

# English Paper Piecing by Machine: Zippered Portfolio Supply List

**Carol Wilhoit**      [www.carolquilts.com](http://www.carolquilts.com)      [carolquilts123@gmail.com](mailto:carolquilts123@gmail.com)

How can you make an English Paper Piecing (EPP) project without investing years of time? By using the sewing machine, instead of hand stitching! Who knew that EPP could be so quick, easy and fun!

English Paper Piecing is done by basting fabric pieces to accurately cut paper shapes. The fabric-covered papers are then joined together, allowing unusual shapes and angles to be accurately pieced. When done by machine, English Paper Piecing is also fast! In class, you'll learn the techniques while making a small project. However, the best part is that you will learn techniques that can be used to make any English Paper Piecing project with your sewing machine.

Begin a zippered document bag that is large enough for papers, file folders or a sewing project. The bag is pieced using 1" hexagons. Basting fabric to papers, joining the fabrics and finishing the project will all be done by machine! There won't be time in class to complete the bag, and many students are hesitant about the inserting the zipper. Therefore, you will have an opportunity in class to learn the easy zipper insertion technique by making a small zipper pouch.



## BRING THE FOLLOWING FABRIC AND SUPPLIES

See Optional Preparation instructions below for additional details about fabric.

- **Practice Fabric:** this won't be used in the project so fabric you don't particularly like is fine.
  - One piece at least 6" x 18", or three rectangles, each 5 1/4" x 5 3/4"
- **Fabric for the Zippered Document Bag:**
  - A variety of coordinating fabrics that total at least 1/2 yard for the hexagons. Scraps, 2 1/2" wide strips, precut 5" squares, and precut 2 1/2" squares are all great and it is nice to have a good variety of fabrics that look nice together. While you will need fabric for approximately 72 hexagons, fabrics can be repeated so they do not all need to be different. (See Optional Preparation Instructions below for additional details.)
    - One precut pack with forty 5" squares has more than enough fabric.
    - Two precut packs, each with forty 2 1/2" squares, provide enough fabric.
    - 1/2 pound of scraps that are at least 2 1/2" square should contain enough fabric.
- **1" hexagon papers:** You will need about 100 accurately cut 1" hexagon papers. Each side of the hexagon is 1" long. Packages of hexagon papers are available at Quilters Quest.
- **Monofilament (invisible) thread OR 100-weight polyester thread that matches your fabric:** English Paper Piecing by Machine looks best when the pieces are joined with a very lightweight thread. Using a very fine thread for EPP by Machine helps to make the stitching nearly invisible. Either of these types of thread will work well, but some machines stitch better with one or the other.
  - 100-weight polyester thread is a very fine thread. Choose a color that blends in with your fabrics. Brand names include Superior MicroQuilter and Wonderfil Invisifil.
  - If you choose monofilament thread, I suggest using a quality (brand name) polyester monofilament thread (rather than nylon). Avoid thread that is stiff and wiry. Superior MonoPoly is one excellent option. Monofilament thread comes in a clear color (for light colored fabrics) and a smoke color (for dark colored fabrics.) Select the color based on the fabrics that you are using.
  - If you don't have either of these threads for class, 50-weight thread (such as thread that you would use for piecing) or 60-weight thread (such as Bottom Line) will work, but the stitching will be more visible.
- **Cotton or polyester sewing thread (such as 50-weight thread):**
  - White thread
  - Thread to coordinate with your fabrics

## TOOLS

- Sewing machine that does a zigzag stitch, with a needle plate and foot that work for zigzag stitching
  - An open toe foot is especially helpful. A walking foot and a 1/4" foot will also be helpful if you have them. A knee lift is also helpful if your machine has one.
- Basic sewing supplies (seam ripper, fabric scissors, thread snips)
- Optional (if you have them): Wonder clips
- Optional: Microtex needles (size 60/8 or 70/10): These are thin sharp needles for use with lightweight thread. They make a smaller, less visible hole in the fabric.
- Rotary cutting supplies will not be needed in class if you do the optional preparation in advance. However, if you don't have time to do the cutting before class, bring a rotary cutter, a small ruler and a small cutting mat.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE BAG AT HOME

You do not need to bring these supplies to class:

- Fabric for the back side of the Zippered Document Bag: one fat quarter (about 18" x 20")
- Fabric for lining: 1/2 yard
- Batting: one piece at least 18" x 30" for the zippered document bag
  - Cotton batting such as Quilters Dream, Warm and Natural or Warm and White will work well. An 80% cotton/20% polyester batting would also be a good choice. If you are using fabric with a white background, I suggest using white batting.
- OPTIONAL: Décor Bond, 1/2 yard

- Quilting thread
- Zipper: One zipper at least 20" long that coordinates with your fabrics
  - A longer zipper is fine, as the length will be cut to size
  - Select a polyester or plastic zipper that can be cut – not a metal zipper.

#### **OPTIONAL: Supplies to practice inserting zipper**

- You won't be ready to insert the zipper into your Zippered Document Bag in class. While the zipper is not difficult, some quilters are hesitant about doing this step. The zipper insertion will be demonstrated in class and if you would like to practice this in class by making a small plain zipper bag, bring the following supplies:
  - One piece of quilted fabric: Make a quilt sandwich using two 10" x 13" pieces of fabric and a piece of batting. Quilt the sandwich.
  - Cut two matching pieces of the fabric: one 5" x 2" and one 1 ½" x 6"
  - One zipper at least 12" long
  - Thread that matches the fabric

#### **OPTIONAL PREPARATION**

Cutting your fabric in advance will give you more time to stitch in class.

- From the practice fabric:
  - Cut three pieces, each 5 ¼" x 5 ¾"
- From the variety of coordinating fabrics:
  - Cut at least 76 pieces of fabric for the hexagons.
    - If you are cutting from fabric or scraps or 2 ½" wide strips, cut rectangles 2 ½" x 2 ¾".
    - 2 ½" x 2 ½" squares are fine and do not require additional preparation.
    - If you are using 5" squares, select at least nineteen 5" squares and cut each into four 2 ½" squares.

NOTE: While 2 ½" squares are big enough to cover 1" hexagon papers, the small amount of extra fabric in a 2 ½" x 2 ¾" rectangle makes the basting easier, so I suggest cutting this size if you are cutting from fabric pieces that are large enough.

If you have questions about the supplies, email [carolquilts123@gmail.com](mailto:carolquilts123@gmail.com)

7.6.25