

Snail's Trail

This block measures 9½ x 9½ inches unfinished. It is a 9" x 9" block with a ¼" seam allowance on each side.

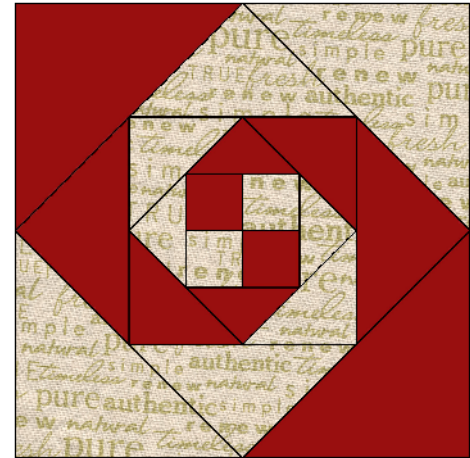
Cutting

Read complete cutting instructions twice before cutting once.

You need less than a fat quarter's worth (approx. 5 ½" x 16") of the cream-colored focus fabric. You also need an equal sized piece of a contrasting fabric. From the focus fabric, cut a 5 ½" x 5 ½" square off one end, and cut that in half from corner to corner for pieces #16 & #17. Cut a 3 ¼" x 10 ½" inch strip off a long edge, and starting at one end, cut a 3 ¼" wide half-square triangle (HST), two 6 ½" wide quarter-square triangles (QST), and one more HST for pieces #8, #9, #12, & #13. Cut a 2" x 10 ½" strip, and from that cut two squares and two 4" wide QSTs (4" wide) for pieces #1, #3, #4 & #5.

Repeat the above to cut remaining pieces from the contrasting fabric.

If you follow the instructions above, your pieces should be slightly larger than strictly needed with ¼" seam allowances. That's okay when you're paper piecing. It's easier to trim seam allowances down to ¼" after you've sewn them down than it is to grow fabric.



9 ½" unfinished (9" finished)

Piecing

1. Set your sewing machine to a 1.5 or 1.8 mm stitch length.
2. Sew together a small square of the light and dark fabrics right sides together. Press seam allowances away from the darker fabric. Set this unit aside to use as piece #3.
3. If page 2 isn't printed on foundation paper, print or copy it onto foundation paper. The paper is sold at most quilt shops, and is designed to tear easily, resist curling, prevent the ink from bleeding, and to withstand a hot iron.
4. Layer piece #1 and #2 right sides together, and position them on the back of the foundation. Pin or hold them in place. As there are no lines printed on the back of the foundation, you will need to hold them up to the light. Alternatively, you can poke straight pins through the foundation at the ends of the line between sections #1 and #2 to see where they go.
5. Sew along the line between sections #1 & #2, fabric side down on the feed dogs and printed foundation side up.
6. (Optional) Trim seam allowance down to ¼". I fold the paper back and use an Add-A-Quarter ruler, mat and rotary cutter for this. Don't forget to unfold and smooth the paper when you're done.
7. (Optional) Press seam closed with hot iron. It seems to shrink or lock the thread so it won't show on the front later.
8. Flip last piece of fabric over. Press into place. It should lay flat when you're done.
9. (Optional) Fold paper back along the line between the next piece and the already pieced unit. Using method in step 6, trim exposed fabric to within ¼" of the edge. Smooth paper afterwards.
10. Position new piece in place like you did in step 4. If you followed step 9, you can just align the edges and make sure the center of the new piece is centered on the finished block for perfect positioning for this particular block.
11. Sew along the line separating the new piece from the old pieces like you did in step 5.
12. Repeat steps 7 through 11 until the block is complete.

Comments

- To fit a 9½" block on paper 8½" wide, we cut corners and printed it on point. Only the fabric has to extend all the way into the corners, not the paper.
- You can make this block without paper piecing. You either need to adjust your initial cutting, or trim your block down to size whenever the # of pieces in it is a multiple of 4. The central four-patch (including seam allowances) is 2¾" square. For squaring up the rest, position your ruler so the ¼" line is on an intersection along the edge and a perpendicular line runs through that intersection and the center of the block.
- As you work on the block, you will only see the stitching on the printed side of the foundation. The fabric goes on the plain blank side. The seam allowances get trapped between the paper and the fabric.

