

The Most Famous Perfect Square

Multiply $x + \frac{b}{2a}$ times itself:

$$\begin{array}{r} x + \frac{b}{2a} \\ x + \frac{b}{2a} \\ \hline \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{b}{2a}x \quad \frac{b^2}{4a^2} \\ \hline x^2 \quad \frac{b}{2a}x \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{b^2}{4a^2} \end{array}$$

$$\therefore \left(x + \frac{b}{2a} \right)^2 = x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{b^2}{4a^2}$$