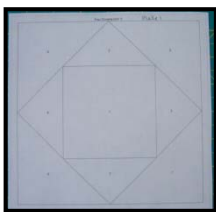


How to Paper Piece



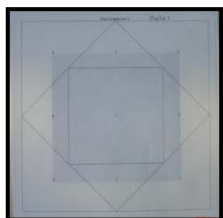
The lines and numbers are printed on the front of the pattern. This is the side to sew on.

The back of the pattern is the blank side. This is where the fabric will be placed.

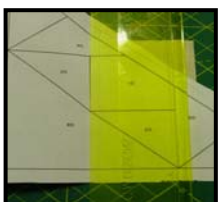
Trim around the outside edge of each pattern leaving 1/8" to 1/4". Do not trim on the line.



Place pattern with line side down on a white sheet of paper (this will help see the lines). Trust me you will be able to see the lines. Place a small piece of double-sided tape or glue stick in the center of the number 1 piece on the back side of pattern. Place fabric right side up on the back side of the pattern.



Always make sure the piece of fabric you are using is at least 1/4" larger all the way around the foundation pattern.



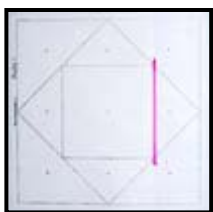
Place Add-A-Quarter Plus (tapered side down) or template plastic on the sewing line between piece number 1 and piece number 2. Fold back the foundation pattern over the edge of the template plastic.



Place the Add-A-Quarter Plus ruler up against the fold of the foundation paper with the lip side down. Use the rotary cutter to trim the extra fabric from piece number 1. You will now have a straight line to help you place fabric piece number 2.



Next, place position number 2 fabric of the pattern on the trimmed edge of piece number 1 with the right sides together. It might be helpful to place the pattern back on the white piece of paper to see lines.



Set stitch length to 18 to 20 stitches per inch on your machine. Turn the foundation paper over and stitch on the line between piece number 1 and piece number 2. Sew a few stitches before the line begins and a few stitches after the line ends. Make sure piece number 2 does not slip. Press using a dry iron. Do not use steam at this time because it will make the paper curl.

Continue sewing each piece in place in the numeric order given until all the pieces are sewn in place and the units are complete.



After all the pieces are sewn onto the foundation, you will be ready to trim the edges. Line up the ruler with the solid line on the foundation. You will need a 1/4" seam allowance for cotton and miniatures and a 3/8" seam allowance for flannel around the entire block. **Never trim on the solid line!** Trim off the excess fabric using your rotary cutter.

If you are paper piecing a block that is made up of multiple units, the time has come to sew them together. If you have points that need to match, carefully push a positioning pin straight through the top layer of your pattern, then match the bottom layer and push straight through. Leaving the positioning pin in place, pin on both sides.

Do not twist the positioning pin to pin; this will distort your points. Pin the rest of the seam like normal. Pull pins out of the seam line just before the needle reaches them, this will also help decrease distortion.

When the block is finished, do not remove the paper! It is best to join the blocks before you remove the paper. This gives you a line to follow when you sew the blocks together and the paper helps keep the integrity of the block because, when paper piecing, you are not placing your fabric on the straight of grain. Remove the paper after the blocks are sewn together. You might want to remove the really small pieces with a pair of tweezers.

A few suggestions:

After you have sewn two units together and pressed, remove the paper from the back side of the seam allowance. This will reduce some of the bulk and make it easier to remove all the paper.

If you must remove your stitches and the paper foundation separates on the sewing line, use a piece of clear tape to repair the pattern.

Sometimes you will notice the stitches from the previously sewn fabric when you fold back the foundation. If this happens, just pull the foundation away from the fabric and trim using the ruler.

To help speed up your paper piecing, place all of your position 1 pieces on multiple units at the same time. Trim and sew multiple units at the same time. Some pieces you may even chain piece.

Pressing suggestions:

Pressing is an important part of paper piecing and done correctly will help to insure a more satisfactory quilt.

Use hot dry iron for sewing the fabric to the pattern but use steam when pressing the units after sewing together. At this point the steam will "relax" the paper.

Place a piece of muslin on your ironing board to protect it from ink that may come off when pressing.

Always press with the paper side down on your ironing board. If you press on the paper side ink will be transferred to the iron and then onto your fabric leaving black smudges.