

# Supply List for Wendy Mathson

## Designing With Storm at Sea and Snail's Trail

### Empty Spools Seminars, Session V: April 19–24, 2024



*"Sea Snails" = Storm at Sea with Snail's Trail Variation*

Storm at Sea. Snail's Trail. Are these quilts on your bucket list? For over a century, quilters have been intrigued with how these blocks create the optical illusion of movement and curves with straight line piecing. Students can work on a supplied pattern, or create their own design.

### Class Goals

The focus in this class is how to achieve different design variations and effects using Storm and Sea and Snail's Trail blocks. These blocks can be interpreted in many ways, from traditional to modern. The look can be scrappy, geometric, abstract, or pictorial. Through hands-on exercises and demonstrations, you will be guided to create one or more designs that reflect your own color and style preferences.

We'll also cover the practical side of how to go from concept to creating a cutting and piecing plan. You will become comfortable with my TRIMplate piecing construction method and how to get the most out of these trimming tools. If you have basic piecing skills and are a confident rotary cutter, you will have no problem with this method.

### More About TRIMplate Piecing

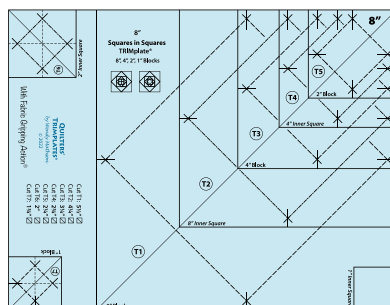
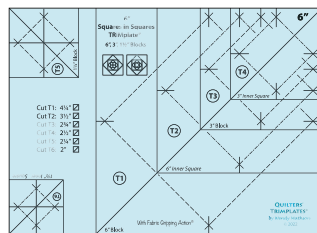
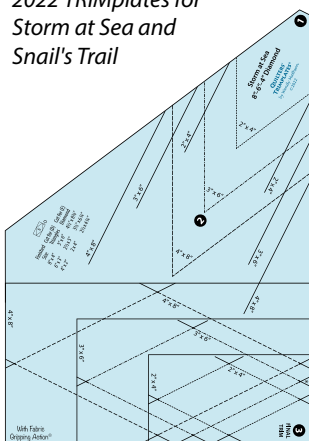
TRIMplate piecing is a trim-after-you-sew technique.

Advantages are:

- No templates: All pieces start as squares or rectangles that can be quickly and easily rotary cut from fabric strips.
- Faster than traditional piecing because pieces do not need to be perfectly aligned for sewing.
- Finished blocks are extremely accurate. It's easier to match points when sewing blocks together.
- No bias edges on outer edges of blocks.
- No foundation piecing; no paper to remove.

### Where to find TRIMplates

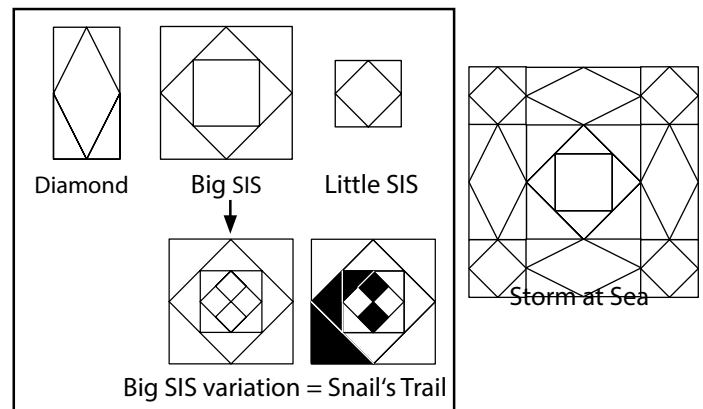
2022 TRIMplates for Storm at Sea and Snail's Trail



The original TRIMplates (as shown in my book) were produced by C&T Publishing. They were discontinued several years ago. Since then I have redesigned and refined them and now produce and sell them myself. The newest TRIMplates came out 2022, and feature a non-slip coating on the back. They are not sold in stores. I will provide TRIMplates for each student to use in class. They will be available for sale, but there is no requirement to purchase them. Two TRIMplates are needed: the 8-6-4 Diamond and either a 6" or 8" Squares-in-Squares (SIS).

### Storm at Sea Basics

The Storm at Sea pattern is made up of three pieced blocks: a rectangle, a large square and a smaller square. The rectangle is the Diamond block. To distinguish the square blocks, I refer to them as "Big SIS" and "Little SIS". (SIS is my abbreviation for "Square-in-a-Square".) The Snail's Trail block is a variation of the Big SIS.



### What will you choose to work on?

I would like to connect with each student before class so we both have an idea of what you would like to work on and your specific project goals. I will give you guidelines for fabric selection and yardage. [wjmathson@gmail.com](mailto:wjmathson@gmail.com)

If you need ideas, check out my Pinterest boards: [Pinterest.com/sandiegoquilter/storm-at-sea-quilts/](https://www.pinterest.com/sandiegoquilter/storm-at-sea-quilts/) [Pinterest.com/sandiegoquilter/snail-trail-quilts/](https://www.pinterest.com/sandiegoquilter/snail-trail-quilts/)

I can also supply a pattern with specific yardage if that is your preference.

I'm looking forward to our class!

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**Checklist - What to bring to class:**

- Your fabric
- Rotary cutter with new blade, and a spare blade
- Cutting mat at least 8" square. A turn-table mat is very helpful if you have one.
- Your favorite rulers for cutting strips, and for cutting rectangles and squares from strips.
- Sewing machine with a new 80/12 needle. (I prefer Topstitch needles for piecing). Don't forget your foot pedal and cord!
- Extension table for the bed of your machine. This is optional, but highly recommended.
- Quarter-inch foot – OR – the ability to move your needle position for a scant quarter-inch seam. For this class, you cannot rely on tape or markings on the bed of the machine.
- Good quality, neutral color piecing thread.
- Basic sewing supplies such as fabric scissors, thread snips, seam ripper, fine pins for piecing, and larger pins for pinning to design wall.
- Large flannel-backed tablecloth, or a piece of cotton batting to put on your design wall. (4' x 6' design boards will be supplied, but you need something for fabric pieces to adhere to.)
- Piece of fabric to cover your work area at night

**For Design Exercises:**

- Soft lead pencil, fine-line Sharpie pen, eraser, and a selection of colored pencils
- Paper scissors
- Glue stick (any kind, for paper)
- A few sheets each of tracing paper and graph paper (scale is not important)

**Optional:**

- A comfortable sewing chair or chair cushion
- If you do bring an iron it must have an auto shut-off feature.
- Open-toe appliqué foot for your machine
- Quilter's stiletto (I will have porcupine quill stilettoes available for sale in class.)
- Table-top task lamp and an extension cord
- Book: *A New Light on Storm at Sea Quilts* by Wendy Mathson. Available as soft-cover book or ebook from [ctpub.com](http://ctpub.com) (C & T Publishing)

