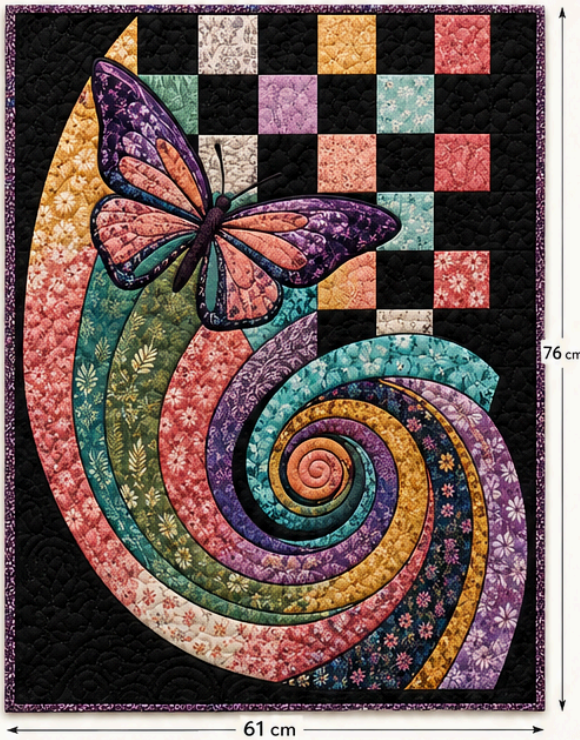




Spiral Butterfly Quilt



STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL



FINISHED QUILT SIZE
61 cm (W) x 76 cm (H)

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

- Black (background)
0.70 m
- Assorted prints
(spiral & butterfly)
1.40 m total
- Checkerboard prints
(8 fabrics)
0.40 m each
- Backing fabric
1.20 m
- Binding fabric
0.25 m
- Batting
0.70 m x 0.90 m

1. CUTTING GUIDE (all measurements include 0.7 cm seam allowance)

A. CHECKERBOARD BLOCKS

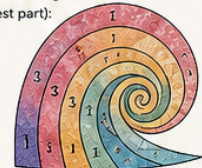
Cut 4.5 cm squares.
Make 8 rows with 8 squares each.
Total: 64 squares (8 of each fabric).



B. SPIRAL STRIPS (curved paper piecing)

Cut strips with the following widths (at the widest part):

- 1 – 6.5 cm
- 2 – 5.5 cm
- 3 – 4.5 cm
- 4 – 3.5 cm
- 5 – 2.7 cm
- 6 – 2.0 cm
- 7 – 1.5 cm



Length: 60–70 cm each

C. BUTTERFLY APPLIQUÉ

Enlarge pattern to fit the quilt.

Cut pieces with 0.7 cm seam allowance (see pattern pieces below).



2. CONSTRUCTION STEPS

1. MAKE CHECKERBOARD

Sew the 4.5 cm squares together in rows.
Press seams.
Join rows.



2. PAPER PIECE THE SPIRAL

Use foundation paper piecing for accurate curves.
Sew each strip in numerical order.
Remove paper.



3. APPLIQUÉ THE BUTTERFLY

Fuse lightweight fusible web to wrong side of fabrics.
Cut pieces and appliqué to the quilt top.
Use a small zigzag or blanket stitch.



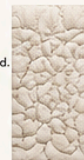
4. ASSEMBLE THE QUILT TOP

Sew the checkerboard section to the top right of the spiral section.
Join all parts and square the quilt top to 61 x 76 cm.



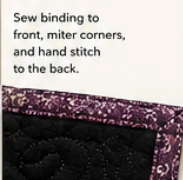
5. QUILT THE SANDWICH

Layer: backing (wrong side up), batting, quilt top (right side up).
Baste layers together.
Quilt as desired. (Free-motion swirls and loops work beautifully.)



6. BIND THE QUILT

Cut binding strips 6.5 cm wide.
Join strips, press in half lengthwise.



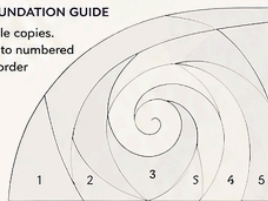
3. APPLIQUÉ & PAPER PIECING PATTERNS (not to scale)

BUTTERFLY PATTERN PIECES



SPIRAL FOUNDATION GUIDE

Print multiple copies.
Sew fabrics to numbered sections in order 1 → 7.



CHECKERBOARD LAYOUT

Arrange your 8 fabrics as shown or customize.
8 rows x 8 squares (4.5 cm each).
Total size: 36 cm x 36 cm



4. QUILTING IDEAS

- Swirls in the spiral
- Meandering in solid areas
- Pebbles in the black background
- Outline the butterfly



5. BINDING & FINISHING

- Trim excess batting and backing.
- Use a floral binding as shown.
- Label your quilt!
- Enjoy your finished work of art.



KEY SEWING & QUILTING METHODS (USA)

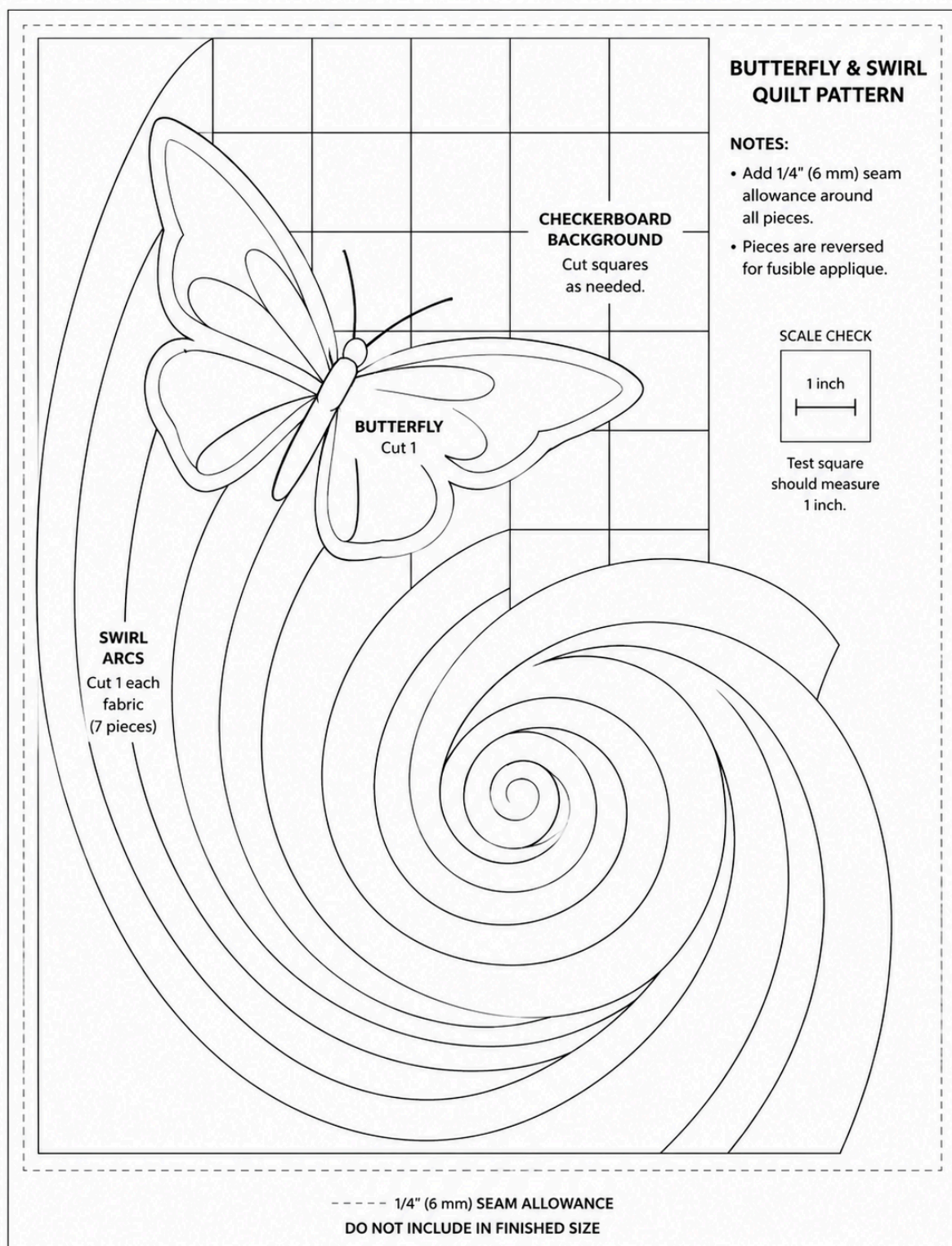
- 1/4" Seam Allowance (0.7 cm)
- Press Seams Open or to the Dark
- Paper Piecing (Foundation)
- Appliqué (Fusible Web)

- Free-Motion Quilting
- Stitch in the Ditch
- Binding (Double Fold)
- Square Up



CREATE • QUILT • ENJOY
Handmade with love. ♥





Spiral Butterfly Quilt — Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

The Spiral Butterfly Quilt combines three striking elements: a colorful curved spiral, a patchwork checkerboard, and a large appliqué butterfly. The dark background makes the floral fabrics stand out and gives the finished wall quilt a dramatic, artistic appearance.

This tutorial follows the measurements, construction order, and techniques shown in the original project. Measurements are provided in both metric and approximate U.S. customary units so that quilters in the United States can complete the project comfortably.

The finished quilt measures approximately 24 inches wide by 30 inches high or 61 cm × 76 cm.

All cutting measurements include a ¼-inch seam allowance, approximately 0.7 cm, unless otherwise noted.

Finished Quilt Size

The completed quilt should measure approximately:

Width: 24 inches or 61 cm

Height: 30 inches or 76 cm

Because curved paper piecing and appliqué can slightly change the dimensions of the individual sections, it is a good idea to make the spiral and checkerboard sections slightly oversized. They can then be squared and trimmed during final assembly.

Fabric Requirements

Choose a combination of floral, tonal, and small-scale printed quilting cottons. The original design uses black fabric as the background and a mixture of coral, purple, teal, gold, cream, green, and pink fabrics for the spiral and butterfly.

You will need:

Black background fabric:

Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ yard or 0.70 meter

Assorted prints for the spiral and butterfly:

Approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards total or 1.40 meters total

Eight different prints for the checkerboard:

Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of each fabric or 0.40 meter of each fabric

The checkerboard requires only eight $4\frac{1}{2}$ cm squares from each print, so smaller cuts or coordinated scraps may also be used.

Backing fabric:

Approximately $1\frac{1}{3}$ yards or 1.20 meters

Binding fabric:

Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ yard or 0.25 meter

Batting:

At least 28 inches × 36 inches or approximately 0.70 meter × 0.90 meter

You will also need:

Lightweight paper or foundation paper

Lightweight fusible web

Matching or coordinating sewing thread

Black appliqué thread

Quilting thread

Rotary cutter

Cutting mat
Acrylic quilting ruler
Fabric scissors
Paper scissors
Iron and ironing board
Pins or fabric clips
Sewing machine
Free-motion quilting foot, optional
Walking foot, optional
Appliqué or open-toe presser foot, optional

Choosing the Fabrics

The success of this quilt depends heavily on contrast.

Use a deep black or nearly black fabric for the background. A subtle black-on-black print can add texture without distracting from the colorful design.

For the spiral, choose seven fabrics that are easy to distinguish from one another. A successful combination might include:

Coral or rose
Cream
Forest green
Teal
Purple
Gold
Dark floral

Try to alternate light, medium, and dark values. Avoid placing two fabrics of nearly the same value next to each other because the individual spiral bands may disappear visually.

For the butterfly, use fabrics that coordinate with the spiral but do not match it exactly. Pink, coral, purple, and blue work especially well against the black background.

The checkerboard should include black squares mixed with eight coordinated prints. The fabrics may repeat colors already present in the spiral and butterfly.

Prewash the fabrics only when that is part of your normal quilting routine. Whatever method you choose, treat all fabrics consistently.

Press every fabric before cutting.

Cutting the Checkerboard Squares

The checkerboard section is made from an 8 × 8 grid, for a total of 64 squares.

Cut each square:

4.5 cm × 4.5 cm, approximately 1¾ inches × 1¾ inches

Cut:

32 black squares

From eight different printed fabrics, cut:

4 squares from each print

This produces 32 printed squares and 32 black squares.

The chart describes eight squares from each fabric, but the illustrated checkerboard uses 32 black squares and 32 assorted squares. For a balanced 8 × 8 checkerboard matching the design, cut four squares from each of eight printed fabrics.

Arrange the squares in eight rows with eight squares in each row. Alternate black and printed squares throughout the grid.

A sample arrangement is:

Row 1: Black, print, black, print, black, print, black, print

Row 2: Print, black, print, black, print, black, print, black

Continue alternating the placement in every row.

Distribute the colors rather than placing identical prints beside one another. Step back and look at the layout before sewing.

Move any color that appears too concentrated in one area.

The unfinished checkerboard should measure approximately:

14¼ inches × 14¼ inches, or about 36 cm × 36 cm

Sewing the Checkerboard Rows

Set your sewing machine for an accurate ¼-inch seam allowance.

Sew the eight squares in the first row together. Place two squares right sides together, align the raw edges, and stitch with a ¼-inch seam.

Continue adding squares until the row contains all eight pieces.

Repeat for the remaining seven rows.

Press the seam allowances in alternating directions:

Press the seams in Row 1 to the right.

Press the seams in Row 2 to the left.

Press the seams in Row 3 to the right.

Continue alternating the pressing direction for all eight rows.

This creates nesting seams when the rows are joined and helps the corners meet accurately.

Place Row 1 and Row 2 right sides together. Match and pin the intersections. Because the seam allowances are pressed in opposite directions, they should lock together.

Sew the rows together using a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam.

Add the remaining rows in order.

Press the horizontal seam allowances open or toward one side. If pressing toward one side, alternate the direction when practical to reduce bulk.

Measure the finished checkerboard section. Do not trim it to its final size until the spiral section is ready for assembly.

Preparing the Spiral Foundation Pattern

The spiral is constructed with curved foundation paper piecing.

The pattern shown in the graphic is not full size. It must be enlarged before use.

Print or draw the spiral foundation so that the completed section is large enough to fill the lower-right portion of a 24-inch × 30-inch quilt.

The spiral consists of seven numbered bands. The approximate maximum widths of the fabric strips are:

Strip 1: 6.5 cm or approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches

Strip 2: 5.5 cm or approximately $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches

Strip 3: 4.5 cm or approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches

Strip 4: 3.5 cm or approximately $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches

Strip 5: 2.7 cm or approximately $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches

Strip 6: 2 cm or approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch

Strip 7: 1.5 cm or approximately $\frac{5}{8}$ inch

These measurements refer to the widest portion of each curved strip.

Cut each strip approximately:

24 to 28 inches long, or 60 to 70 cm long

Cut the strips slightly wider or longer when possible. Extra fabric makes curved foundation piecing easier and can be trimmed later.

Number the paper foundation sections from 1 through 7, beginning at the center and following the spiral outward.

The fabric must be sewn in numerical order.

Enlarging and Joining the Spiral Pattern

Because a home printer may not print the entire spiral on one page, divide the enlarged design across several sheets of paper.

Print each page at the same scale.

Trim away unnecessary paper margins along the registration lines.

Tape the pages together carefully. Check that all curved lines connect smoothly.

Measure the enlarged pattern before beginning. Compare it with the quilt diagram and the checkerboard section.

The outer curve should reach from the lower-left area toward the upper-left side, while the circular spiral occupies much of the lower-right area.

Add an outer trimming allowance around the paper pattern. A margin of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch beyond the final seam line is helpful.

Make a second copy of the pattern before sewing. Keep one clean copy for reference.

Understanding Curved Foundation Paper Piecing

In foundation paper piecing, the printed side of the paper guides the sewing lines while the fabric is placed on the unprinted side.

The fabric pieces are sewn in a specific order. After each seam is stitched, the new fabric is opened, pressed, and trimmed before the next piece is added.

Before sewing, place the paper pattern against a bright window or light box. Transfer the section numbers to the back of the paper so that they are visible while positioning the fabric.

Shorten your machine stitch length to approximately 1.5 to 1.8 mm. A shorter stitch perforates the paper and makes it easier to remove later.

Use a fresh sewing machine needle.

Paper Piecing the Center of the Spiral

Begin with Section 1 at the center of the spiral.

Place Fabric 1 on the unprinted side of the paper with the right side facing away from the paper.

The fabric must completely cover Section 1 and extend at least ¼ inch beyond every surrounding sewing line.

Hold the paper up to a light source to confirm that the entire section is covered.

Temporarily secure the first fabric with a small amount of fabric-safe glue, a pin placed away from the stitching line, or a short line of basting stitches.

Place Fabric 2 right sides together with Fabric 1. Position it so that its raw edge extends approximately ¼ inch beyond the sewing line between Sections 1 and 2.

Turn the foundation over so that the printed side faces up.

Sew directly on the line between Sections 1 and 2. Begin and end a few stitches beyond the line.

Fold the paper away from the stitched seam.

Trim the seam allowance to ¼ inch using an acrylic ruler or an add-a-quarter ruler.

Return the paper to its original position.

Open Fabric 2 and press it away from the seam.

Use a dry iron or a seam roller. Excessive steam can distort the paper foundation.

Confirm that Fabric 2 covers its entire numbered area and extends beyond the next sewing line.

Adding the Remaining Spiral Bands

Continue adding Fabrics 3 through 7 in numerical order.

For each section:

Place the next strip right sides together with the previous fabric.

Check the position by folding the strip open before sewing. Make sure it will cover the complete curved section.

Return the strip to its sewing position.

Sew directly on the printed foundation line.

Fold the paper back.

Trim the seam allowance to ¼ inch.

Open the strip.

Press the strip smoothly.

Curved strips may resist opening flat. Work gradually and avoid pulling or stretching the bias edges.

If a curve is especially tight, make small clips in the seam allowance without cutting through the stitching. Clip only when necessary.

Continue around the spiral until all seven bands are attached.

The fabric order may repeat as the spiral curls outward. Follow the numbering on the enlarged pattern rather than relying only on the colors shown in the reference image.

After all sections are complete, press the entire spiral unit from the fabric side.

Do not remove the foundation paper yet if it is helping the unit maintain its shape.

Trimming the Spiral Section

Place the completed spiral unit on a large cutting mat.

Trim around the outer edge using the pattern's cutting line.

Leave the required ¼-inch seam allowance around any edge that will be joined to another section.

The original design has a sweeping curved edge on the left and a more compact rounded spiral on the right.

Check that the unit is large enough to join the checkerboard section and reach the side and bottom edges of the quilt.

Remove the foundation paper carefully.

Fold the paper along a stitched line and gently tear it away.
Use tweezers to remove small pieces trapped near the center.

Support the stitches with your fingers as the paper is removed.

Press the spiral once more after all paper has been removed.

Preparing the Butterfly Appliqué Pattern

The butterfly pattern includes:

- Two upper wings
- Two lower wings
- One long body
- Two antennae

The pattern illustration is not full size.

Enlarge the butterfly until it fits the upper-left portion of the quilt and overlaps the black background and spiral area in a visually balanced way.

The butterfly should become a major focal point without covering too much of the checkerboard.

Print or trace the enlarged butterfly pieces.

Label each piece:

- Upper Left Wing
- Upper Right Wing
- Lower Left Wing
- Lower Right Wing
- Body
- Antennae

The line drawing provides the outer shape. Decorative divisions inside the wings may be created with additional

appliqué pieces, fabric markers, satin stitching, or narrow black bias strips.

The pictured quilt uses several fabrics inside each wing, separated by dark outlines.

Creating the Butterfly Wing Sections

For a simple butterfly, cut each wing as one fabric piece.

For a more detailed butterfly matching the illustrated design, divide the wings into smaller decorative sections.

Trace the individual wing sections onto the paper side of lightweight fusible web.

Leave approximately ½ inch between the traced shapes.

For directional fabrics, remember that fusible appliqué reverses the pattern. Trace the pieces from the reverse side when the final orientation matters.

Rough-cut around each fusible shape, leaving a small margin outside the drawn line.

Place the adhesive side of the fusible web against the wrong side of the selected fabric.

Fuse according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not overheat the adhesive.

Allow the pieces to cool.

Cut each shape precisely on the drawn line.

Remove the paper backing.

Arrange the smaller wing pieces over a black wing foundation or directly on a nonstick pressing sheet.

Leave thin black spaces between the colored sections to create the outlined stained-glass appearance shown in the design.

Fuse the pieces together temporarily.

Repeat for all four wings.

Adding the Butterfly Body and Antennae

Cut the butterfly body from a dark purple, black, brown, or charcoal fabric.

Fuse the body over the center of the wings. It should overlap the inner edge of every wing and hide any uneven meeting points.

The body may be one continuous shape or divided into a head, thorax, and abdomen.

Create the antennae using one of these methods:

Narrow black bias strips

Black embroidery thread

A machine satin stitch

A triple straight stitch

Fabric paint suitable for quilting

Do not add bulky beads or embellishments until quilting is complete.

Stitching the Butterfly Appliqué

Place the butterfly pieces on the quilt background but do not fuse them permanently until the major quilt sections have been joined.

Once the final placement is confirmed, fuse the butterfly according to the fusible-web manufacturer's directions.

Use a small zigzag stitch or blanket stitch around every raw edge.

A recommended zigzag setting is approximately:

Stitch width: 1.5 to 2 mm

Stitch length: 1.5 to 2 mm

Test the settings on a scrap before stitching the quilt.

Black thread creates the bold outlined look shown in the original design.

Stitch slowly around the curves. Stop with the needle down before turning the fabric.

For inward points, sew to the point, stop with the needle down, lift the presser foot, and rotate the quilt.

For outward points, stitch slightly beyond the point before turning to maintain full coverage.

Secure thread ends by pulling them to the back and tying them, or use your machine's locking stitch.

Planning the Quilt-Top Layout

Place the checkerboard in the upper-right area.

Position the spiral so that its rounded portion fills the lower-right section. The sweeping outer bands should curve toward the left side and upward.

Black background fabric fills the areas around the checkerboard and spiral.

The butterfly is placed in the upper-left and center area. It should overlap the sweeping spiral bands and part of the black background.

Before cutting the black filler sections, arrange all completed components on a large flat surface.

Use the finished quilt measurement of 24 inches × 30 inches as your guide.

It may be helpful to draw a 24-inch × 30-inch rectangle on pattern paper or mark the dimensions on a design wall.

Arrange the checkerboard and spiral within that space.

Identify the open areas that need black background fabric.

Create paper templates for those areas before cutting the fabric.

Add a ¼-inch seam allowance to every edge that will be sewn.

Joining the Checkerboard and Spiral

The checkerboard attaches near the upper-right edge of the spiral section.

Depending on how the enlarged spiral pattern was prepared, the joining edge may be straight or gently curved.

For a straight join, place the sections right sides together and sew with a ¼-inch seam.

For a curved join, mark matching points along both edges.

Begin by matching:

The two ends

The midpoint

The quarter points

Pin or clip between the marked points.

Sew slowly with the curved edge on top so that you can control any fullness.

Do not pull either section while sewing.

Clip the curved seam allowance where necessary, taking care not to cut through the stitches.

Press the seam toward the black checkerboard background when possible.

After pressing, check that the unit lies flat.

Adding the Black Background Sections

Use black fabric to complete the rectangular quilt top.

The exact shapes will depend on the enlarged spiral and the final placement of the checkerboard.

Cut the black background sections slightly oversized.

Join them to the spiral and checkerboard unit using ¼-inch seams.

Press after every seam.

Large background areas may be assembled from more than one black piece. Place seams where the butterfly will cover them when possible.

Continue adding black fabric until the quilt top is larger than 24 inches × 30 inches.

Place the top on the cutting mat and square it carefully.

Trim the quilt top to:

24 inches × 30 inches, or 61 cm × 76 cm

Check that all four corners form 90-degree angles.

Positioning and Fusing the Butterfly

Place the completed butterfly over the left side of the quilt.

The upper wings should extend into the black background area.

The lower wings may overlap the colorful spiral bands.

Angle the butterfly slightly so that it appears to be flying upward.

Step away from the quilt and check the balance.

Make sure:

The butterfly does not touch the outer quilt edge.

The butterfly does not hide the center of the spiral.

The butterfly does not cover too much of the checkerboard.

The body follows a natural diagonal direction.

The wings are symmetrical unless an intentionally angled pose is desired.

When satisfied, mark the placement with small removable fabric marks.

Fuse the pieces permanently.

Stitch around all appliqué edges with a zigzag, blanket, or satin stitch.

Add the antennae after the body and wings have been stitched.

Press the completed top from the back using a pressing cloth.

Preparing the Quilt Backing

Cut the backing at least 3 to 4 inches larger than the quilt top on every side.

For a 24-inch × 30-inch quilt, the backing should measure at least:

30 inches × 36 inches

A backing approximately 28 inches × 36 inches may be sufficient for domestic-machine quilting, but additional space makes basting and quilting easier.

If piecing the backing, remove selvages before joining the sections.

Use a ½-inch seam allowance for the backing seam.

Press the seam open to reduce bulk.

Press the entire backing until it is smooth.

Preparing the Batting

Cut the batting to approximately the same size as the backing.

The batting should extend beyond the quilt top on every side.

A piece measuring about:

28 inches × 36 inches, or 70 cm × 90 cm

is appropriate for this project.

Cotton batting gives a traditional, flat finish.

An 80/20 cotton-polyester batting adds slightly more loft.

A thin polyester batting may emphasize the free-motion quilting but can make small wall quilts appear puffier.

Follow the batting manufacturer's recommendations for quilting distance.

Making the Quilt Sandwich

Place the backing on a clean surface with the wrong side facing up.

Smooth the backing and secure it with painter's tape or clamps. Do not stretch it.

Center the batting over the backing.

Smooth the batting gently from the center outward.

Place the quilt top over the batting with the right side facing up.

Check that the backing and batting extend beyond the quilt top on all sides.

Baste the layers using:

Curved safety pins

Temporary basting spray

Long hand-basting stitches

Begin in the center and work toward the edges.

The layers should be smooth but not stretched.

Quilting the Spiral

The spiral is the ideal location for decorative free-motion quilting.

Quilt swirls that follow the direction of the colored bands.

Begin near the center and work outward.

Avoid stitching directly through every appliqué seam unless you want the stitching to reinforce the design.

Possible quilting treatments include:

Echo quilting inside each spiral band
A continuous swirl following the center
Small floral motifs in wider bands
Gentle curves that imitate movement
Stitching in the ditch between the bands

Use thread that blends with the multicolored fabrics or choose a neutral medium-gray thread.

Quilt slowly around the tight center.

Stop frequently with the needle down and reposition your hands.

Quilting the Black Background

The black background can be quilted more densely than the colorful areas. Dense quilting makes the butterfly and spiral appear slightly raised.

The original design suggests pebble quilting in the black background.

To quilt pebbles, stitch a series of small touching circles. Travel around part of an existing circle before beginning the next one.

Vary the pebble sizes for a more natural texture.

Other suitable background designs include:

Meandering stipple

Loops

Small spirals

Leaf shapes

Echo quilting around the butterfly

Dense free-motion texture

Use black thread for subtle texture or dark charcoal thread for slightly more visibility.

Avoid quilting over the butterfly appliqué until the surrounding area has been stabilized.

Quilting the Butterfly

Outline the complete butterfly approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch outside the appliqué edge.

Stitch around the body and the separate wing sections.

Additional quilting may be added inside the wings to emphasize the fabric shapes.

Quilt slowly over fused areas because the fusible adhesive can make the layers slightly stiffer.

A fine needle and good-quality thread help prevent skipped stitches.

Use a thread color that blends with the appliqué stitching.

Do not quilt across the antennae unless reinforcement is needed.

Quilting the Checkerboard

The checkerboard can be quilted with a simple stitch-in-the-ditch method.

Stitch along the seam lines between the squares.

Use a walking foot to help feed the layers evenly.

Begin with the longest central vertical and horizontal seams. Then quilt the remaining rows.

Another option is to quilt diagonally through the centers of the squares.

Keep the quilting simple so that the checkerboard remains visually different from the densely quilted black background.

Squaring the Quilted Project

After quilting is complete, place the quilt on a large cutting mat.

Use a long acrylic ruler to trim away the excess backing and batting.

Square one corner first.

Trim one long side.

Use that edge as a reference for trimming the opposite side.

Trim the top and bottom edges.

The final quilt should measure approximately 24 inches × 30 inches.

Small variations are acceptable as long as the quilt is square and the edges are straight.

Check that no appliqué or important design element will be hidden by the binding.

Cutting the Binding

Cut binding strips 2½ inches wide, or approximately 6.5 cm wide.

Cut enough strips to go around the entire quilt, plus at least 10 extra inches for joining the ends.

The quilt perimeter is approximately:

$24 + 30 + 24 + 30 = 108$ inches

Prepare at least 118 to 125 inches of continuous binding.

Join the binding strips with diagonal seams.

Place two strips right sides together at a 90-degree angle.

Sew diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner.

Trim the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Press the seams open.

Repeat until all strips form one continuous length.

Fold the entire strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.

Press carefully.

This creates double-fold quilt binding.

Attaching the Binding

Begin along one side of the quilt, several inches away from a corner.

Leave an unsewn binding tail approximately 8 inches long.

Align the raw edges of the folded binding with the raw edge of the quilt front.

Sew the binding to the front with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance.

Stop $\frac{1}{4}$ inch before the first corner.

Backstitch and cut the thread.

Fold the binding upward at a 45-degree angle.

Fold it back down so that the fold aligns with the top edge of the quilt and the raw edges align with the next side.

Begin sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the corner.

Repeat this process at all four corners.

Stop sewing approximately 10 to 12 inches before reaching the starting point.

Join the binding ends with a diagonal seam or a straight seam.

Trim the excess.

Finish sewing the binding to the quilt.

Finishing the Binding

Fold the binding over the raw quilt edge toward the back.

The folded edge should cover the machine-stitching line.

Create neat mitered corners.

Hand-stitch the binding to the back using a blind stitch or ladder stitch.

For a machine-finished binding, fold the binding to the back and secure it with clips.

Stitch from the front close to the binding seam, making sure the stitching catches the folded edge on the back.

Inspect the entire binding.

Repair any missed sections.

Press the binding lightly without flattening the quilt texture.

Adding a Hanging Sleeve

Because this project is designed like a wall quilt, consider adding a hanging sleeve.

Cut a fabric rectangle approximately:

8½ inches high × 23 inches wide

Adjust the width so that the finished sleeve is about 1 inch shorter than the quilt width.

Hem both short ends.

Fold the strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.

Sew the long raw edges together with a ¼-inch seam.

Press the seam open and center it against the back of the sleeve.

Create a small pleat to provide room for the hanging rod.

Hand-stitch the upper and lower edges of the sleeve to the quilt back.

Do not stitch through to the front of the quilt.

Adding a Quilt Label

Create a label that includes:

The name Spiral Butterfly Quilt

The maker's name

The year completed

The city or state

A short personal message, optional

Fuse or hand-stitch the label to the lower back corner.

Secure all four edges.

A label documents the history of the quilt and gives the finished work a professional appearance.

Key Sewing and Quilting Methods

Use a consistent ¼-inch seam allowance throughout the patchwork construction.

Press the checkerboard seams in alternating directions so that the intersections nest.

Use foundation paper piecing for the curved spiral.

Use lightweight fusible web for the butterfly appliqué.

Use free-motion quilting for the swirls and background texture.

Use stitch-in-the-ditch quilting where subtle stabilization is needed.

Square the quilt only after all quilting is complete.

Finish the edges with double-fold binding.

Troubleshooting the Spiral

If a strip does not cover its entire foundation section, remove the seam before trimming and reposition the strip.

If the spiral becomes wavy, reduce the amount of pulling during pressing. Use a seam roller instead of stretching the fabric with an iron.

If the center becomes bulky, use lightweight quilting cotton and trim every seam allowance accurately.

If the paper is difficult to remove, shorten the stitch length slightly.

If the outer edge is uneven, preserve extra fabric around the foundation and trim only after the complete spiral has been assembled.

Troubleshooting the Checkerboard

If the corners do not match, check the accuracy of the ¼-inch seam allowance.

Press each row in alternating directions before joining the rows.

Pin directly through the seam intersections.

If the checkerboard is smaller than expected, the seam allowance may be too wide.

If it is larger than expected, the seam allowance may be too narrow.

Do not stretch the rows while pressing.

Troubleshooting the Butterfly Appliqué

If the appliqué edges begin to fray, reduce the zigzag stitch length or increase the width slightly.

If the fusible web separates, press again using the correct temperature and time recommended by the manufacturer.

If the wings look uneven, position the body last. The body can cover small differences where the wings meet.

If the machine skips stitches, use a new sharp needle and slow the sewing speed.

If the appliqué is stiff, choose a lightweight fusible web instead of a heavy permanent adhesive.

Final Quality Check

Before displaying the quilt, check the following:

The quilt measures approximately 24 inches × 30 inches.

The quilt hangs straight.

The checkerboard seams are secure.

The spiral lies flat.

All foundation paper has been removed.

The appliqué edges are completely stitched.

The quilting is evenly distributed.

No safety pins remain inside the quilt.

The binding is secure on the front and back.

The corners are neatly mitered.

Loose threads have been trimmed.

The label and hanging sleeve are firmly attached.

Care Instructions

Display the quilt away from direct sunlight to reduce fabric fading.

Remove dust periodically with a soft lint roller or a vacuum cleaner covered with a clean screen.

When washing is necessary, use cool water, a gentle cycle, and mild detergent.

Place the quilt in a mesh laundry bag for additional protection.

Air-dry the quilt flat or tumble-dry briefly on low heat.

Do not use bleach.

Store the quilt rolled or loosely folded. Refold it occasionally to prevent permanent creases.

Conclusion

The Spiral Butterfly Quilt is a beautiful combination of traditional patchwork, curved foundation paper piecing, fusible appliqué, and decorative free-motion quilting. The checkerboard creates structure, the colorful spiral gives the design movement, and the appliqué butterfly becomes the central artistic feature.

Work carefully through one section at a time. Complete the checkerboard first, construct the spiral in numerical order, assemble and square the background, and then add the butterfly. Once the quilt sandwich is prepared, use different quilting textures to separate and emphasize each design area.

The result is a dramatic 24-inch × 30-inch wall quilt filled with color, movement, floral details, and handmade character.



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