

THE GRAND QUILT GUILD

Row of the Month 2024 – 2025

Row #3 November 13, 2024 Due January 8, 2025

The third block introduces English Paper Piecing (EPP)

HEXIGON FLOWER

English paper piecing is a method of patchwork where fabric is wrapped around shapes made of thin paper cardboard or heavy paper. Once the shapes are wrapped and ready, the sewer will hand sew the shapes together one at a time until the shapes become an intricate design. The paper or cardboard is removed once the shape has been sewn to another shape on all sides. This is an art for those who like to sew by hand. (Wikipedia)



You will be making a hexagon flower using $\frac{3}{4}$ inch **hexagon paper templates**. Each completed flower will then be applied to the background fabric.

The block will finish at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

It is recommended (by all of the books etc) that the background fabric be cut a bit larger than required and then trimmed down to correct size once the applique has been stitched on.

I have included a page of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch templates to be printed off. **Please when printing use “Actual Size” or 100%.**

Print the templates on **card stock** if you have it, or if not press a sheet of freezer paper to the back of the printed sheet. This will give your templates a bit of body.

Okay, so happy stitching.

REQUIREMENTS:

- fabric and matching thread
- a needle
- small scissors
- glue stick
- ¾ inch paper template (x 7 for each flower – they can be reused)

Background:

Cut BKG fabric 7 inches (to later be trimmed down to 6 ½)

Hexigons:

Cut 7 2" x 2" assorted fabrics for flower

Or 6 2" x 2" assorted fabrics for flower and

1 2" x 2" fabric foe center of flower

Cut out 7 paper templates

ASSEMBLY:

STEP 1 TACK YOUR FABRIC TO THE TEMPLATE

Trim the fabric to about a ¼ inch larger than the template.

These are quite small templates so if you find it tricky to baste the hexies after trimming – don't trim. They will baste up just fine.

Tack the backside of the fabric to the template with a little dab of a glue stick,

Or if you have a paper punch make a hole in the center of the template and pin the fabric to the template'



STEP 2 START BASTING

Knot your thread and fold the fabric over the edge of your hexie template, one edge at a time. Using your fingers, keep the fold in place. Fold the fabric, keeping the corners snug against the template. Take your needle and push it through the fabric layers at the corner, but stop when you get to the paper. Do not pierce the paper but instead, push the needle back up through the fabric, just a few millimeters away. This will catch the fold at the corner and stabilize it.

Press the hexie flat.



If you wish you can stitch right through the paper, but the template can then only be used once

STEP 3 MAKE A FLOWER



Start by joining two hexies right sides together

Align the corners and then whip stitch the two together catching only a few threads of the fabric. Try and not catch any of the template. The templates can be reused,



Move onto the next hexie and again whip stitch along the full length of the hexie and continue until all of them are joined.

Once they are all joined, press the hexies flat, using light spray starch if you wish.

Make sure all of the edges are nice and flat, then you can remove the basting the papers. The basting threads can be removed once applied in place,

Your flower is now ready to applique onto your background square.



STEP 4 APPLIQUE THE FLOWER

Center the flower onto your background square and applique the flower.



Now trim the block to 6 ½ inches' and make some more.

- ✓ Any issues please email me at davidsonmary@rogers.com
- ✓ Due to the Christmas party at the Guild in December and then we zoom, please email your completed rows to Sara Tremblay and we will have them to show at the January zoom meeting
- ✓ sara@tremblaytranslations.com
- ✓ Don't forget the next Row by Row sewing meet is Saturday November 30 at 9:00am and please notify either one of us if you plan to attend
- ✓ Check out Emma Jones embroidery she has some neat hexie patterns

BENEFITS OF ENGLISH PAPER PIECING

- **English Paper Piecing** uses small pieces of fabric, allowing the maker to use leftover fabrics on hand. As it is handwork, once prepared, the pieces can be stitched together in small amounts of time. When used as a "travel project", the maker can take the prepared pieces, needle and thread, and work on the project while away from home.
- Mosaic designs have ancient connections and quilts made from them can be reminiscent of tile floors and other such designs. A variety of quilts are made with *English Paper Piecing*, most familiar is Grandmothers Flower Garden which is made from hexagons. Millefiori quilts use a variety of shapes and fussy-cut fabrics to create their more sophisticated designs.
- Because the fabrics are prepared by being attached to templates, most often made of paper, difficult fabrics can be used, like silk.
- There is no need to draw sewing lines, as the edges of the prepared piece create the seam to be sewn.
- There are a variety of techniques to streamline the cutting and piecing of EPP patterns from reusable templates to printing the shape needed on the back of the fabric.
- Fussy cutting the fabric creates more elaborate designs.

Reference: Apple Green Cottage