

English Paper Piecing Basics

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Introduction

In these instructions we are going to describe how to use the hexagon precut paper shapes to make a Grandmother's Flower.

Cutting the fabric

For hexagon-shaped fabric: Cut a piece of plastic or cardboard to create a cutting template that has a generous 1/4" seam allowance added to the size of the paper piece. Use the template to trace around for cutting out your fabric hexagons. See Figure 1.

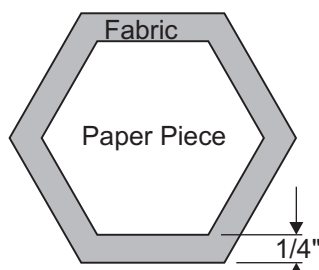


Figure 1
Hexagon Fabric

For square-shaped fabric: Cut your fabric into a square so that there is at least 1/4" all around, as indicated in Figure 2.

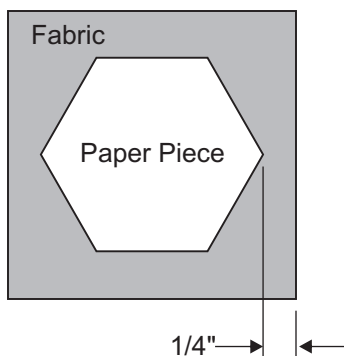


Figure 2
Square Fabric

Basting the Shape

For these instructions, we will use the hexagon-shaped fabric. Center a paper piece hexagon on the back of the fabric hexagon, as shown in Figure 1.

Take one edge of the Fabric and wrap it around the paper piece. Use tape to hold the fabric in place, as shown in Figure 3.

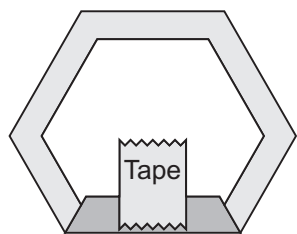


Figure 3

Wrap the opposite edge of fabric over the paper piece, as shown in Figure 4. Hold the fabric with your fingers.

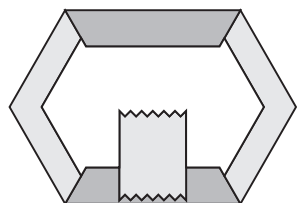


Figure 4

Wrap the next edge of fabric over the paper piece and make a whip stitch to gather the corner, as shown in Figure 5. Make sure you do not sew the fabric to the paper piece. (When working with pieces that have edges that are 2" long or longer, you will need to make a stitch into the paper piece along the edges. This helps keep the nice crisp edge.)

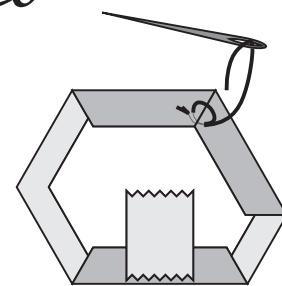


Figure 5

Work your way around the hexagon until all 6 corners are gathered. Remove the tape when you get to that edge. The back of the hexagon should look like Figure 6.

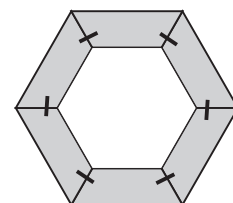


Figure 6

Whipstitching

Take 2 basted hexagons and lay the right sides together. Whipstitch along one edge of the hexagons as shown in Figure 7. After unfolding, the back of the hexagons should look like Figure 8.

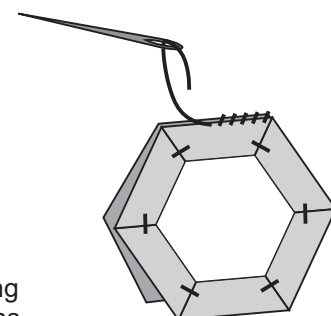


Figure 7

Once you have sewn hexagons to all the edges on one hexagon, you can pop the center paper piece out and reuse it. (If you have basted to the paper piece, you must clip your basting thread before popping the paper piece.)

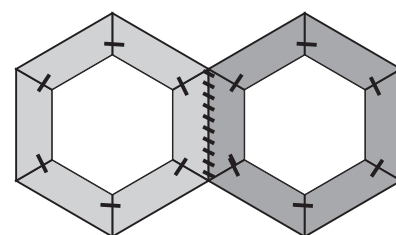


Figure 8

Figure 9 shows the back of a single row flower. The center paper piece has already been removed.

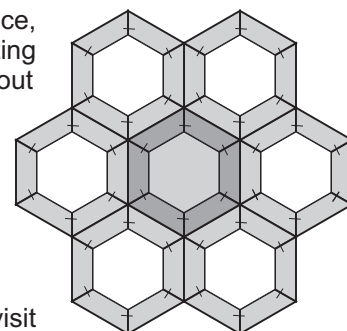


Figure 9

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