

Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape

Diamond Pattern

Choose the right tape for this technique and the surfaces you are going to mask!

Details on page 2

One of the secrets to a successful painting project is properly preparing the surface. That means repairing any imperfections on the wall like cracks or old nail holes and sanding the wall smooth with 3M™ abrasives. Then, clean the wall and any surfaces you plan to mask. It is easier to achieve sharp, professional paint lines when you tape on a clean, dry surface.



Not sure what Scotch-Blue painter's tape to choose? Use the chart on the next page to help you identify which tape to use on which surface. This is particularly important when trying different painting techniques. You will want a tape that can be applied to paint that is only 24-hours old.



Step-by-Step Guide for this Painting Technique

Create a classic checkerboard pattern on either a wall or a floor. By using various paint colors, the look can range from dramatic black and white to a country chic look using a rich gold and red color scheme.

Step 1: Planning: Start by drawing a diagram of the wall to scale so that you can plan your pattern. Plan the size of your diamonds (which are really squares set at an angle) so that you have diamonds going in each direction.

Step 2: Mask all baseboards and exposed wall using the Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape Applicator. Or you can use a standard roll of one of the Scotch-Blue painter's tapes. Be sure to reference the chart on the next page to choose the correct tape.



Step 3: Paint the walls the lightest color. Let dry for at least 24 hours.

Step 4: Measure the center of each wall to determine and mark the center of the room.

Step 5: Using a template that is the exact size and shape of the diamond (such as a tile, a stretched canvas or cut wood), lightly trace the outline of the template with a pencil.



Step 6: Working from the center, continue the pattern and finish two complete rows. Use a T-square to periodically check the angle.

Step 7: Use a long straight edge to extend the lines from the initial rows, and finish tracing the pattern over the entire wall.

Step 8: Use Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape for Delicate Surfaces (orange and blue core) to tape on the outside edge of every other diamond.



Step 9: Press down all of the tape edges. Paint every other diamond with the darker color starting at the tape and working your way to the center.



Hint: If the wall is not smooth, be sure to seal the edge of the tape with the base color to give you sharp paint lines.

Step 10: Let paint dry for at least 48 hours and remove tape.

Tools You'll Need:

- Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape for Multi-Surfaces AND/OR
- Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape for Delicate Surfaces (see chart on the next page)
- Roller
- Paint
- Tape measure
- Roller tray
- Paint brushes
- Bubble or laser level

The right tape depends on the surface you're masking.



AREA YOU NEED TO MASK	 Multi-Surfaces	 Delicate Surfaces
Walls/Ceilings		
Ceiling Tile		●
Cured Paint* (30 days old)	●	
Fresh Paint (At least 24 hours old)		●
Heavy Knock-down, Textured**	●	
Walls with Multiple Coats of Paint	●	
Painted Wallboard, Orange Peel Texture**	●	
Painted Wallboard, Smooth		●
Primed Wallboard, Orange Peel Texture	●	
Primed Wallboard, Smooth		●
Venetian Plaster	●	
Wallpaper, Vinyl Coated		●
Trim/Woodwork/Cabinets***		
Cured Paint* (30 days old)	●	
Fresh Paint (At least 24 hours old)		●
Finished with Polyurethane		●
Finished with Stain Only		●
Metal Fixtures	●	
Unfinished Wood	●	
Veneer		●
Flooring		
Carpet	●	
Ceramic/Tile	●	
Cork**		●
Finished, Hardwood (properly bonded)		●
Hardwood, Veneers		●
Laminate Floors		●
Stone/Marble/Slate	●	●
Unfinished, Hardwood	●	
Vinyl	●	●
Miscellaneous		
Caulk	●	●
Glass	●	●
Porcelain	●	●

HELPFUL HINTS

Clean the Surface: Be sure the surfaces you are planning to mask are clean, dry and dust-free so tape will stick properly.



Avoid Stretching the Tape: Pull tape off the roll a few feet at a time and lay it into any surface depressions. Press tape down as you go.



Secure the Tape: For the best paint lines, press tape edges down firmly with a putty knife, 5-in-1 tool, or any straight-edge tool.



Tricks to Achieving Sharp Paint Lines: On *smooth surfaces*, use Scotch-Blue painter's tape for delicate surfaces. On *semi-smooth to semi-rough surfaces*, use Scotch-Blue painter's tape for multi-surfaces. On *rougher surfaces* be sure to seal the edges of the tape with the paint base color. This will help the tape adhere to the rougher wall and give you clean, sharp, professional paint lines.



Speed of Removal: A moderate speed is best for removing tape. An excessive rate of removal may cause tearing or surface damage.

Angle of Removal: Remove tape at a 45-degree angle, pulling the tape back on itself. If adhesive begins to transfer, remove at a 90-degree angle. If tape begins to sliver or break due to the paint build-up, score the tape edge by sliding a putty knife or other flat, sharp object between the wall and the tape to help remove it in one piece. You may want to use a 90-degree angle and a slower speed of removal.



Masking in Sunny Locations: Always use one of the Scotch-Blue painter's tapes if tape will be exposed to direct sunlight. Unlike most general purpose masking tapes, Scotch-Blue painter's tape is sunlight-resistant, and won't bake on the surface.

- Recommended
 - Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape for Delicate Surfaces (orange and blue core) is NOT recommended on lacquer, paper or foil wallcoverings, unprimed wallboard or rough surfaces.
 - Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape for Multi-Surfaces (white and blue core) is NOT recommended on lacquer, wallpaper, unpainted wallboard or wood floors.
 - The Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape Applicator uses Scotch-Blue™ Painter's Tape for Multi-Surfaces only.
- * Check paint can for manufacturer's suggested time (usually cured 30 days).
 ** Test before use. It is best to test all tapes on all surfaces in an inconspicuous location before masking an entire room.
 *** If cabinets have a vinyl laminate, test before use.

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