

Paper Panache How To PAPER PIECE

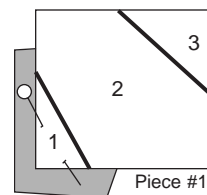
Use neutral thread, a stitch length around 14 stitches per inch, and a dry iron. **As you add each piece of fabric in numbered order, always remember to leave approximately 1/4" more fabric (the seam allowance) in every direction beyond the area you are covering.** Chain-sew as you piece, putting a different section under the presser foot and sewing another seam before snipping the thread and removing the first section.

TIP: BEFORE cutting pattern apart, make any additional marks regarding your fabric or color choices on the pattern.

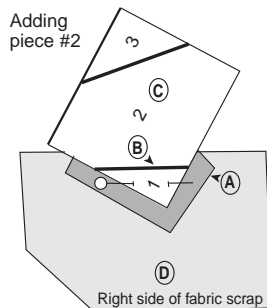
PAPER PIECING:

Cut pattern apart on the heavy lines. Each part is a "section," and these sections will be covered with fabric and then sewn back together with regular seams.

1 Take a section and turn it printed-side up. Pin the first piece of fabric beneath, wrong side against paper. The fabric should extend beyond the pattern as shown, creating the seam allowance. Hold the pattern with fabric up to a light and check that the area is adequately covered.



Note: All fabric added after piece #1 will be placed right side against paper before sewing.

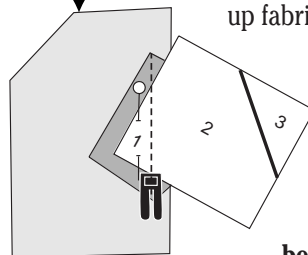


2 Stay oriented by following a set routine when adding each new piece of fabric:

Turn the pattern so that the last piece added (A) is on the bottom, the next seam to be sewn (B) is horizontal in the middle, and the area to be covered (C) is above the seam line. Place the new fabric (D) right side up under the pattern, with the top edge aligned with the seam allowance of the previous piece. If

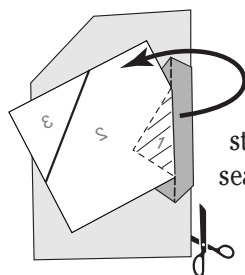
you wish to check coverage, you can fold the pattern down on the seam line OR pin on the seam line and flip up fabric. (See "Butterfly Trick" on reverse.)

TIP: See the BUTTERFLY TRICK for help covering area with fabric.



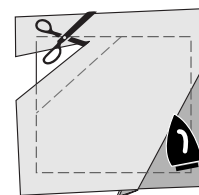
3 Holding everything together with your fingers, turn the fabric and paper so it will slide under the presser foot, and sew seam. **Begin to sew several stitches before the beginning of the line and end with several stitches past the end of the line.**

Backstitching is not necessary.



4 Fold pattern away from seam allowance and trim. Sometimes you may have to peel the paper away from some starting and stopping stitches to free the seam allowance for trimming. Press the seam line before opening.

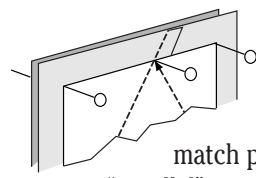
5 On right side, open the fabric and gently press the seam flat. Trim away excess fabric, remembering to leave at least 1/4" in all directions beyond area covered. Repeat steps 2-5, applying fabric in numbered order until the section is covered. Do this for all sections.



Piece #2 added

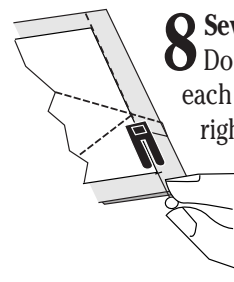
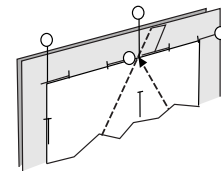
JOINING SECTIONS:

Steps 6-8 tell how to pin and sew along the edges of the paper (or using pattern lines you've drawn, as in the tip below). Be sure to consult the piecing order for your pattern.

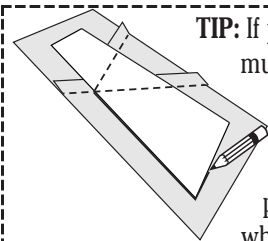


6 Bring two sections right sides together for pinning. When possible, keep the section with the most seams on top, facing you, and the section with fewer seams on the bottom. Pin through fabric at each end of the seam line and through any match points (where arrowheads meet). Adjust sections until the pins are "parallel" to each other as shown at left. This helps ensure that seam lines line up properly.

7 Secure pins horizontally along the front and back paper edges as shown, EXCEPT for the leftmost pin and any match points, which are secured vertically. Use as many pins as necessary, head to tail, to pin the entire seam along the paper.



8 Sew slowly from edge to edge immediately next to the paper pattern. Do not pull the pins out early—as the needle gets to the sharp end of each pin, hold the head of that pin up lightly and the fabric will feed right off the pin as you sew, helping to keep the seam exactly as you have pinned it. After sewing, trim seam to 1/4". Check both sides and free any tiny paper edges that may be caught in the seam, and press the stitching before opening. Open the sections and press from the front, spreading the seam gently and allowing the seam allowance underneath to go to the side it wishes. If it does not go to either side easily, gently press the seam open on the wrong side.



TIP: If pinning sections is difficult because the fabric flops around too much, turn the section paper side up. Use a sharp pencil (mechanical preferred) and carefully draw around the edge of the pattern, transferring the pattern shape to the back of the fabric. You may remove the paper if it won't be needed for matching points or squaring up later. Use the pencil line as your guide when pinning and sewing sections together.

In some cases, such as when adding borders or sewing other long straight seams, trim the seam allowances involved to exactly 1/4" using a rotary cutter; then pin and sew using a 1/4" seam on your machine.

SQUARE IT UP:

9 Place the finished block wrong side up on a gridded cutting mat. Take a look at the paper pattern and decide which side has the straightest edge with the fewest seams; trim the seam allowance on that side to 1/4". From this trimmed edge, measure across the correct distance for the finished size plus 1/2" total seam allowance, and trim the opposite side parallel, disregarding paper. (Use the mat grid to keep things square.) Trim the last two sides perpendicular to the ones already trimmed, remembering to add seam allowances. Remove all paper at this point, if desired. When joining trimmed blocks together, sew a normal 1/4" seam allowance as measured on your machine and ignore remaining paper edges (if any).