

A Super Simple Tutorial on Paper Piecing

Paper Piecing Preparation:

In paper piecing, a paper pattern is needed for each section that is to be sewn. Multiple copies of a paper pattern can be made in several ways:

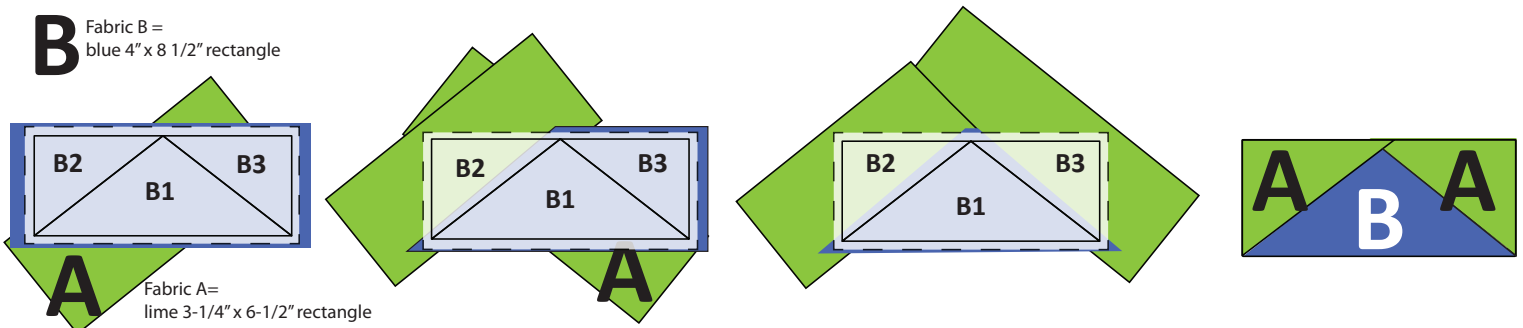
1. Trace the indicated number of copies individually to the paper.
2. Photocopy at exact size the number of copies needed of each pattern.
3. Place a traced paper pattern onto multiple layers of paper (number needed indicated on pattern). Without thread in your sewing machine needle and using a long stitch length, sew precisely on each line of the pattern.

Cut out the paper pattern beyond the outer line. Set your machine's stitch length to 1.5 to 1.8. This will make the paper easier to remove once you have completed sewing the fabric to the pattern. The needle will pierce holes in all the layers of paper that will match the pattern lines.

For my patterns, the appropriate fabric placement and size is listed on each pattern piece. You can use the Quilt Assembly Diagram as a guide as well.

As an introduction to paper piecing, and for practice, following is a brief overview of paper piecing, using a Flying Geese block illustrated for you.

Paper Piecing Block



1. Layer a Fabric B 4" x 8 1/2" rectangle and a Fabric A 3 1/4" x 6 1/2" rectangle, RST and raw edges aligned, on the back of the paper piecing pattern.
2. The aligned raw edges should extend beyond the B1/B2 section by approximately 1/4".
3. With the pattern facing up, stitch through the paper and the fabric on the line shared by areas B1 and B2. Begin and end your stitching 1/4" before and after the ends of the stitching line. Carefully trim the seam allowance to 1/4", if necessary,

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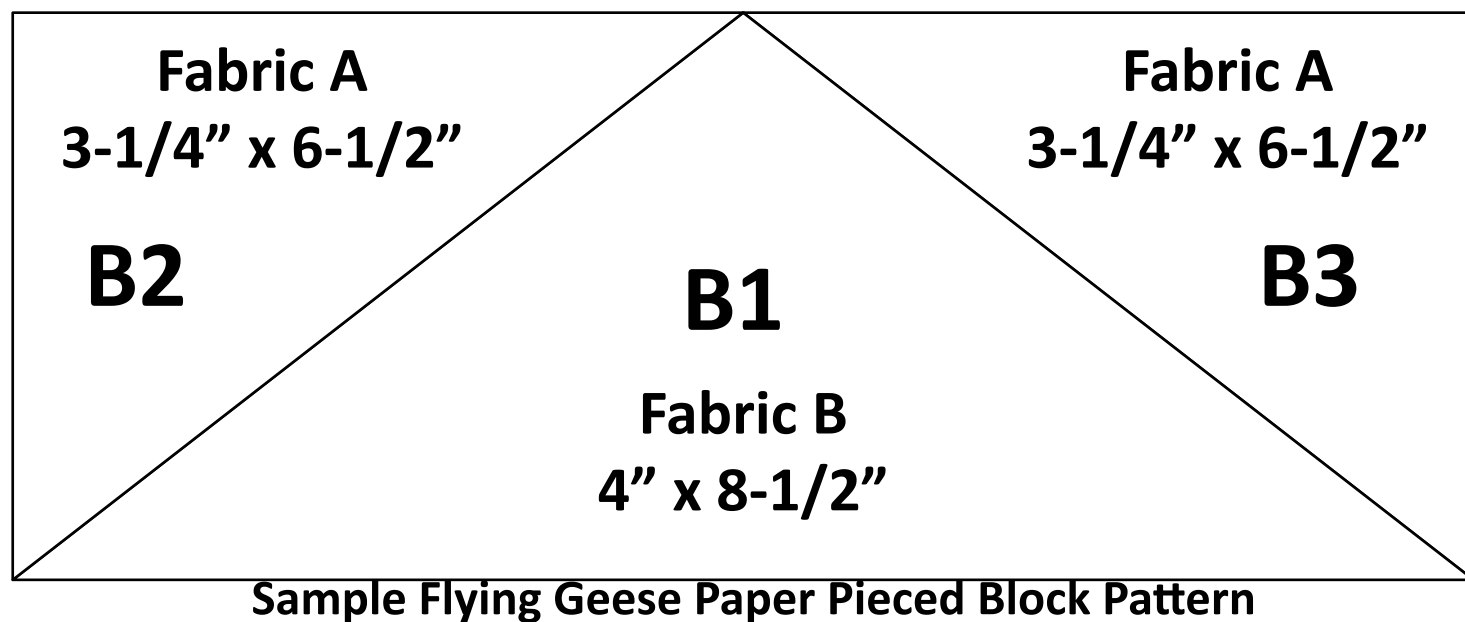
without trimming the paper pattern. Press open the Fabric C piece from the fabric side.

(Note: It helps to check to make sure both areas will be totally covered plus $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Pin the seam to be sewn, turn paper over, open the pieces, and check the coverage.)

4. In the same manner, add a Fabric C $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ " for area B3, stitching it on the shared line between areas B1 and B3 and pressing to the Fabric C rectangle. (I exaggerated the size of the fabric piece, so that you could see the layering order. Your fabric will NOT be this large!). Trim along the OUTSIDE dashed line. NOTE: I prefer to leave the paper on the units/blocks to stabilize them until the quilt is pieced, with the exception of the paper in the seam allowance.

Ready to begin? Great! Let's make some blocks!

To practice, you will need (2) Fabric A (lime) $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles and (1) Fabric B (blue) 4 " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle.



This square
must
measure
1" x 1"