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PAPER PIECING INSTRUCTIONS

Paper piecing is a method of constructing a block by sewing pieces of fabric to a paper pattern in numerical order. Starting with the number 1 piece, cut a piece of fabric large enough to cover the number 1 area and overlap each edge by at least ¼". This can be a large rectangle. This piece of fabric is placed, right side up, on the blank side of the paper pattern, in a position where it will completely cover the number 1 area and overlap each edge by at least ¼". Check the position by holding the pattern and fabric up to a light with the printed side of the pattern facing you. Pin in place. Lay the foundation unit (paper and fabric), paper side up on a cutting mat. Using an index card or other lightweight piece of cardboard with a straight edge, place the index card on top of the line between areas 1 and 2 and fold the paper back over the index card, leaving the fabric exposed on the mat.

Place the ¼" mark of your rotary ruler or the edge of an Add-A-Quarter Ruler(T) on the fold of the paper and trim the exposed fabric to ¼".

Turn the foundation unit over. The second piece of fabric, cut large enough to fill the entire number 2 area and overlap the edges by at least ¼", is placed on top of the first piece of fabric, right sides together, matching an edge of the second piece with the cut edge of the first piece. Pin if necessary.

Flip the foundation unit over and sew directly on the line between areas 1 and 2, beginning ¼" before the start of the line and ending ¼" beyond the end of the line, using a shortened stitch length of 13-15 stitches per inch. Press each piece of fabric open as it is added.

Continue in this manner, adding pieces in numerical order, until the section is complete.

After each section is finished, increase the stitch length and baste any large loose pieces of fabric to the paper foundation in the seam allowance (the space between the solid black line and the dotted line).

After basting, place the foundation and fabric unit, paper side up, on the cutting mat. Place the ¼" mark of your rotary ruler on the solid black line on the outside of the pattern and trim excess paper and fabric away. Do this on each edge.

ASSEMBLING UNITS INTO BLOCKS

Lay out the pieces to be assembled as if you were assembling a puzzle, fabric side up.

When assembling smaller units into blocks or assembling blocks into a finished quilt top, the units are placed right sides together.

Points where the pieces need to match are marked with a dot on the MATCHING POINTS DIAGRAM.

Push a pin directly through the center of one of the intersections on one unit, turn the two units over and bring the pin point up through the center of the intersection on the other unit.

There will be at least two matching points on each unit. Push another pin through the matching points in the same manner as the first.

Hold the two units together tightly so that the two pins in the matching points are positioned perpendicular to the surface of the paper, lining up the edges of the units as much as possible.

Take two more pins and pin the two units together close to the matching points. You can remove the first two pins and continue in this manner pinning the units together at the remaining matching points.

Sew on the solid line 1/4" away from the edge of the paper, from end to end.

After sewing the seam, remove paper in seam allowance on underside of seam. The underside is determined by the direction in which the fabric folds easiest.

After the block is complete, carefully remove all of the paper.