

## Basic Paper Piecing Instructions

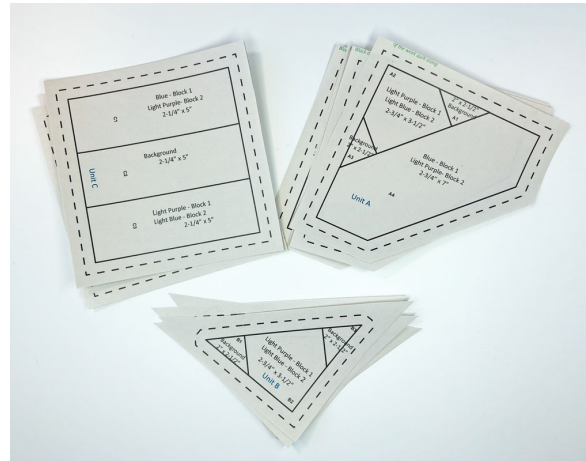
### My favorite paper piecing supplies

paper, fabric, quilting ruler, rotary cutter, Add - a - Quarter Plus ruler (or postcard or index card and regular ruler), glue stick, light box.

**You will sew with the paper on top and the fabric underneath.**

### Step 1

Make a copy of the block- you can copy on a machine with regular copy paper or use special foundation paper. The foundation paper tears a little easier. (I like to use Carol Doak's Foundation Paper.) If using copy paper, buy the lightweight, inexpensive paper. Or you can draw the block onto tracing paper with a ruler and permanent pen.

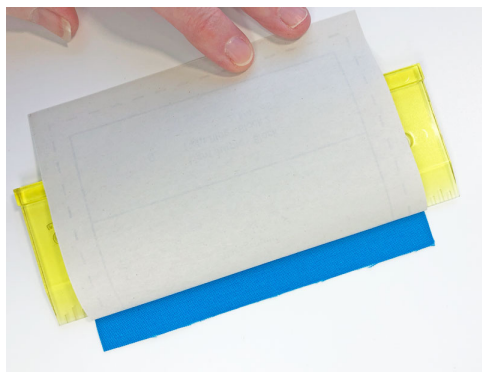


If you make copies, cut out the individual patterns. Don't cut on the final outside cutting line, leave a little extra paper all around. I like to leave at least a 1/4" extra on all sides. *Note: Some patterns give you the outside line to trim; others you have to add the 1/4" seam allowance*

### Step 2

Lay fabric for piece #1 on the wrong side of paper (the side without the lines), right sides up. Using a light box (or hold the paper up to a window) check to see that fabric covers the entire area for the piece #1 with at least 1/4" of fabric past all the seam lines.

You can secure the fabric in place with a pin, or use a glue stick to adhere the fabric temporarily to the paper. I like using the glue stick.

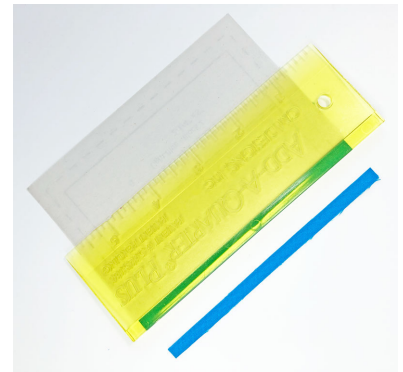


### Step 3

Turn the paper over (the printed side up) and lay the tapered edge of the Add-a-Quarter Plus ruler (or postcard) along the line between pieces 1 and 2. Fold the paper back against the ruler/postcard.

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Using the *Add-a Quarter* ruler (or an acrylic quilting ruler) trim the exposed fabric seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



### Step 4

Turn the block over and line up the piece of fabric for spot #2 right sides together with the cut edge of piece 1.

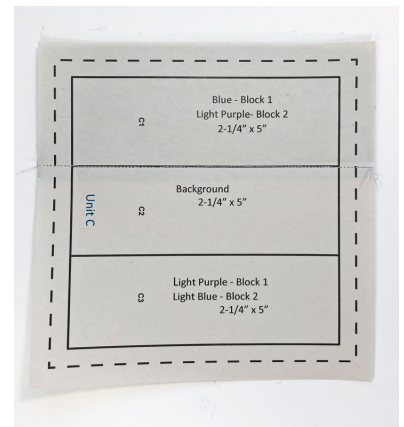
Using your light box (or window), check to make sure piece 2 will cover all of the area of spot #2 including seam allowances (as well as the outside seam allowance if it will be on the edge of the pattern).

Checking to see that the piece will cover the entire area is an important step—better to check than to have to rip out those tiny little stitches!

I check by holding (or pinning) the piece in place, and gently folding along the seam line. Pretty easy to see with straight line pieces; it is those angled pieces you want to watch!

### Step 5

Sew along the line (on the printed side!) between pieces 1 and 2. Use a very small stitch. I like to use a 1.8-2.0 on my machine. Go about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " past the line at the beginning and end. Press to piece 2.



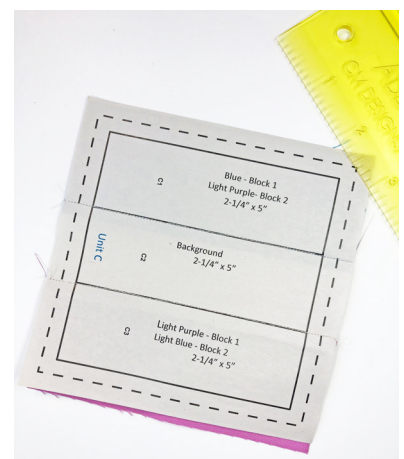
### Step 6

Turn the block over to the printed side and using the Add-a-Quarter Plus ruler, fold the paper back along the line between spot #2 and #3. If you have to tug out a couple of stitches, that is fine. Trim the exposed fabric seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

### Step 7

Turn the block over and line up the fabric piece for spot #3 with the cut edge of the fabric in spot #2 and check placement to make sure it will be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " past all lines; sew on line and press.

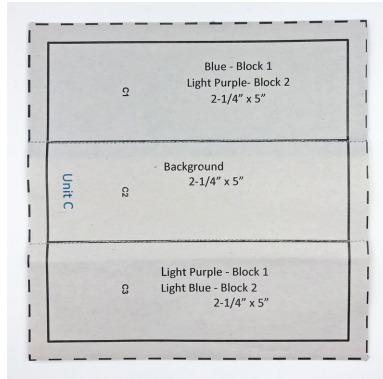
Repeat until all the pieces are added.



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## Step 8

Trim along the outside trim lines.



## Step 9

Gently remove the paper from your block. Sometimes you will want to leave the paper in until you have sewn the various sections together.

Other times, you can remove the paper and then add your paper pieced section to your block.

