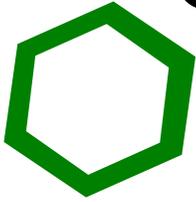


English Paper Piecing



Not just your Grandmother's Flower Garden



English Paper Piecing (EPP) dates back to the 1700's, and is now enjoying a Renaissance due to the ease with which complex patchwork designs may be completed using this simple technique.

How easy is it? If you can do the following, you can EPP:

- ◆ Hand baste
- ◆ Use a glue stick
- ◆ Hand stitch two pieces of fabric together
- ◆ Use a computer printer or shop online

Our goal today is to give you a demonstration of the basic technique and to provide you with a list of resources that will help you get started with EPP.

Our Guild Library has a number of books on the topic, and you can find most of them by doing a search for the category "Shapes."

The New Hexagon by Katja Marek

Six is for Hex by Marti Michell

English Paper Piecing by Vicki Bellino

Millefiori Quilts 1 & 2 by Willyne Hammerstein

Pieced Hexies by Mickey DePre

Garden Party by Dorothy Kinsley Wray

All Points Patchwork by Diane Gilleland

The Patchwork of Lucy Boston by Diane Boston

Getting started with a simple EPP project is easy and does not require any expensive supplies, as you can find free printable sheets of geometric shapes to print on your home printer and cut out. It doesn't get any cheaper than that! Here is a listing of a few online sources for free printable shapes:

<http://www.timvandevall.com/math/free-paper-pattern-block-templates-printable-pattern-block-shapes-pdf/>

<http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/>

<http://www.paperpieces.com/paper-pieces-downloadable-design-sheets.htm>

<http://www.craftsy.com/blog/2016/03/english-paper-piecing-free-patterns/>

<http://moxyideas.com/downloads/>

For those who want to jump in to EPP in a serious way, supplies like acrylic templates for cutting and papers can be found at several online sources. Paper Pieces, LLC, is a great resource for many EPP shapes and templates, especially for those who want to "fussy cut" pieces or attempt one of the more complicated patterns like *Millefiori 1 & 2*.

<http://www.paperpieces.com/>

https://www.ericas.com/quilting/pp_supplies_english.htm

Basic items for sewing EPP:

Cardstock papers

Contrast thread if basting by hand

Glue stick

Needles, pins and thread

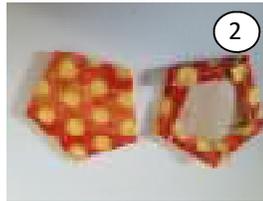


The Basics

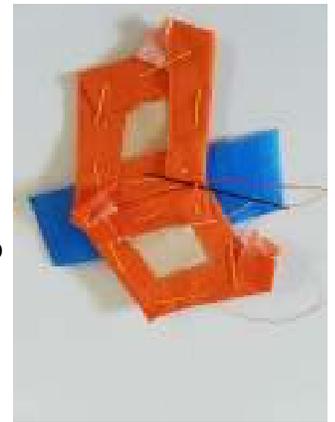
Cut your fabric to the shape of your paper, leaving 3/8" around the edge of the paper. If you have acrylic templates, this seam allowance will be factored in. One advantage to using acrylic templates to cut your fabric is your ability to "Fussy Cut" motifs from the fabric which results in kaleidoscopic effects as seen in *One Block Wonder* quilts. Acrylic templates also allow use of a rotary cutter to cut multiple patches at one time.

There are three methods for securing the papers to the fabric before stitching together.

1. Place the paper template over the fabric, center it, and glue baste one side at a time.
2. Using the same technique, simply dot the glue on each side and baste the corners **through the fabric only**.
3. Baste through the paper and the fabric. This is useful on very sharp angles and/or small pieces as the paper templates are really only good for one use.



Stitching the pieces together is easy, simply place the two pieces right sides together and join with a whip stitch. Another method you may find useful is to place the pieces side-by-side, right side down over a piece of masking tape. You can then use a ladder stitch to join them. I find that using Bottom Line® thread by Superior in a double strand is easy to work with and does not tangle. (Jan A.)



Online Tutorials

<http://enchantedbobbin.blogspot.com/2011/07/no-baste-hexagons.html>

<http://www.therabbitlair.com/shop/English-Paper-Piecing--Anything-Hexie.htm>

<http://www.thezenofmaking.com/2013/06/tutorial-english-paper-piecing-hexies-part-1/>

Have Fun

Jan Westenman and Jan Andrews

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