

TartanMaster

# Your tartan: the user guide

How to make it, use your files, print it, have it woven into real cloth, and register it if you'd like to.

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**A quick word first.** TartanMaster makes brand-new, personal tartans from the names you type. They aren't clan, family or district tartans, and they don't show membership of any clan. If you're looking for a clan tartan, search the Scottish Register of Tartans at tartanregister.gov.uk.

SECTION 1

# Making your tartan

Making and sharing tartans is free, and you don't need an account to try it.

1. **Type a name.** A first name, a surname, or two names joined by "and", such as "Sarah and James". Joining words like "and", "&", "plus" and "with" are left out of the weave, so only the names count.
2. **Watch it weave.** Your letters become blocks of colour with fine guard lines, mirrored and woven in a 2/2 twill like a traditional sett.
3. **Choose a colourway.** Pick Heritage, Heather, Night or Mono, and tick "Red ground" for a red background.
4. **Not quite right? Press "Weave another".** You'll get a new design for the same name, with a new tartan number.
5. **Keep it.** Press "Save to My tartans" (you'll be asked to sign up the first time), or "Share" to send its link. Sharing also saves the design to My tartans.

## Your tartan number

Every design gets its own number, such as `TM-100034`. Two people who type the same name get different tartans, because their numbers are different. Numbers are never reused.

While a design is unbought, its number simply identifies it. **When you buy it, that exact design becomes yours alone**: we never sell or license it to anyone else.

> **Tip:** If you like a design but aren't ready to buy, save it to My tartans or keep its share link, so you can come back to it. The link always opens that exact design. A design you haven't saved or shared can't be brought back later, because each one is tied to its number.

SECTION 2

# Buying, and the files you get

When you buy a design, you get these files straight away, plus a licence certificate.

| File | Size | Best for |
|---|---|---|
| **Full-size seamless tile** | 4096 × 4096 px PNG | Printing on fabric, paper and products. One file is one complete repeat of your tartan. |
| **Phone wallpaper** | 1290 × 2796 px PNG | Lock and home screens. |
| **Desktop wallpaper** | 3840 × 2160 px PNG | Computers and TVs, up to 4K. |
| **Licence certificate** | Web page you can print or save as a PDF | Proof of your licence, plus the thread count and colour key a weaver needs. |

## Where to find them

- Sign in and open **My tartans**. Your purchases are under "My purchases", with download links for every file and the certificate.
- We also email the links from orders@tartanmaster.com. If you can't see the email, check your spam folder.
- You can download your files again at any time while the site operates.

## Prices

One file is £5.99. A bundle of 3 files is £14.99, and a bundle of 10 is £39. A bundle is pre-paid files: you choose the designs later, one at a time. Each bundle file unlocks one new design that hasn't been bought yet, so it can't be used on a tartan you already own, and files don't expire. To use one, make a tartan and press **"Download 4096 px file · £5.99"**. On the next page, choose **"Use a bundle file"** and press **"Get my tartan"**. You won't be charged again. All prices include VAT. Payment is taken securely by Stripe.

## What your licence lets you do

| You may | Free 1024 px preview | Paid full-size file |
|---|---|---|
| Use it as a wallpaper or background | Yes | Yes |
| Print it for yourself, your home, gifts and family events, including weddings | Yes | Yes |
| Share it on social media with a credit to TartanMaster.com | Yes | Yes |
| Use it on products you sell, in any quantity | No | Yes |
| Use it in a brand, packaging, signage or marketing | No | Yes |
| Use it for a club, band, school or organisation, or for a client | No | Yes |

**Printers and weavers:** with a full-size file, you may send it to a printer, weaver, manufacturer or other supplier only so they can make items for you. They may not keep, reuse or pass on the file. Apart from that, under any licence you may not sell, share or give away the file itself, upload it to stock or print-on-demand marketplaces where others can buy the design, or register it as a trade mark. The full Licence Terms are at tartanmaster.com/licence.

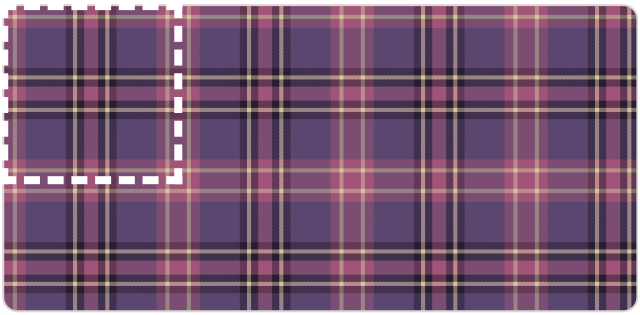
SECTION 3

# Using your file: screens, print and fabric

## What "seamless" means

Your 4096 px file is one complete repeat of your tartan. Place copies side by side and edge to edge, and the pattern carries on with no visible joins, just like woven cloth.

When you send it to a printer, ask for a **straight repeat** (also called a block or basic repeat). Don't use a half-drop or a mirrored repeat: the tartan already mirrors itself.



The dashed square is one file. Repeated, it becomes continuous cloth.

## How big will the pattern be?

Printers usually ask what size one repeat should be. It depends on the print resolution:

| Print resolution | One repeat measures about | Good for |
|---|---|---|
| 300 dpi | 34.7 cm (13.7 in) | Paper: invitations, cards, wrapping paper |
| 200 dpi | 52 cm (20.5 in) | Most fabric printing |
| 150 dpi | 69 cm (27.3 in) | Large items: throws, banners, wallpaper |

**Want a smaller pattern?** Ask for a smaller repeat, for example 10 to 15 cm for ties, ribbon and pocket squares. The file stays sharp, but the finest guard lines can become hard to see on small items, so check a proof first.

**Want a bigger pattern?** Ask your printer how they'd recommend enlarging the tile for their equipment and material, and look at a proof before a full run.

## Ideas that work well

- **Wedding stationery:** use the tartan as a band, border or envelope liner, and keep the words on a plain panel so they're easy to read.
- **Fabric:** digital fabric printers can print your file on cotton, linen, silk-like fabrics and more, often in small amounts. It's the quickest, cheapest way to get tartan cloth.
- **Gifts:** wrapping paper, gift tags, mugs, cushions and phone cases.
- **Screens:** use the phone and desktop wallpapers, or the full file as a website or video-call background.

**Colours:** screens and printers show colours a little differently. For something important, such as wedding fabric, order a small sample or swatch first.

SECTION 4

# Having it woven into real cloth

Printing gives you tartan fabric quickly. Weaving makes true tartan cloth from your thread count, the way kilts and traditional tartans are made.

## What a weaver needs from you

Open your **licence certificate** in My tartans. It shows:

- **The thread count (half sett)**, for example `R26 Y7 R26 K7 R26 B12 K40 B13 K15 W7 K15 R63`. Each code is a colour and the number of threads. The weaver works from the first stripe to the last, then mirrors back, which makes the full sett.
- **The colour key**, which shows what each letter means for your colourway, with the exact colour code (for example **R** #b00000).
- **A picture of the design** and its tartan number.

Send the weaver the certificate (print it or save it as a PDF) along with your full-size file. Your licence allows this, as long as they use the file only to make cloth for you and don't keep, reuse or pass it on. They'll match the colours to their yarns, and may adjust the thread count to suit the size of sett you want.

## How it usually works

1. **Find a weaver.** The Scottish Register of Tartans lists tartan designers and weavers on its website.
2. **Get a quote.** Mills weave in runs, so there's usually a minimum length: often around one bolt, about 11 metres. Prices and minimums vary a lot, so ask a few mills.
3. **Approve a sample.** Ask for a swatch or a short sample first, so you can check the colours in real light.
4. **Allow time.** Weaving to order can take a few months, so start early for a wedding or an event.

**Your licence covers it.** Having your bought design woven, for yourself or to make products you sell, is included with the full-size file.

SECTION 5

# Registering your tartan (optional)

You don't need to register your tartan to use it. But if you'd like it recorded officially, you can apply to the Scottish Register of Tartans. TartanMaster isn't connected with the Register and can't apply for you.

## What the Register looks for

- The design must meet the definition of a tartan in the Scottish Register of Tartans Act 2008.
- It must be a new design, unique to the Register.
- There must be a clear link between you and the name you choose for it.

## Choosing a name the Register will accept

- A personal tartan is registered with your forename or initial, in the form "Surname, Forename (Personal)". You can add "& Family", a year, a place, or "- Wedding".
- A surname on its own, or a surname with a year, can't be registered as a personal tartan. A surname that has a clan chief counts as a clan or family tartan, and needs the chief's written approval.
- The name can't include the word "Tartan", and it mustn't suggest a clan or family has backed it.

## What you'll need

- A free account on the Register's website, tartanregister.gov.uk.
- The thread count and colour key from your licence certificate.
- A colour image of the tartan: your full-size file works, or post a photo or woven sample.
- Your proposed name, and evidence that you have the authority to use it.
- The application fee: **£150**, non-refundable and exempt from VAT, paid by card after you submit.

Allow **about four weeks** for a decision. The Register can refuse a design that's too similar to one already registered.

**Before you apply:**

- Only register a design **you've bought**: your licence is personal to you.
- Don't describe it as a clan or family tartan unless you're entitled to. The Register sends applications for clan or family tartans to the Court of the Lord Lyon for advice.
- Registering doesn't give you copyright or other legal rights over the design.
- Fees and rules can change. These details were checked on 27 November 2026, so please confirm them on tartanregister.gov.uk before you apply.

SECTION 6

# Help and questions

## I can't find my files

Sign in with the email address you used to buy, and open **My tartans**. If you've forgotten your password, use "Forgot password" on the sign-in page. Still stuck? Email support@tartanmaster.com with your tartan number, and we'll send your download links to the email address on your order.

## The file isn't right

Email support@tartanmaster.com within 30 days and we'll fix it or refund you. Refunds go back to your original payment method and usually arrive within 5 to 10 working days. A refunded file's licence ends when the refund is made.

## Can the whole family or wedding party use the same tartan?

Yes. Share its link so everyone sees the same design. For printing, the person who bought it can have items made for family events under the licence.

## Can I send my file to a printer or weaver?

Yes, if you've bought the full-size file. You can send it to a printer, weaver, manufacturer or other supplier so they can make items for you. They may only use it for your order, and mustn't keep, reuse or pass it on.

## Can someone else buy my tartan?

No. Once you've bought a design, we never sell or license it to anyone else. Your certificate shows its tartan number, your account and the date.

## Can I sell things made with my tartan?

Yes. Every full-size file includes commercial use. You can sell products printed or woven with it. You just can't sell or share the file itself.

**Contact us**

Support: support@tartanmaster.com

Everything else: hello@tartanmaster.com

Website: tartanmaster.com

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