



# Penguin Place Studio

Where digital and fabric arts meet.

The level of complexity is not limited ...

## What you will need:

6" add a quarter ruler  
6"x 2" stiff card stock  
Cutting mat  
Rotary cutter  
Glue stick (restickable glue sticks by 3M® work best)  
Paper piecing pattern (included)  
Scraps of fabric

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## Easy Paper Piecing Techniques

The advantages of this method of creating blocks include the ability of developing extremely complex patterns without the use of professional equipment. The level of complexity is not limited by anything other than your patience and imagination. No matter how complex the pattern is, you can always reduce it to a series of simple steps.

Another advantage of paper piecing is that it has high tolerance for sloppiness (in a nice sense) because of the way it works. You have about a quarter of an inch allowance around each and every patch in the block. Even if some part the block came out a bit wrong and does not exactly fit the pattern, you can always adjust it when stitching to the adjacent pieces.

With paper piecing, it's okay if your grain is a bit off in the piece. Because of the paper foundation, your blocks will not be affected as much as with other methods.

With other quilting techniques, it's often frustrating that sometimes your blocks end up not being exactly the same. And because you need to make multiple blocks for a quilt, it might really upset you to notice that little details of the blocks differ. Even if nobody else but you notices that, simply knowing that you have flaws in your creation might make you hate it. I'm sure you know the feeling.

With paper piecing, if you perform all steps properly (which is not hard to do) and stitch exactly on the pattern lines, you'll be able to create as many perfect and identical blocks as you. With other techniques, it's very difficult to achieve the same level of precision. Often times, a quilt created by a beginner using paper piecing looks more professional than a similar quilt created by a seasoned pro using other techniques.

Almost all quilting patterns can be used for paper piecing. There are many block techniques out there (such as appliqué), and there are many patterns designed specifically for such techniques. But almost any one of those patterns can be used for paper piecing. I don't know of any other quilting technique, of which I can say the same thing. If you're just a beginner and don't know many techniques yet, you really should make learning paper piecing your highest priority.

With paper piecing, preparing templates is very easy. We used to have to draw the patterns (or sketch by hand) to make a copy, but now (with computers and the Internet) all we have to do is print as many copies as we need. And because there are plenty of free patterns on line, it would not take you more than a couple of minutes to find a new pattern, download it, and print it out whenever you are looking for a new project.



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Foundations generally consist of paper, muslin or very light weight interfacing.

## Hints

1. Leave paper on the block until all blocks and borders are attached.
2. When sewing two blocks together, first pin the blocks at the ends of the sewing lines. Then match any points that need matching and pin on either side of the point.
3. Use a longer stitch length first. Check to see if points match and the back side was sewn on line. Then re-sew using a smaller stitch line.
4. Using a sharps needle that is size 14 will make larger holes in paper and make it easier for removal later.
5. If using fabric foundation, use spray starch before printing to help stiffen it for easier handling.

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## Easy Paper Piecing Techniques

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With paper piecing, you don't have to worry if the raw edges of your patches don't match perfectly, when you're positioning the pieces of the template. You can always trim them after sewing the block.

Foundation Block Piecing consists of sewing pieces of fabric onto a foundation. Foundations generally consist of paper, muslin or very light weight interfacing. By using freezer paper on the muslin or interfacing it can be fed through a printer or copier to place the pattern image directly onto the cloth foundation. In the newest method explained in the directions given we will be printing our foundation patterns directly on the freezer paper. I also recommend using an "add an eight or add a quarter rulers and 4"x6" cardstock to help trimming methods in this brochure.

Foundation is most often used to piece miniature blocks or blocks that need extremely accurate piecing. It can be used to piece full sized blocks and complicated patterns as well it is a wonderful way of using up scrap fabrics.

When performing foundation paper piecing, remember that the block will be created on the unprinted side, the back, of the foundation paper. Any directional block design must take into account this factor. The grain of the fabric will not effect the block piecing as much as in non paper piecing due to the stability added by the foundation paper. Using freezer paper with this new method will make removing the paper foundation easy.

1. Select a piece of scrap fabric that is at least 1/4" larger than area #1 all the way around. Using glue stick, attach fabric to the blank side of paper so it covers area #1. (Hold paper up to light or window to see where lines are on printed side. Make sure that fabric extends at least 1/4" past lines)

2. Lay paper with printed side up, onto cutting mat. Area #1 should be to the left and area #2 to the right. Place card stock on top with edge along the line between areas 1 and 2. fold paper over card stock to expose fabric underneath. Place add a quarter ruler on top of paper so that lip extends past the edge of paper onto fabric. Using edge of ruler trim away access fabric.

3. Flip paper over to fabric side and select another piece of scrap fabric that is large enough to cover area #2 and extends at least 1/2 inch beyond edges. Place this second fabric so that the edge aligns with edge of first fabric where it was trimmed and right side faces down. You may pin if needed.

4. flip paper over and sew along the line you used to trim (between #1 & #2)

Continue in this manner for each of the next consecutive numbers repeating steps 2 through 4. When all areas are filled trim along **solid line**. The block is now complete. Leave paper attached until all of the blocks and borders are attached.



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## Churn Dash:

This page will make one 6" finished block. Make extra copies as needed.

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