

Sea Glass Ledger

Curved pools of glass and foam stitched along the waterline



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1. Finished size

- **Quilt top finished size:** 64 in × 82 in (after quilting and binding)
- **Layout:** 8 rows × 6 columns of drunkard's-path "tide pools" arranged in a drifting grid
- **Tide-pool block size (finished):** 8 in × 10 in (uneven curves create the ledger effect)
- **Overall design:** Deep cobalt/teal pools with foam-white highlights; narrow striped sashing frames each pool; small amber and sea-glass-green shard appliqués sit inside each curved pool

2. Materials and yardage

Yardage assumes usable fabric width of 40–42 in and standard quilting cotton. Choose fabrics with a crisp hand for clean curves.

Fabric type	Use	Yardage (approx.)	Notes
Main ground	Pale sand-toned background	3 1/2 yd	Use for foundation triangles and sashing/edges
Pool fabrics (deep cobalt/teal)	Drunkard's-path curved pieces	3 yd total	Split among 2–3 colors; include some foam white for contrast
Foam white accent	Highlights within pools	3/4 yd	May be combined with one of the teal fabrics if preferred
Striped sashing	Narrow striped framing	1 1/4 yd	Pick a stripe that reads “waterline” when stitched horizontally/vertically
Appliqué shards	Amber + sea-glass green	1/2 yd each (2 fabrics)	Scraps are fine; pieces are small
Backing	Back of quilt	6 3/4 yd	Pieced backing recommended; target at least 72 × 86 in
Batting	Mid-layer	Size: 70 × 86 in	50/50 cotton/poly or 100% cotton
Binding	Finish edges	1/2–5/8 yd	Use a stripe repeat if desired, or solid pale sand-tone
Thread	Piecing + quilting + appliqué	As needed	Use matching thread in pool fabrics; neutral for background

Appliqué method: Optional. You may use raw-edge machine appliqué or turn-under hand appliqué. This pattern is written for *turned edges* stitched by hand or machine satin stitch.

3. Cutting

This quilt uses a total of **48 tide-pool blocks** (8 × 6). Each block is assembled from **two curved “cups”** (drunkard's-path style) that together form the uneven waterline pool.

Block components (per tide-pool block)

- **Background (sand):** 2 × (cut circles) equivalents for curved halves + corner setting foundation pieces

- **Pool fabrics:** 2 × curved halves (choose colors per pool)
- **Appliqué shard inserts:** 2–3 small shard shapes
- **Striped sashing framing:** Use strips to build the ledger grid

To keep cutting practical, use the **circle template method** below.

Circle template method (recommended)

- Use a reusable template or draw circles of **radius 3 in** (finished curve radius of ~2.5 in after seam allowances).
- Cut each circle into 1/2 sections (a “drunkard’s-path quarter” approach varies by template). For consistency, cut **half-circles** and mirror as needed.
- **Plan for seams:** Use a **1/4 in** seam allowance for curved seams.

If you already have a drunkard’s-path ruler/template: substitute its sizes, keeping the **finished block** at 8 × 10 inches.

Specific yardage-to-cuts (practical totals)

Curves:

- **Per pool block:** 2 curved units.
- **Total curved units:** 48 blocks × 2 = **96 curved units**.
- **For each curved unit:** you need 1 background half + 1 pool half.
- **Total half-circles:** 96 pool halves + 96 background halves = **192 half-circles** (plus 10% extra for trimming).

Tip: Cut an extra 20–25 half-circles from scrap for testing fit before committing yardage.

Striped sashing:

- Cut **striped sashing strips** width: **1 1/2 in finished** → cut **2 1/2 in** wide for seam allowance.
- **Length:** cut enough to frame a grid of 8 rows × 6 columns.
- **Total sashing strips:**
 - Horizontal: (6 columns + 1) × 8 row boundaries = 7 × 8 = 56 strips; trim to **6 1/2 in** each (after piecing seam overlap).
 - Vertical: (8 rows + 1) × 5 column boundaries = 9 × 5 = 45 strips; trim to **8 1/2 in** each.

Because stripes can shift visually, cut a few “test” pieces and confirm orientation before cutting the full batch.

Binding:

- Cut **7 strips** of **2 1/2 in** width across the binding fabric (pieced as needed) to create ~**340 in** of binding length.
- Bind both short and long edges using a standard mitered/stitched seam.

Appliqué shards:

- Create a small template: shard size ~**1 1/2 in** long by **3/4 in** average width, varying sizes.
- **Per block:** 2–3 shards.
- **Total shards:** ~48 blocks × 2.5 ≈ **120 shards**.
- Cut 130–140 pieces to allow placement variety.

4. Piecing / block construction

Each tide-pool block contains two curved units and an appliqué placement inside the “pool” area. Assembly is written in a way that supports hand-pieced/curve-accurate seams, but you can also machine sew.

A. Prepare curved units (drunkard’s-path cups)

1. **Cut** one half-circle from the background (sand) and one matching half-circle from pool fabric (deep cobalt/teal/foam white).
2. **Right sides together**, align the curved edges.
3. **Stitch** the curve using a **1/4 in** seam allowance. Go slowly; use pins or clips near the seam.
4. **Press** seam allowances toward the pool fabric.
5. **Trim** to template lines so the finished curved piece fits the 8 × 10 block geometry.

B. Create the tide-pool block (8 × 10 in finished)

1. **Lay out** the block: two curved units paired vertically (or horizontally depending on your chosen orientation) to create an uneven pool. Keep pool colors varied across blocks for a natural waterline.
2. **Stitch** the two curved units together along their straight seam edges (or as your template specifies). Press seams.
3. **Add background corner pieces** (if your template requires filler to reach 8 × 10 inches). Press carefully.

Placement reference: The pool “ledger” look comes from irregular curve edges meeting the striped sashing. If a curve doesn’t meet squarely, true the block rather than

forcing sashing to fit.

C. Appliqué shards inside each pool

1. On the top surface of each block, lightly mark the approximate shard placement inside the pool curve (centered, slightly offset to one side for movement).
2. **Position** 2–3 shards: mix amber and sea-glass green. Stagger them so the eye travels along the curve.
3. **Fuse or baste** if using a stabilizer for turned-edge appliqué.
4. **Turn under edges** (about 1/4 in) and stitch using invisible hand stitches or machine edge/satin stitch.
5. After stitching, lightly press from the back.

Thread choice: For appliqué, use a thread close to the shard fabric color (amber ~ topstitch gold; green ~ sea-glass green). For extra ledger sparkle, you can use a slightly darker thread for definition.

5. Quilt top assembly

Assembly is a grid: tide-pool blocks separated by narrow striped sashing and finished with outer borders only if desired. This pattern uses a clean edge by continuing sashing framing to the outside.

A. Plan the layout

- Create a floor layout with **6 columns** and **8 rows**.
- Alternate pool fabrics: avoid repeating the same color combination in adjacent blocks.
- Keep stripes consistent by aligning strip direction across the quilt.

B. Sew sashing rows

1. For each row, stitch blocks to horizontal sashing strips: block → sashing → block → sashing ... until all 6 blocks are connected.
2. Press seams in the same direction for each row (for easy nesting).
3. Repeat for all 8 rows.

C. Join rows with vertical sashing

1. Align each row with the next, placing vertical sashing between them.
2. Stitch row-to-row, maintaining stripe alignment.
3. Press overall quilt top flat.

Block accuracy check: Measure across the top after every 2 rows. If the quilt grows or shrinks, correct by trimming blocks (not sashing) before continuing.

6. Basting, quilting and binding

A. Basting

1. Press the quilt top; square corners.
2. Layer: backing (right side down) → batting → quilt top (right side up).
3. Baste with safety pins or spray baste. For busy curves, pin generously along the pool curves and sashing intersections.

B. Quilting design (matching every curve)

Overall idea: Quilting follows each pool curve with matching thread and adds a few outward ripple lines that echo the tide.

- **Thread:** Match to the pool fabric in that area; use a neutral for the sand ground.
- **Needle:** 80/12 or 90/14 quilting needle.
- **Stitch length:** 2.0–2.5 mm (balanced for curve following).

C. Quilting steps

1. **Mark** the main pool curves lightly with water-erasable marker or chalk.
2. Quilt **inside each tide pool**: stitch a line that tracks the curve boundary (close enough to define, not so close that it distorts the piecing).
3. Add **ripple lines** on the surrounding sand/around ledger edges:
 - Choose 2–3 ripples per block area (not every space). Keep them spaced like widening rings.
 - Angle ripples to flow away from the pool curve.
4. **Echo outward**: For every 2 blocks, include one extended ripple that crosses the sashing area, then stops cleanly.
5. Finish by quilting the background between pools with light stipple or short parallel waves if desired.

D. Binding

1. Join binding strips into one continuous length (45° seams).
2. Press binding in half lengthwise.
3. Sew binding to the quilt front using a 1/4 in seam; miter corners.
4. Flip to back; hand-stitch or machine-stitch in the binding channel.
5. Press gently to set corners and relax ripples.

7. Finishing notes

- **Final trim:** After quilting, trim any backing/batting excess so quilt top edges are square and binding covers evenly.
- **Pressing strategy:** Press seams on the quilt top before basting; after quilting, press from the back using a dry iron for crisp definition.
- **Handling thick areas:** If multiple fabric layers gather at curve intersections, keep quilting lines consistent and avoid pushing the needle through overly bulky stacks.
- **Color rhythm:** Aim for a “ledger” cadence—don’t cluster all deep cobalt together. Let foam white pop like sunlit water.
- **Customization:** If you prefer a larger quilt, add more rows and columns while keeping the tide-pool block size constant.

Suggested workflow: Test one curved unit + one full block (including appliqué). Confirm finished block measurement before cutting all remaining curves and sashing.