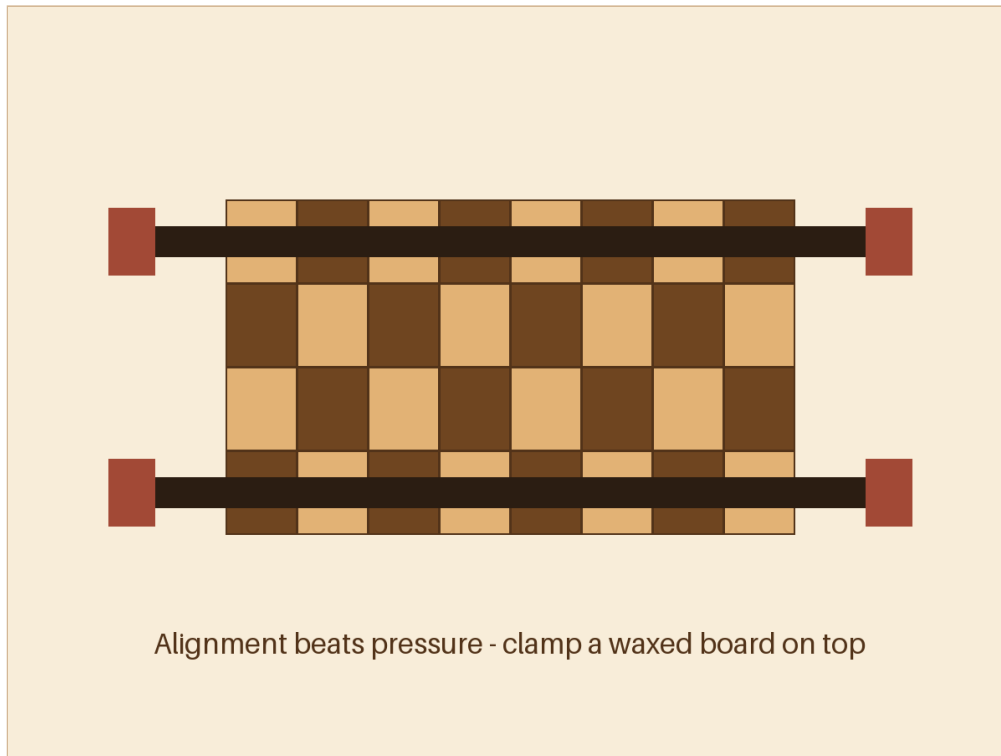
Crosscut the slab into 1 3/4"-wide pieces. Rotate each piece 90° so the end grain faces up, and flip every other one so the species alternate — the checkerboard appears. Dry-fit and admire before any glue.



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### Step 5 — *Second glue-up*

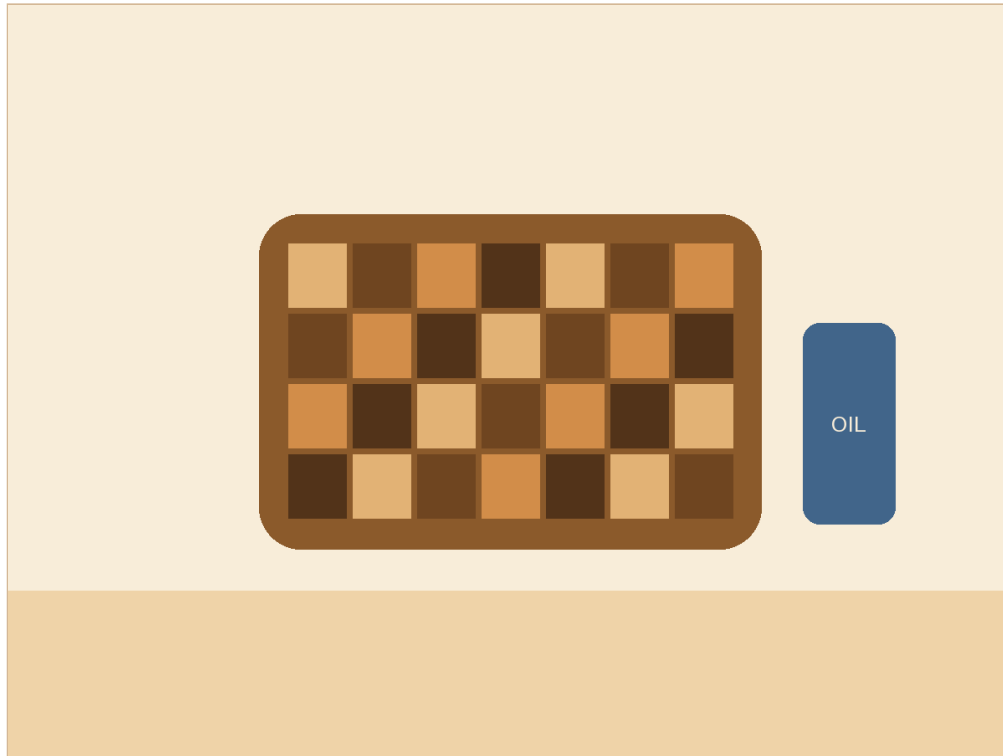
Glue the rotated pieces back together. Alignment matters more than pressure here — clamp a flat board (waxed, so it doesn't stick) across the top to keep everything level while the clamps pull sideways.



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## Step 6 — Sand, round, and finish

Sand from 80 to 220 grit. Round the corners against a can, ease every edge, and cut finger grooves if you like. Flood the board with mineral oil until it stops drinking, then finish with board butter. Screw on the rubber feet.



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