

Snail's Trail Block

Cutting Instructions

Before cutting, you may wish to starch or size your fabric. The Snail's Trail block is almost all biases so any stretch as you sew will cause you trouble.

Each Snail's Trail block needs the following.

From both the dark and the light cut –

- Two 2 5/8 inch squares
- One 3 7/8 inch square cut on the diagonal
- One 6 7/8 inch square cut on the diagonal
- One 7 1/4 inch square cut on both diagonals

You will also need to make setting triangles from each color.

- Six 9 inch squares cut on the diagonal from the dark fabric.
- Eight 9 inch squares cut on the diagonal from the light fabric.
- (If you would like additional float, you can cut 9 1/2 inch squares.)

For these to fit on one light and one dark FQ you may wish to cut as diagramed below-

First, cut a strip 2 5/8 width of the FQ (18 inch), sub cut into 6 squares (marked in red).

Second, cut an 8 inch strip length of the FQ (marked in blue).

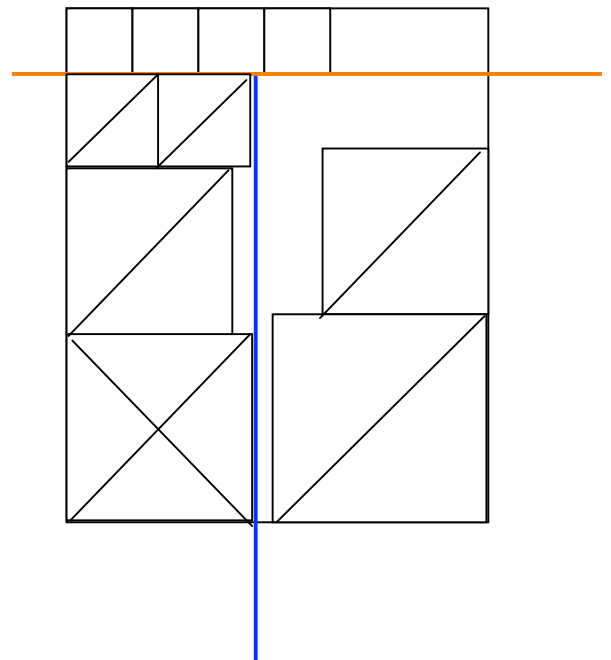
From the 8 inch strip cut –

- one 7 1/4 inch square Cut on both diagonals,
- one 6 7/8 inch square cut on one diagonal,
- and two 3 7/8 inch square cut on one diagonal.

From the remaining strip cut –

- One 6 7/8 inch square, cut on one diagonal,
- and one 9 inch square cut on one diagonal
- (These are the setting triangles. Only cut the number you need.)

By cutting the FQ this way you will have enough for two Snail Trail blocks.

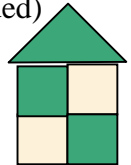
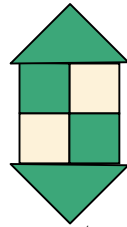


Block Assembly

With two dark and two light $2\frac{5}{8}$ squares, make a four-patch. It is very important to make sure your block is square each step of the way in construction. When you have finished making the four-patch it should measure $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches square. (If you have trouble with this measurement make the four-patch bigger and square it to $4\frac{3}{4}$. It is important that the center is square, and measures $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches)

Now you will start adding the triangle units around the four-patch. Please make sure you check the diagram for the placement of the light and dark triangles. If they are placed incorrectly, the snail will not spin the right direction.

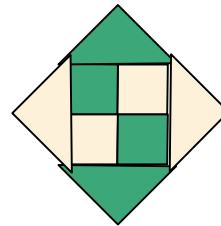
With the four-patch as shown in the diagram, sew the dark triangles cut from the $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches squares first. (Note that the dark fabric in the four-patch is on the top left corner when the dark triangle is added)



Then sew the dark triangle on the opposite side

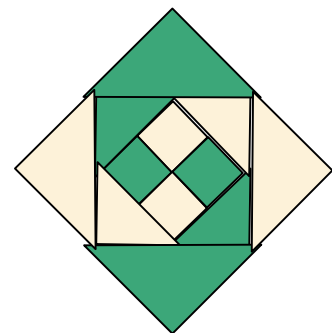
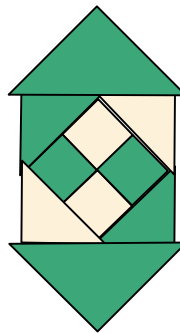
Press the seams away from the center. Please make sure to press and not iron so that you do not distort the fabric.

Now add the two light triangles cut from the $3\frac{7}{8}$ inch square. This unit should square up to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.



The next round is done in the same manner with the triangles cut from the $7\frac{1}{4}$ inch square, cut in quarters. Please check the drawing to make sure you are placing the new triangles on the correct side.

This new unit will square up to 9 inches.



Then add the last round using the triangles cut from the $6\frac{7}{8}$ inch squares. The block should square up to $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

