

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS—How To PAPER PIECE

Use neutral thread, a stitch length around 14 stitches per inch, and a dry iron. **As you add each piece of fabric in numbered order, always remember to add 1/4" seam allowance in every direction beyond the area you are covering.**

Chain-sew as you piece, putting a different section under the presser foot and sewing another seam before removing the section before it.

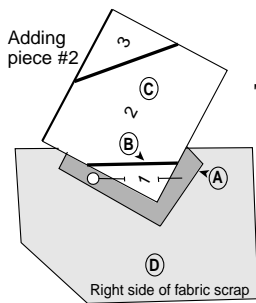
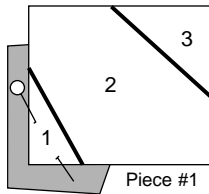
TIP: BEFORE cutting pattern apart, make any additional marks regarding your fabric or color choices on the pattern.

PAPER PIECING:

Cut pattern apart on the heavy lines. Each pattern piece is called a "section," and these sections will be covered with fabric and then sewn back together with regular seams.

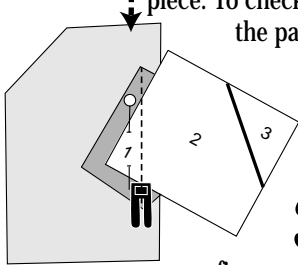
1 Take a section and turn it printed-side up. Pin the **first** piece of fabric beneath, **wrong side against paper**. The fabric should extend beyond the pattern as shown, creating the seam allowance. Hold the pattern and fabric up to a light to check that the area is adequately covered.

NOTE: All fabric added **after** piece #1 is placed **right side against paper** before sewing.



2 Stay oriented by following a set routine when adding each new piece of fabric: Turn the pattern so that (A) the last piece added is on the bottom, (B) the next seam to be sewn is horizontal in the middle, and (C) the area to be covered is above the seam line. Place the new fabric (D) right side up under the pattern, with the top edge aligned with the seam allowance of the previous piece. To check coverage you can fold the pattern down on the seam line OR pin on the seam line and flip up fabric. (See "Butterfly Trick" on reverse.)

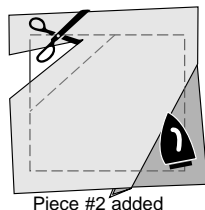
TIP: See the BUTTERFLY TRICK on reverse for help covering area with fabric.



3 Hold everything together with your fingers, and turn the fabric and paper so it will slide under the presser foot, and sew seam. **Begin to sew several stitches before the beginning of the line and end with several stitches past the end of the line.** Backstitching is not necessary.

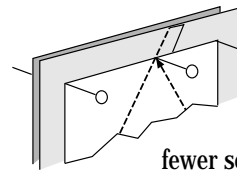
4 Fold pattern away from seam allowance and trim. Sometimes you may have to peel the paper away from some starting and stopping stitches to free the seam allowance for trimming. Press the seam line before opening.

5 On right side, open the fabric and gently press the seam flat. Trim away excess fabric, remembering to leave at least 1/4" in all directions beyond area covered. Repeat steps 2-5, applying fabric in numbered order until the section is covered. Do this for all sections.



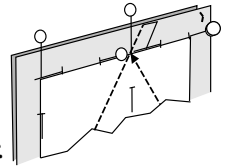
JOINING SECTIONS:

Steps 6-8 tell how to pin and sew along the edges of the paper (or along pattern lines you've drawn, as in the tip below). Be sure to consult the piecing order for your pattern.

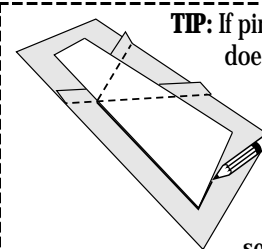


6 Bring two sections right sides together and match seam lines for pinning. When possible, keep the section with the most seams on top, facing you, and the section with fewer seams on the bottom. Pin through both layers of fabric at each end of the seam line and through any match points (where arrowheads meet). Adjust sections until these first pins are "parallel" to each other as shown above.

7 Secure pins horizontally along the front and back paper edges as shown, EXCEPT for the leftmost pin and any match points, which are secured vertically. Use as many pins as necessary, head to tail, to pin the entire seam along the paper.



8 Sew slowly from edge to edge immediately next to the paper pattern. Do not pull the pins out early—as the needle gets to the sharp end of each pin, hold the head of that pin up lightly and the fabric will feed right off the pin as you sew, helping to keep the seam just as you have pinned it. **After sewing,** check both sides and free any tiny paper edges that may be caught in the seam, trim seam allowance to 1/4", and press the stitching. Now you may open the sections and press from the front, spreading the seam gently and allowing the seam allowance underneath to go to the side it wishes. If it does not go to either side easily, gently press the seam open.



TIP: If pinning sections is difficult because the fabric does not stay in close contact to the paper, turn the section paper-side-up. Use a mechanical or sharp pencil and carefully draw around the edge of the pattern, transferring the pattern shape to the back of the fabric. Use the pencil line as your guide when pinning and sewing sections together.

TIP: In some cases, such as when adding borders or sewing other long, straight seams, trim both seam allowances involved to exactly 1/4" using a rotary cutter; then pin and sew using a 1/4" seam on your machine.

SQUARE IT UP:

9 Place the finished block wrong-side-up on a gridded cutting mat. Take a look at the paper pattern and decide which side has the straightest paper edge with the fewest seams; trim the seam allowance on that side to 1/4". Measure from this trimmed edge, adding the correct measurement for the finished block plus 1/2" total seam allowance, and trim the opposite side parallel, disregarding the paper this time. Use the mat grid to keep things square. Trim the last two sides perpendicular to the ones already trimmed, remembering to add seam allowances. Remove all paper after trimming. When joining trimmed blocks together, use the 1/4" mark on your sewing machine to sew the standard 1/4" seam allowance.

Paper Panache Tips

The Butterfly Trick

To help you cover sections more easily

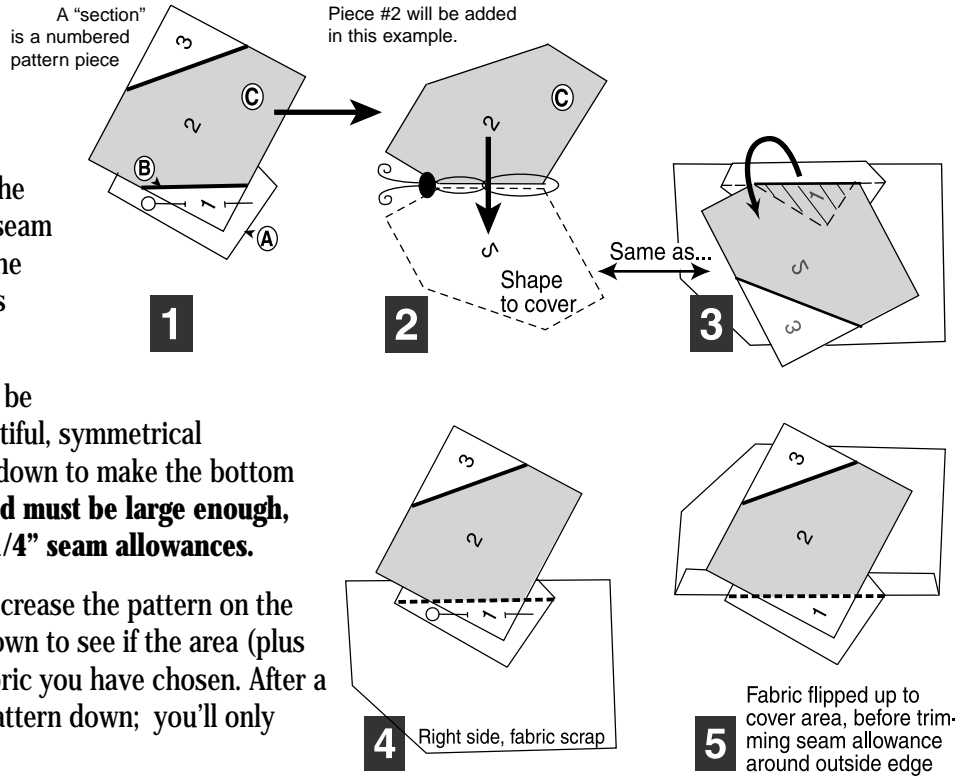
1 To cover a section with fabric, always start the same way: Turn the section so that: (A) the last fabric added is on the bottom, (B) the next seam to be sewn is horizontal in the middle, and (C) the area to be covered is above the seam line. In this example, we are adding piece #2.

2 Isolate in your mind the shape of the area to be covered. Imagine it as the top wing of a beautiful, symmetrical butterfly. In your mind, flip the shape over and down to make the bottom wing of the butterfly. **The piece of fabric you add must be large enough, right side up, to cover this bottom shape plus 1/4" seam allowances.**

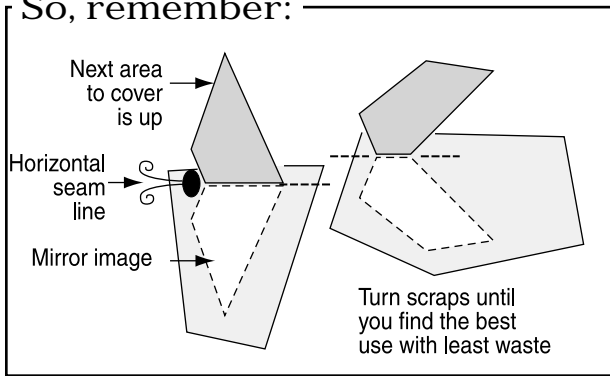
3 (Another way to "see" the bottom wing is to crease the pattern on the seam line with your thumbnail and fold it down to see if the area (plus the seam allowance) will fit onto the piece of fabric you have chosen. After a little practice, you often won't have to flip the pattern down; you'll only have to imagine that bottom wing.)

4 Place the piece of fabric right side up so that the top edge is 1/4" above the horizontal seam line. Sew the seam...





5 ...remove from the machine, and the fabric should flip over and cover the area nicely. Trim the seam allowance and add the next piece in the same way.



So, remember:



Pattern Markings

-  Section seam—cut apart on these lines and sew back together after paper piecing.
-  Paper piecing seam.
-  MATCH PT: Match seam to arrow across section lines.
-  MATCH PTS: Match seams together where arrowheads meet.