

# Nickel and Dime Checkerboards

by Sarah J. Curtiss

Use 12 nickels for one checker team; 12 dimes for the other.

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# General Rules for Crown Me, a Twenty-First Century Twist on Checkers, using Nickel and Dime Game Boards

Crown Me Checkers is played by two people, on opposite sides of a playing board, alternating turns. Each team is arranged with four pieces (coins) on each of the first three rows of each player's side of the board, a total of twelve pieces per team. Use 12 nickels for one checker team; 12 dimes for the other.

All pieces must be positioned on the same set of diagonals. The playable surface consists only of one set of diagonal squares. Toss a coin to decide who makes the first move. Pieces move diagonally and pieces of the opponent are captured by jumping over them. Capturing is mandatory. A piece that is captured is removed from the board. The player who has no pieces left or cannot move anymore has lost the game.

Uncrowned pieces move one step diagonally forwards and capture other pieces by making two steps in the same direction, jumping over the opponent's piece on the intermediate square. Multiple opposing pieces may be captured in a single turn provided this is done by successive jumps made by a single piece. Pieces can only be captured forwards.

When pieces reach the opposing player's first row (the farthest row forward) they are crowned, marked by placing an additional piece on top of the first, and acquire additional powers: the ability to move backwards and capture backwards.

These boards range in difficulty from regularly gridded boards to very distorted grids. To make the game even more challenging, change the method of crowning to turning the coin over, rather than stacking. Start with all teams turned to heads. Crown by turning a coin to tails.

Another variation requires a timer. Players agree on the length of time for each move, usually from ten to sixty seconds, and the timer is set between moves.

See who wins more often, the Nickels or the Dimes, by keeping track on the page next to each board.













