



English Paper Piecing Basics

English Paper Piecing can be done with a variety of shapes. Hexagons are among the most popular. When teaching beginners, I reach for [Dritz 1 1/2" Hexagon papers](#). These hexagons are small enough to fit comfortably in most hands, but large enough to feel accomplished after stitching together just a few. They are coated, making glue-basting easy both when basting the papers, and removing them.

BASTING

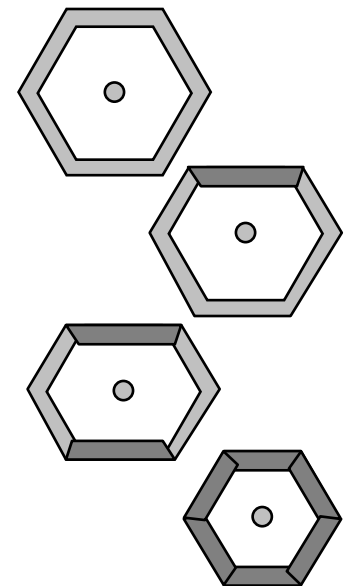
Select your fabric and paper template. Cut your fabric larger than the template. You'll want a 1/4" to 3/8" seam allowance all the way around.

Place the fabric right side down on a flat surface. Center the paper template on top.

Use the fabric glue stick along the edge of one side of the paper template. Fold the seam allowance onto the template, securing it with the glue.

Repeat with the opposite side of the hexagon. The fabric should be snug, but NOT stretched.

Repeat with the remaining 4 sides. Set aside hexagon, repeat with remaining fabric and templates.



STITCHING

Place two basted hexagons right sides together, with all the edges lined up.

With a threaded needle, place three stitches at one corner, securing the fabric.

Stitch along the edge of the two pieces, making sure to "grab" 2-4 threads from EACH hexagon with each stitch. Stitches should be between 1/8 and 1/4" apart.

When you reach the opposite side, end with three stitches. You can cut the thread, or continue with adding another hexagon.

Open up the two hexagons and admire your seam! Line up a third Basted Hexagon, right sides together, with one of the first two, and begin again at step 1.

Bend the papers as needed to line up edges for inset seams (Y-seams).

