

Maryland State Tartan

What is tartan?

What most people in America call "plaid" or a "plaid pattern" is more properly called a tartan.

According to the [Scottish Register of Tartans](#) 'A tartan is a design which is capable of being woven consisting of two or more alternating coloured stripes which combine vertically and horizontally to form a repeated chequered pattern.'

The basis of any tartan is a simple two-colour check to which the designer adds over-checks, bands and stripes in contrasting colours. Where two stripes of the same colour cross, a block of solid colour is formed. Where different colours cross, the two colours are mixed in equal proportions to create a new colour.

A tartan pattern is a geometric design, made up of blocks of solid colour which join on the diagonal, radiating across the fabric like spokes, and with each block of solid colour surrounded by blocks of mixed colours.

Nowadays tartan is worn all over the world (not just by Scots), and is regularly seen on catwalks and in designer collections.

What is the sett of a tartan?

The design of a tartan (called the sett) is specified by its threadcount.

The threadcount over half a sett with a full count at the pivot points for *Maryland State* is

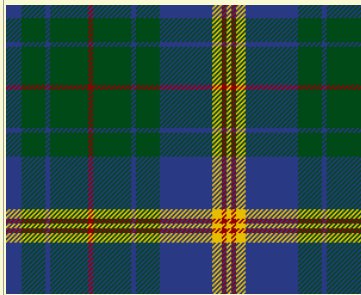
Y/16 K16 Y16 K16 R40 W8 R8 W/40
(where Y=Yellow; K=Black; R=Red; W=White).



Here are Some State Tartans



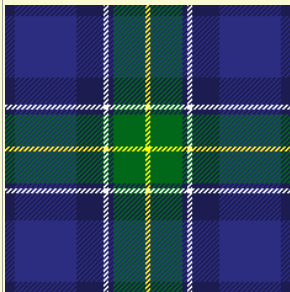
California



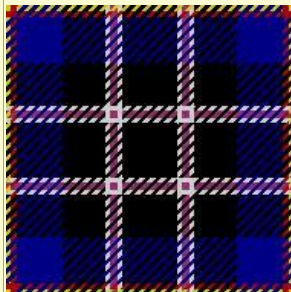
New Mexico



Carolina



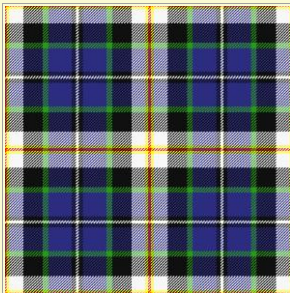
Rhode Island



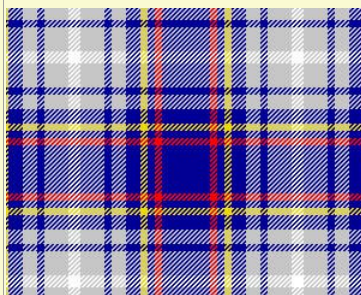
Colorado



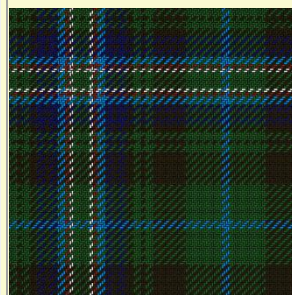
Connecticut



Iowa State Dress
Tartan



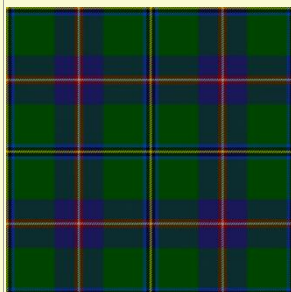
Nevada



Missouri



Tennessee



Washington State



proposed Maryland
State

How come the colors don't quite match those on the [State Flag](#)?

Actually, the colors on the state flag vary. Although the Secretary of State suggests specific [Pantone Marking System](#) colors on coated and uncoated stock for the [state flag](#), flag makers vary the shade of color that they use.

In the tartan world, the same tartan is made in a variety of [color schemes](#) such as "modern", "antique", and "muted", or "weathered." Each looks different and different tartans look better in different schemes. It would be up to the buyer and weaver to pick the color scheme that they like best.



Can't you just make any tartan pattern that you like?

Sure, unless it is protected by US or International copyright, then you would need a license from the copyright holder. When people register their sett with the Scottish Register of Tartans, they often include desired restriction on weaving the tartan, *e.g.*, "only woven or worn by family members", or "must be woven at a Scottish mill." But these restrictions rely on the good will of others.

Aren't all the tartans already taken?

No. Actually, dozens of [new tartans](#) are registered each year.

What is the Scottish Register of Tartans?

The [Scottish Register of Tartans](#) was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament in November 2008. Members of the Scottish Parliament voted to establish a single, independent Scottish register of tartans which promotes and preserves information about historic and contemporary tartans from Scotland and throughout the world.

The Register was launched on 5 February 2009 and the first tartan to be registered on that day was the Scottish Register of Tartans' Tartan (STR #10000). Once the governor signs the bill making the Maryland State Tartan an official symbol of our state, we'll register the design.

Prior to the establishment of the Register, tartans were recorded by the Scottish Tartans Society, the Scottish Tartans World Register and the [Scottish Tartans Authority](#).

What is the Scottish Tartans Authority?

The [Scottish Tartans Authority](#) is a private enterprise that recorded tartans as a courtesy. Their entries have been grandfathered in to the Scottish Register of Tartans.