

Mini and large rulers

The Creative Grid 60° Diamond ruler does so much: Diamonds, triangles, hexagons, parallelograms, trapezoids and side setting triangles.

See <https://www.fatquartershop.com/swirling-star-tablerunner> for a free pattern using the ruler.

See Krista Moser's site, <https://www.kristamoser.com/> for patterns using the rulers.

Useful Specialty Rulers

Presented by Marsha Bray

Creative Grids Corner Clipper—Use for:

- Cutting binding strips on an angle without drawing a line
- Cutting border strips to piece with diagonal seam
- Making flying geese
- Anywhere you normally have to draw a line to get the right angle
- Available from Candy Grisham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfQNwCxWP5o>

Block Lock Rulers

- <https://blocloc.com/>
 - Come in many sizes and types
 - Available at The Quilted Fox or online
 - Square up 90% faster, easier and safer
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axFFHPW8CDo>

One Block Wonder Fabric Selection

1. Use a fabric with a 24" repeat. If you chose a fabric with a smaller repeat, you will have less variety in your hexies or octagons.
2. Consider the density of design.
 - a. It is important to have some background, as you need a place for the eye to rest. However, too much background, and you will have too many plain hexies. Too little background, it gets too busy, and risks having the hexies look just like the fabric.
 - b. Backgrounds with some movement are good.
3. Design elements
 - a. Is the scale of the print large enough to create unique blocks instead of busy, "same-looking" ones?
 - b. You need a variety of shapes and sizes.
 - c. Softer movement: Swirls are better than stripes. Stripes tend to look "harsh," and mistakes are much more visible.
 - d. You will want your triangles to have more than one color and some background. Many recommend 2 to 4 colors, as more colors make arrangement more challenging, and the look of the quilt is busier.
 - e. You need good contrast, so make sure you have light, medium and dark within the repeat.
4. Aids
 - a. Mirrors
 - b. Oneblockwonder.com has Design Helper, which will give you an idea of what your hexies will look like.
 - c. KaleidaCam app
5. If you are in love with a smaller scale print, consider using octagons rather than hexies. You will have "jewel" squares at each corner, which can be of the same fabric, though consider using a different fabric, which may take it out of the One Block Wonder category, but can really add interest.
6. Panels
 - a. Great starting point
 - b. Construction a bit more challenging

Supplies you will need:

1. 60° equilateral triangle for hexies
2. 45° ruler for octagons
3. Flathead pins
4. Rotary cutter and mat
5. Patience

Cutting tips:

1. Use lots of flathead pins thru all layers, adjusting pins out of the way as necessary when cutting
2. Have a sharp blade
3. Pick an appropriate strip width. Large scale print, 3 ¾ strips work well. Adjust strip width for medium and small scale prints. When in doubt, go smaller. Smaller strips create a more blended look.

Layout and Construction

1. Sew the hexies into TWO HALVES. Keep the two halves together until it hits the design wall. You will be sewing strips of half-hexies together in the sewing phase, and the sewn strips will complete the hexies.
2. Do you have a layout plan? It might look great when executed, and it might be awful. Don't be afraid to totally scrap the design and start over.

Susie's Magic Binding Tutorial

1. For this technique, you will need a main binding color and an accent color.
2. Trim the excess batting back backing from your quilt. Then measure the perimeter and add 10" or so.
3. Cut as many strips of the main (outer) binding fabric as you need to total the perimeter of your quilt at 1 1/2".
4. Cut the same number of flange (accent) strips at 1 3/4". (Fig. 1)
5. Sew the strips of each fabric together end to end. Mitered joints minimize bulk. (Fig. 2)
6. Sew the main color and the accent color together lengthwise using a 1/4" seam. You now have two strips equal to the perimeter of you quilt. (Fig. 3)
7. Press seam toward the Main (1 1/2" strip) fabric.
8. Then press lengthwise with wrong sides together and raw edges even. See how a narrow "piping/flange" appears when you meet the raw edges. (Fig. 4)
9. Leave a 10" tail and begin sewing the binding **to the back side of your quilt**, with the contrast color facing up, using a 1/4" seam. (Fig. 5)
10. Once the binding is attached all the way around your quilt, lightly press the binding toward the cut edge. This will make wrapping the binding to the front side of the quilt easier.
11. Now wrap the binding to the front, and using thread that matches the flange "stitch in the ditch" between the flange and the main binding fabric.
12. Miter the corners as you would any binding. (Fig. 6)

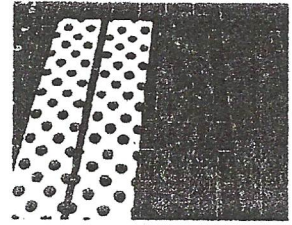


Fig. 1

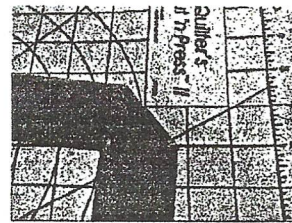


Fig. 2

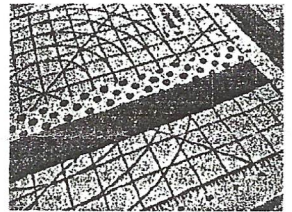


Fig. 3

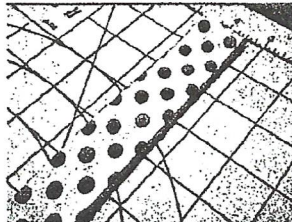


Fig. 4

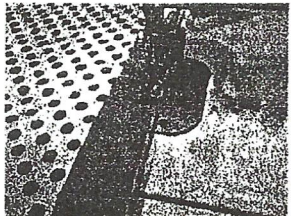


Fig. 5

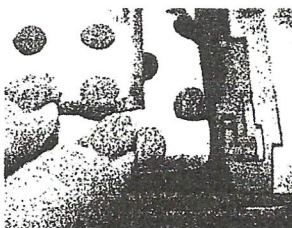


Fig. 6

2-Color Binding

(one fabric on the front; 2nd fabric on the back)

1. Choose the fabric for the front.
2. Choose the fabric for the back.
3. Measure the perimeter of your quilt and add 15".
4. From the fabric for the front, cut 1" strips equal to the length you need. Cut 2" strips equal to the length you need from the back fabric.
5. Sew the 2" strips together by laying the ends of the strips over each other right sides together. Then sew a diagonal line, corner to corner. Cut away the outside corner ¼" from the sewn line and press.
6. Repeat step 5 for the 1" strips.
7. Sew the 1" and 2" strips together.
8. Press seams open; then fold the binding in half longwise, wrong sides together, and press.
9. Sew the binding on using a ¼" seam with the front binding face down on the quilt top. Align the raw edge of the binding against the trimmed edge of the quilt. (Start at the middle of one of the sides and leave 5-6" at the start.
10. At the corners, fold the binding up and then down (to create the corner).
11. Continue sewing the ¼" seam all the way around until you are about 12" from where you began.
12. Trim the tails so they overlap 2-1/2".
13. Overlap the 2 ends as you did when sewing the strip lengths together (steps 5 & 6) and sew a diagonal line from corner to corner. Trim to ¼" seam, and press.
14. Sew the rest of the binding to the quilt with a ¼" seam.
15. Hand stitch the binding down on the back of the quilt, using pins or binding clips to hold in place, if needed.

Binding

Binding is the process of finishing the edge of the quilt after it is quilted.

Preparation

Baste the edge of the quilt top down. This can be done with a long, wide zig-zag stitch on the sewing machine. This basting will prevent excess shifting of the quilt top layer at the edge as the binding is applied.

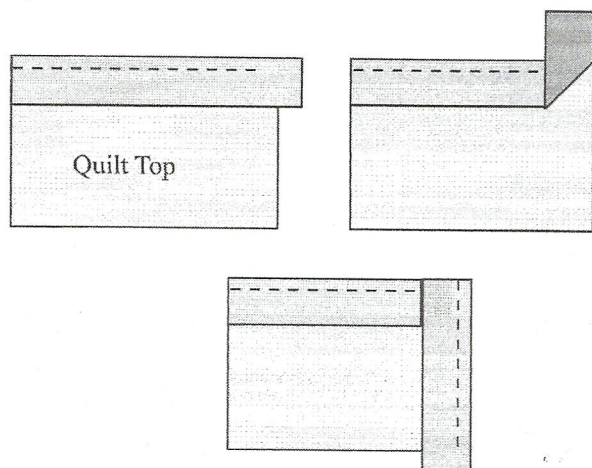
Trim the batting and backing 1/8" beyond the raw edge of the quilt top. This extra fabric and batting will fill out the binding and prevent empty spaces.

Piece the cut binding strips together using a diagonal seam. Trim the seams to 1/4" and press the seams open.

Press the long binding strip in half lengthwise, right side out, to a width of 1 1/4".

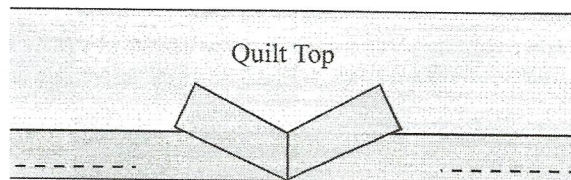
Position the folded binding strip so that its lengthwise raw edges are even with the raw edge of the quilt top. Leave 8" free, and begin stitching the binding to the quilt a few inches beyond the center of one edge. Stitch with a 3/8" seam allowance; back tack to secure the seam. Stop stitching 3/8" from the edge and back tack. Remove the quilt from the sewing machine, and snip threads. Rotate the quilt to prepare to sew the next edge.

Fold the binding strip up, away from the quilt, it will fold nicely at a 45° angle. Fold it again to bring the strip edge along the raw edge of the quilt top. This fold should be even with the top edge of the quilt. Begin stitching at the fold, stitch through all layers.



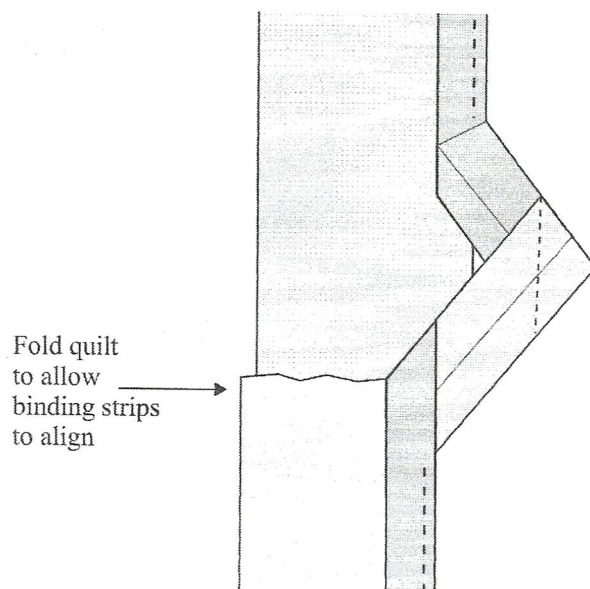
Continue sewing around the quilt in this manner until you are within 12" of the starting point; back tack.

To finish the quilt, fold each strip back on itself so that the folds meet in the middle of the 12" gap. Finger press a crease at the folds.



Trim the excess strip fabric 1 1/4" from both folds.

Open the folded strips and place the strips right sides together as diagramed below. Fold the quilt out of your way to allow the binding strips to be aligned properly. Stitch the strips together with a diagonal seam. Trim the seam allowance to 1/4" and press the seam open.



Fold the binding strip together again and finish stitching the binding strip to the edge of the quilt.

Hand stitch the folded edge of the binding to the back side of the quilt with a blindstitch. Use a thread that matches the binding. The fold of the binding should just cover the seamline.

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Paper Piecing Notes

Tools

Rulers

1. Add a quarter ruler
2. Add an eighth ruler (Used with small/mini paper piecing projects)

Machine

1. Needles – 90 sharps (larger needles make bigger holes)
2. Thread – Bottom line 60 weight (fine thread leaves less paper residue)
3. Stitch Length – set to a small stitch 1.5 or 2.0 setting – closer to 8 stitches per inch

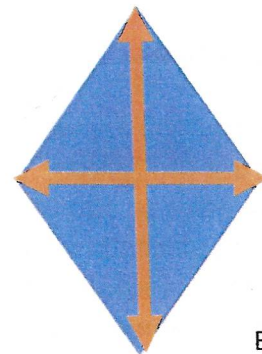
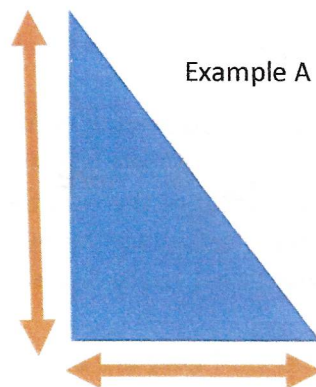
Paper

1. Deb Karasik (and others) have paper piecing paper – typically expensive
2. Pattern paper – some patterns come preprinted on dress pattern paper
3. Regular 20 lb paper – difficult and not recommended but can work in a pinch
4. Doodle Pad Paper – this is what I am using – runs through the printer and relatively inexpensive.

Card for folding

Cutting

1. It is best to precut your pieces (as with any quilt project). For a lot of paper piecing patterns, you may need to determine the size to cut the fabric yourself.
2. Cut the fabric pieces by measuring the longest part of the piece and adding $\frac{1}{2}$ " for seam allowance. Then, measure the widest part of the piece and add $\frac{1}{2}$ " for seam allowance.



3. Be aware that the longest and widest part of the piece may NOT be along an edge as in example B above

Steps

1. Layout your fabrics in the order you are going to sew them. Mark the pattern to match so you can keep track of which fabric goes where.

2. Start with the first fabric piece **right side up** on piece number 1 of the pattern (this is the ONLY time you place the fabric right side up. Make sure the fabric covers the entire area of piece 1 PLUS at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " all the way around for seam allowance. (Seam allowance is typically included on the pattern pieces but watch all patterns to make sure!
 - **Another way to start that might be easier to help remember is to take pieces 1 and 2, place them right sides together and THEN put them on the pattern to sew.**
3. Place fabric for piece number 2 **right sides together** with piece number 1. Make sure that piece number 2 will cover the entire area of piece 2 PLUS at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " all the way around for seam allowance.
4. Make sure that you have allowed the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance overlapping the line between piece 1 and piece 2 on the pattern.
5. Sew on the line between piece number 1 and piece number 2.
6. Open the pieces and press. You have now just done the most difficult part of paper piecing!
7. Using the index or post card on the line between piece 2 and piece 3, fold the paper pattern.
8. Place an Add a Quarter ruler against the fold and trim the pieces to a straight line.
9. Place fabric piece number 3 right sides together along the seam line you just trimmed. Stitch on the line between pieces 2 and 3.
10. Repeat steps 3 – 9 until all pieces are stitched together.
 - **Rhythm Hint – Place, Sew, Flip, Press, Fold, Trim**
11. Once the entire block is pieced, trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " all the way around the block
12. Sew blocks together before removing the paper to ensure that they do not stretch (remember as you piece this way, you are creating seams on the bias and it's easy to stretch a block inadvertently).

Hints that might help....

1. Remember you are working in reverse. You will be sewing on the printed side of the paper, but the "pretty" side will be on the back of where you are sewing.
2. It is like paint by numbers – you piece in the order of the numbers on the paper. You start with pieces 1 and 2 and add from there – following the numerical order. There may be times where you are not sewing right next to the last number. BUT you ALWAYS sew the numbers in numerical order.
3. Remember to keep the paper on the pieces until they are all sewn together to help keep their shape. You may be using various bias edges as you work, and you do not want your pieces to get out of shape.
4. If borders are added that are not paper pieced, remove the paper pieces prior to adding the borders. This makes your project lighter to work with.