

## Snail Trail Quilt Block Pattern Tutorial Printable PDF

Today, we're thrilled to present a delightful quilt block pattern that is sure to captivate both novice and seasoned quilters alike—the enchanting "Snail Trail Quilt Block."

### Directions: Snail Trail Quilt Block Pattern Tutorial

#### Quilting Skill Level

Easy – Confident Beginner

#### Finished Block Measurements

12-inch Snail's Trail Quilt Block. 12 1/2 -inch unfinished

9-inch Snail's Trail Quilt Block. 9 1/2-inch unfinished

#### Materials

1/4 yard each of two fabrics, or two fat quarters. The Snail Trail pattern is a traditional block that adds swirls of movement to your quilt top. **Make it in two, three, or four fabrics.**

- Thread
- Equipment and Tools
- Thread
- Rotary Cutter
- Quilting Ruler
- Cutting Mat
- Rotating Cutting Mat
- Iron
- Ironing Board or Pressing Mat
- Pins
- Clips
- Sewing Machine
- Disappearing fabric marker

#### Pattern Notes

For the larger triangles, mark the center of each diagonal and line it up carefully to keep your block square.

Double check the placement of each round of triangles before stitching to keep the trail going in a spiral. Refer to the diagram for directions.

The directions note the 12-inch block. However, when making the 9-inch block use the sizes noted.



The outside corners of the triangles will extend slightly beyond the outside edges of the Four-Patch unit. Trim after each round.

Use a ¼-inch seam allowance. I recommend using a special presser foot with a ¼-inch guide if you have one for your machine. This will help you get uniform seams, and matching seams.

Right Sides Together. Sew fabric together with right sides together. Unless otherwise noted.

The directions for this quilt are for rotary cutting, machine piecing, machine quilting, and the binding is hand-stitched to the quilt back.

Accurate cutting and sewing enhances your final product. Pin or clip your pieces together before sewing them to ensure proper seam alignment.

**The pattern is written for using just two fabric colors.** However, you can make this using two, three, or four different colors.

#### **Fabric Cutting Directions:**

Before starting to make the block, cut the following from **EACH of your two fabrics:**

##### **Fabric pieces for 12 x 12 inch finished size**

- 2, 2" X 2" squares
- 1, 3" X 3" square
- 1, 3 7/8" X 3 7/8" square
- 1, 5 1/8" X 5 1/8" square
- 1, 6 7/8 X 6 7/8" square

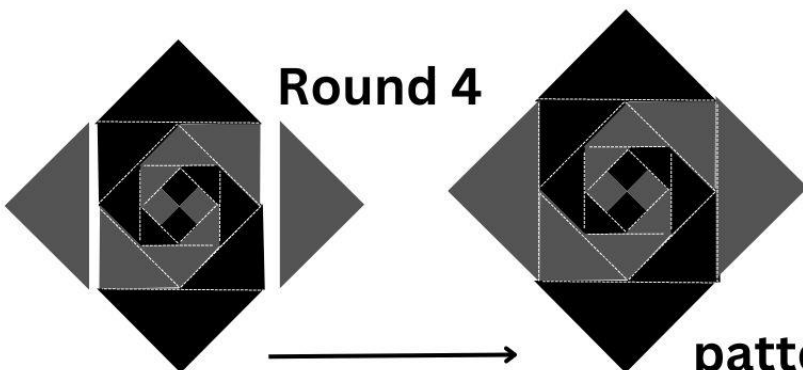
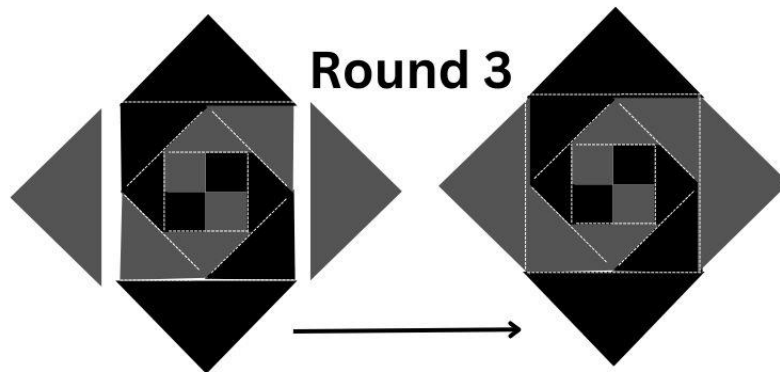
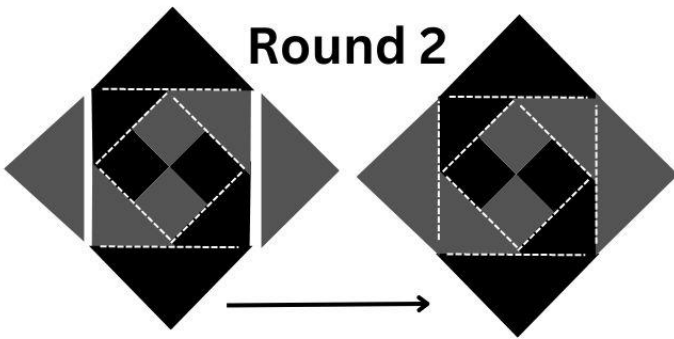
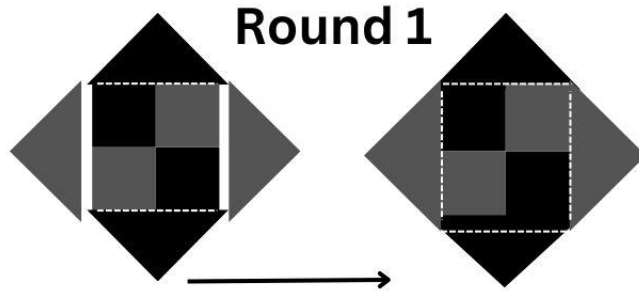
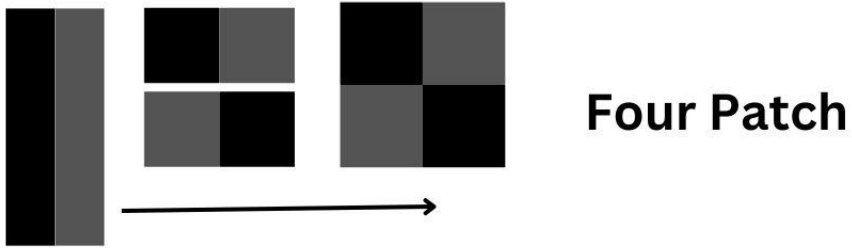
12 ½ X 12 ½ inches unfinished size

##### **Fabric pieces for 9 x 9 inch finished size**

- 2, 1 5/8" X 1 5/8" squares
- 1, 2 ½" X 2 ½" square
- 1, 3 1/8" X 3 1/8" square
- 1, 4 1/16" X 4 1/16" square
- 1, 5 3/8" X 5 3/8" square

9 1/2 by 9 1/2 inches unfinished size





## Begin Quilt Block Pattern

- Refer to the diagram for directions. You can find more of the how-to photos showing the sewing of the block below the written pattern.
- The directions note the 12-inch block. However, when making the 9-inch block use the sizes noted above.
- The outside corners of the triangles will extend slightly beyond the outside edges of the Four-Patch unit. Trim after each round.

If you are making a few squares, start with a longer strip of each color. For this pattern, we will discuss the directions for just one square.

Starting with 2-inch squares, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Sew a darker fabric to a lighter fabric with the right sides together. You now have 2 units. Press the seam allowances toward the darker squares.

Line up the two units of squares so the colors are opposite to form a four patch block. Sew them right sides together with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, nesting the center seams. Press the seam open.

### Round 1

Take the 3" squares and cut them diagonally into two triangles each.

Use the diagram for the fabric color placement for the triangles.

Using the Dark Fabric. Line up the first triangle with the center, right sides together. You'll want the cut diagonal edge to be along one side of the four patch on the outer edge. The corner point should be lined up with the center seam of the four patch.

Sew with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press the seams allowances toward the triangles.

(Note: Before sewing the triangles to the Four-Patch unit, be sure to correctly position the pieces. The outside corners of the triangles will extend slightly beyond the outside edges of the Four-Patch unit. Trim the ears after this round.)

Repeat the steps for the other Dark Fabric color triangle.

Next, Join the two Light Fabric triangles to the two remaining edges of the Four-Patch unit. Press the seam allowances toward the triangles.

Trim up the edges before going to the next round.

### Subsequent Rounds:

If you are an experienced quilter, I will summarize the next rounds. If you are a newer quilter, keep reading through each round making sure to refer to the diagram and photos.



For each of the next three rounds, continue adding the dark fabric and light fabric triangles to the Four-Patch unit for rounds 2-4. Work from the smallest triangles to the largest triangles, until you've completed the block assembly.

## Round 2

Take the 3 7/8" X 3 7/8" squares cut them diagonally into two triangles each.

Use the diagram for the fabric color placement for the triangles.

Using the Dark Fabric. Line up the first triangle with the center, right sides together. You'll want the cut diagonal edge to be along one side of the four patch on the outer edge. The corner point should be lined up with the center seam of the four patch.

Sew with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press the seams allowances toward the triangles.

(Note: Before sewing the triangles to the Four-Patch unit, be sure to correctly position the pieces. The outside corners of the triangles will extend slightly beyond the outside edges of the Four-Patch unit. Trim the ears after this round.)

Repeat the steps for the other Dark Fabric color triangle.

Next, Join the two Light Fabric triangles to the two remaining edges of the Four-Patch unit. Press the seam allowances toward the triangles.

Trim up the edges before going to the next round.

## Round 3

For this and subsequent rounds, mark the center of the diagonal line on the wrong side of each triangle. I like to use an iron away marking pen that disappears with heat. A small mark within the seam allowance is enough of a guide. Use the marked line to center the diagonal edge with the previous round of triangles.

Take the 5 1/8" X 5 1/8" squares cut them diagonally into two triangles each.

Use the diagram for the fabric color placement for the triangles.

Using the Dark Fabric. Line up the first triangle with the center, right sides together. You'll want the cut diagonal edge to be along one side of the four patch on the outer edge. The corner point should be lined up with the center seam of the four patch.

Sew with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press the seams allowances toward the triangles.

(Note: Before sewing the triangles to the Four-Patch unit, be sure to correctly position the pieces. The outside corners of the triangles will extend slightly beyond the outside edges of the Four-Patch unit. Trim the ears after this round.)

Repeat the steps for the other Dark Fabric color triangle.



Next, Join the two Light Fabric triangles to the two remaining edges of the Four-Patch unit. Press the seam allowances toward the triangles.

Trim up the edges before going to the next round.

#### Round 4

Take the 6 7/8 X 6 7/8" squares cut them diagonally into two triangles each.

Use the diagram for the fabric color placement for the triangles.

Using the Dark Fabric. Line up the first triangle with the center, right sides together. You'll want the cut diagonal edge to be along one side of the four patch on the outer edge. The corner point should be lined up with the center seam of the four patch.

Sew with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press the seams allowances toward the triangles.

(Note: Before sewing the triangles to the Four-Patch unit, be sure to correctly position the pieces. The outside corners of the triangles will extend slightly beyond the outside edges of the Four-Patch unit. Trim the ears after this round.)

Repeat the steps for the other Dark Fabric color triangle.

Next, Join the two Light Fabric triangles to the two remaining edges of the Four-Patch unit. Press the seam allowances toward the triangles.

Trim up the edges before going to the next round.

Give the entire block a good press. The Snail's Trail Quilt Block is done.

We hope that you have enjoyed this lovely quilt pattern.

XO

Vicky & Casey



