

# Quilting Snowball Blocks

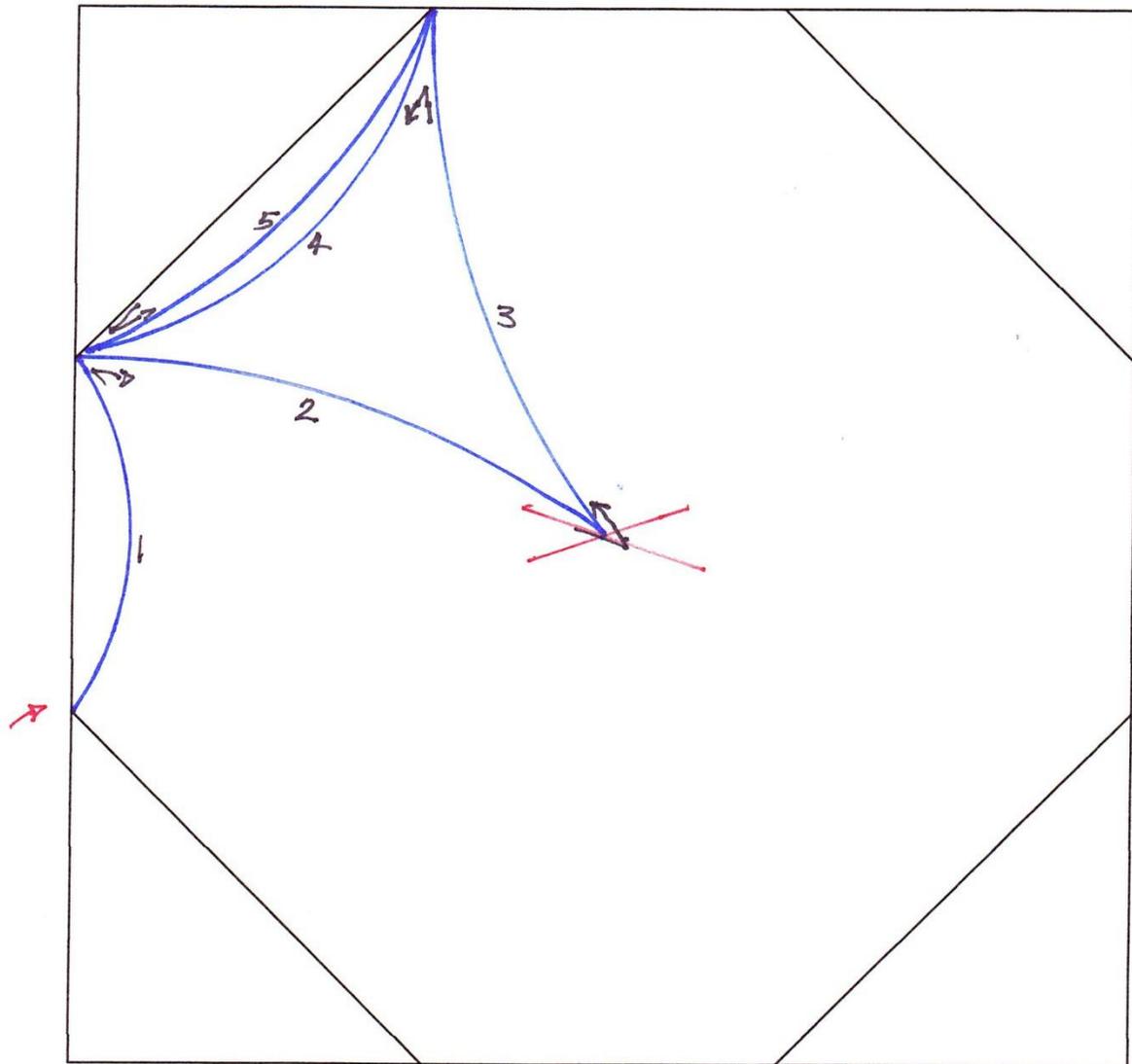
By Vicki Welsh

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This tutorial is another in a series of simple quilting approaches for beginner longarm quilters. Quilting snowball blocks, kaleidoscope blocks or other “circle-in-a-square” type blocks can be challenging because it seems that you need to quilt each block separately. That creates a lot of starts and stops. This tutorial will give you a path for quilting and show you how I quilted one snowball quilt. Once you understand the path you will be able to easily customize your own designs to quilt these quilts quickly and easily but also with a nice design effect.



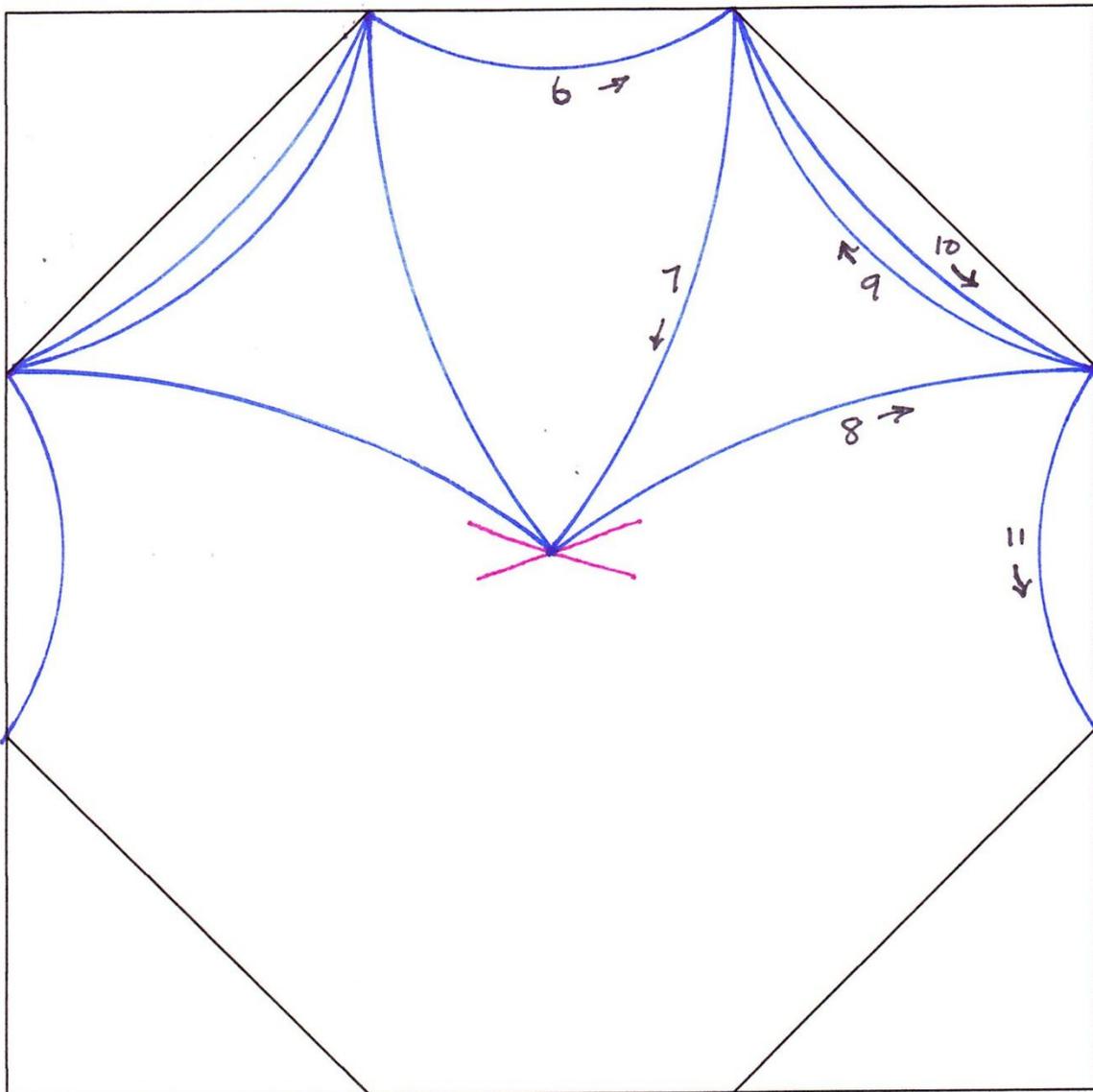
Here's how it looks from the front of the quilt. Let's walk through how it's quilted.



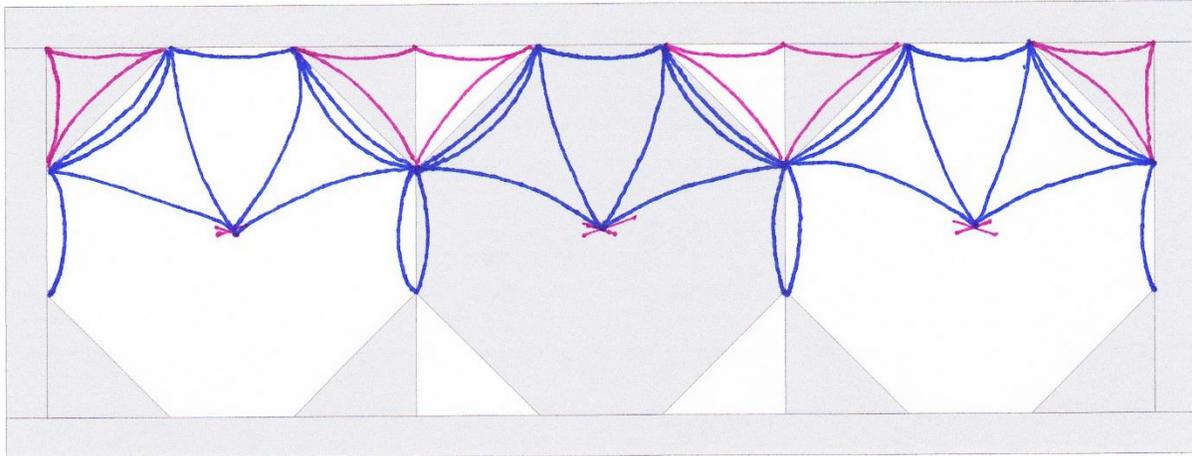
The first step is to find the center of each block in the row you are quilting. I use a purple air erasable pen or chalk with a ruler to draw an "X" from side corner to side corner.

This diagram shows the basic path for a quarter of the block. For a new quilter this quilting plan gives you several skills to build upon: practicing starting and stopping in corners and meeting lines in the center. You can stitch this free motion or use this as an opportunity to practice ruler work.

Starting on the left side of the block at the bottom of the side follow the numbered lines for the path.

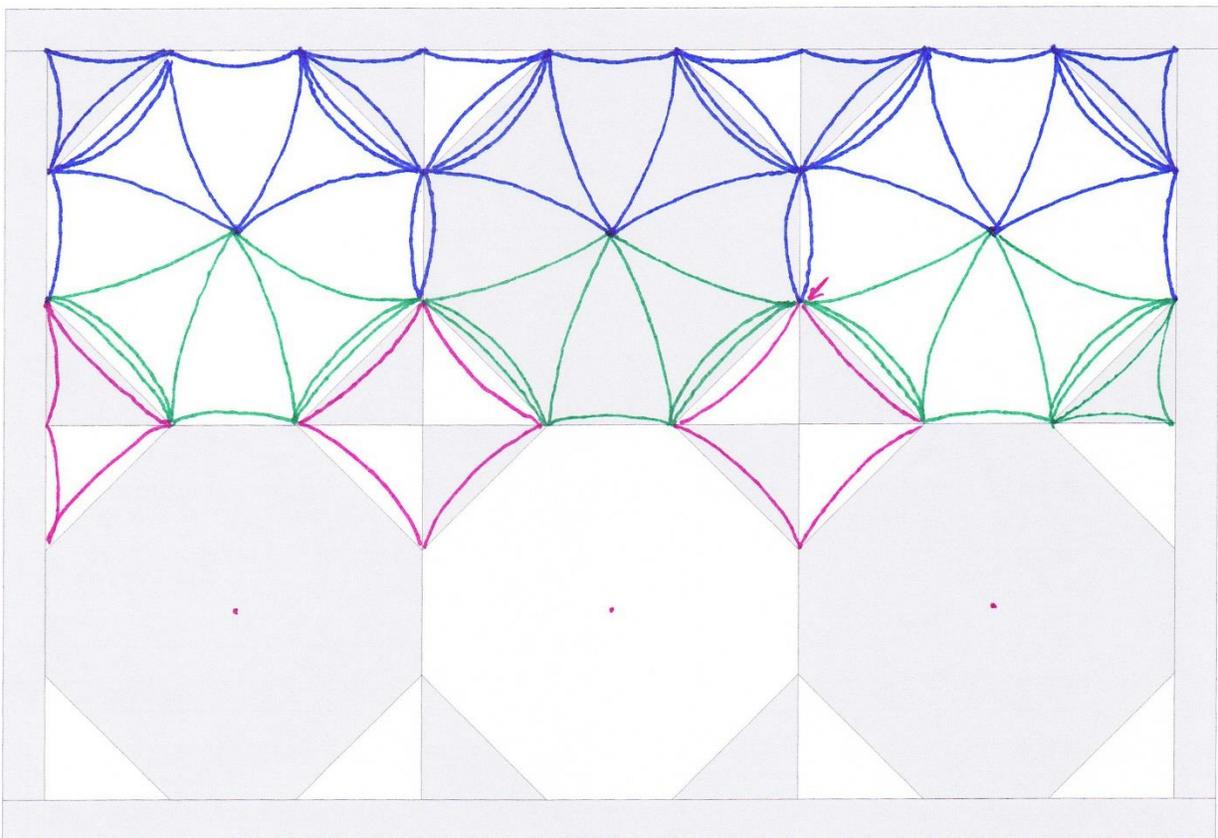


Finish out the top half of the block stitching to the bottom of the right side. This is the secret of making the block continuous quilting across the row. On the first pass you only quilt the top half of the block. Then you travel to the next block.



This is how the row looks. My quilt did not have borders so I quilted the edge triangles (in pink) off the edge. But if your quilt has a border stop at the top of each side and quilt the triangle sections.

Now that the row is done you finish off the blocks quilting right to left. Each row of blocks takes 2 passes but it keeps you from having to have multiple starts and stops.



Coming back across (green) finish the block. As you get to the bottom of each side (pink arrow in the right block) quilt the diamond section.



Here's how it looks from the back. I think it's a very cool effect and makes this simple block look really special.

There are dozens of changes that you could make to this patch for a different look. You can change the curve of the lines to the center, you could skip the double lines at the bottom of each triangle, you can add loops to some of the lines.....there are endless possibilities.

The next page is a practice page you can photocopy to work out your own designs.

