

# weekend QUILTING

Quilt and Unwind with Simple Designs to Sew in No Time

## Rainbow Hexagon Mini Quilt

Jemima Flendt



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If you have ever wanted to give English paper piecing a try, this beginner-friendly quilt is a great first project. Just by using some of your fabric scraps, you can make this sweet design inspired by all the colors of the rainbow.

## MATERIALS

Colorful print fabrics, (7) 2½" (6.5 cm) squares each of blue, green, yellow, orange, red, purple, and white/black (mini charm squares and scraps are perfect for this project)

Background fabric, ⅝ yard (0.6 m)

Backing fabric, ⅝ yard (0.6 m)

Black/white stripe binding fabric, ¼ yard (0.2 m)

Batting, 27" (68.5 cm) square

Precut paper hexagons, (50) 1" (2.5 cm) pieces

Cotton thread in coordinating colors for handquilting hexagons and handsewing needles

Glue pen (archival quality)

Appliqué pins

Rotary cutter and mat

Erasable fabric marking pens in coordinating colors for drawing hexagon shapes

Acrylic template, 1½" (3.8 cm) hexagon

## Finished Size:

19" (48.5 cm) square

## MINI CHARM SQUARE AND SCRAP FRIENDLY

All seam allowances are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) unless otherwise noted.

## CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

From each of the colorful print squares, cut:  
7 hexagons using the acrylic template (49 total)

From the background fabric, cut:  
(1) 20" (51 cm) background square

From the binding fabric, cut:  
(2)  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.5 cm)  $\times$  WOF (width-of-fabric) strips



## MAKING THE BLOCKS

For detailed directions, see How to English Paper Piece.

- 1 Attach the fabric hexagons to the precut papers (Figure 1).

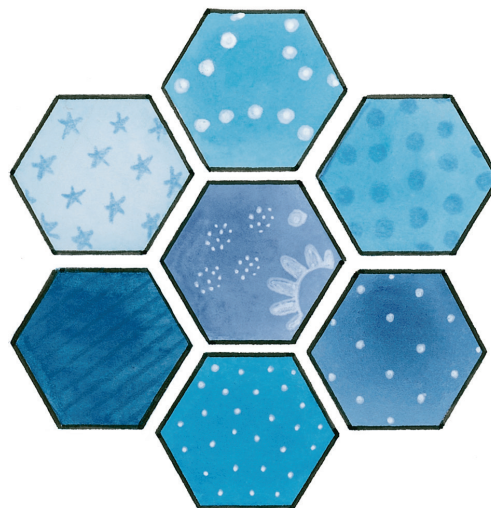


FIGURE 1

- 2 Sew each of the hexagon color groups together, starting with the center hexagon and handsewing your way around the center (Figure 2).

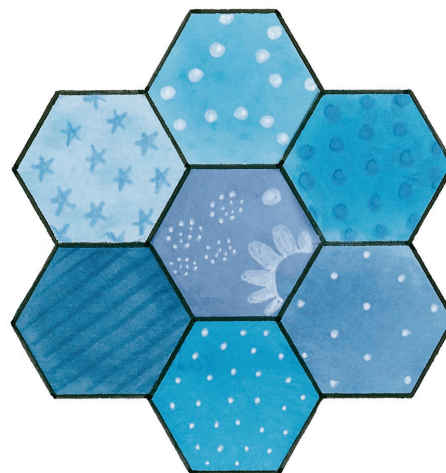


FIGURE 2

- 3** Referring to **Figure 3**, sew each of the colored hexagons to the black-and-white center hexagon in the order shown. Pin the rainbow hexagon block to the center of the background fabric.

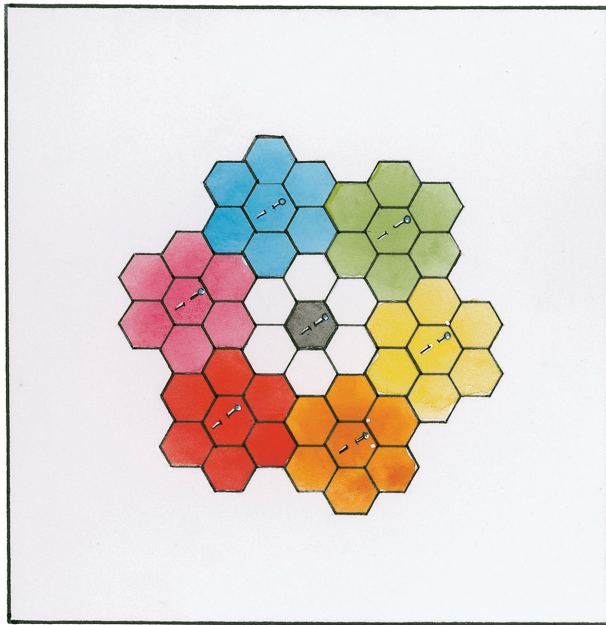


FIGURE 3

- 4** Sew the rainbow hexagon block in place using an appliqué stitch along the edges of the hexagons (**Figure 4**).

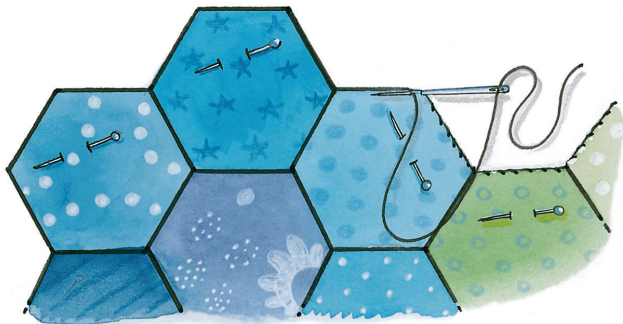


FIGURE 4

## ASSEMBLING THE QUILT

- 5** Trim the quilt top to 19" (48.5 cm) square. Layer the backing (wrong-side up), batting, and quilt top (right-side up). Baste the layers together with safety pins about 3" (7.5 cm) apart, starting from the center and working your way out to the edges of the quilt top.
- 6** Quilt as desired. (The featured quilt was handquilted around each of the colored hexagons using a running stitch.)

**Note:** To create the colorful hexagon design, draw 1" (2.5 cm) hexagons on the background fabric with an erasable fabric marker, then handquilt around each hexagon using a running stitch and matching colored thread (**Figure 5**).

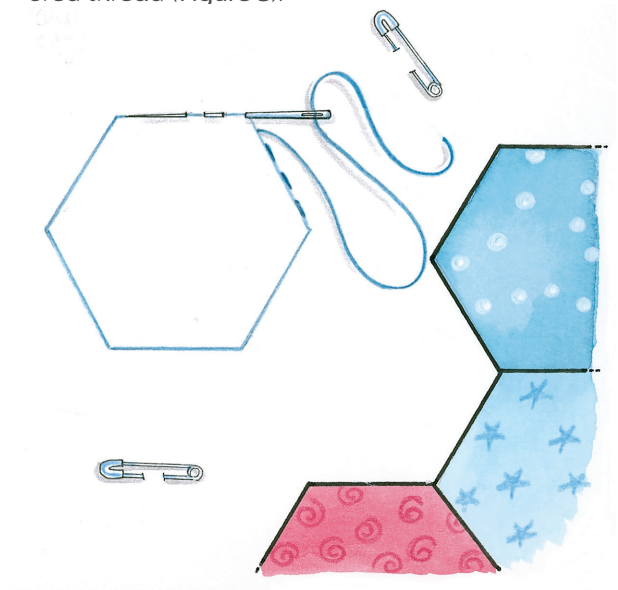


FIGURE 5

- 7** Bind the quilt.

# How to English Paper Piece

If you use a glue pen to baste the fabric to the precut papers, make sure it is of archival quality so it does not bleach or ruin the fabric.

## MATERIALS:

Fabric

Precut English paper piecing papers

Thread and needles

Glue pen (archival quality)

Binding clip (optional)

Rotary cutter

Self-healing mat

Acrylic template (the template should be about 1/2" [1.3 cm] larger than the corresponding precut paper)

- 1 Set the precut paper shape on the fabric, then place the acrylic template on top. Using a rotary cutter, cut the fabric around the template. Repeat this process to cut out the required number of fabric shapes for your project (Figure 1).

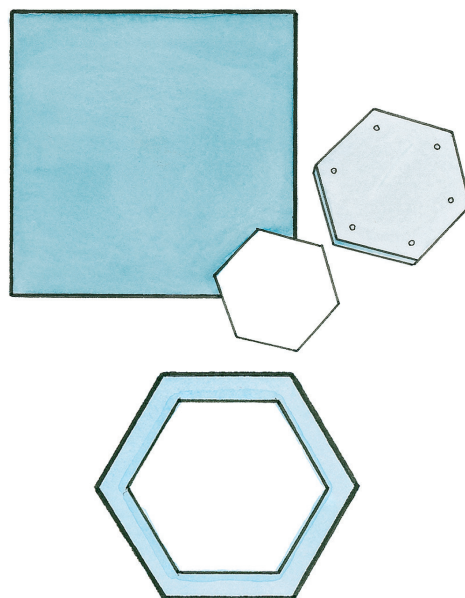


FIGURE 1

- 2 Center the paper on the wrong side of the fabric. Run a line of glue along the edges of the paper, then fold the fabric over the glue (Figure 2).

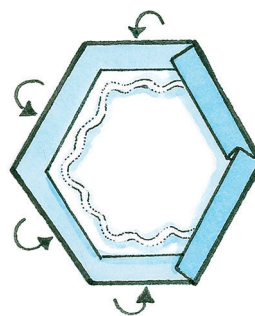


FIGURE 2

**3** Repeat step 2 for the remaining shapes (Figure 3).

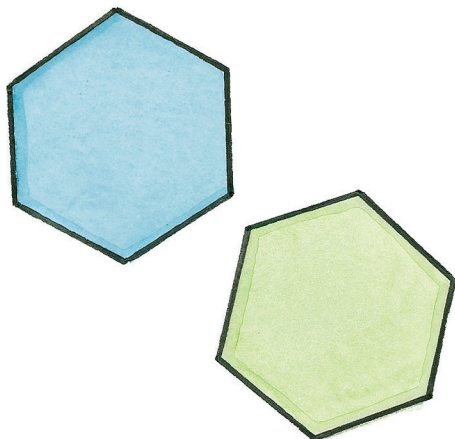


FIGURE 3

**4** Place 2 finished shapes right sides together. Using a whipstitch, sew the shapes together from corner to corner as shown (Figure 4).

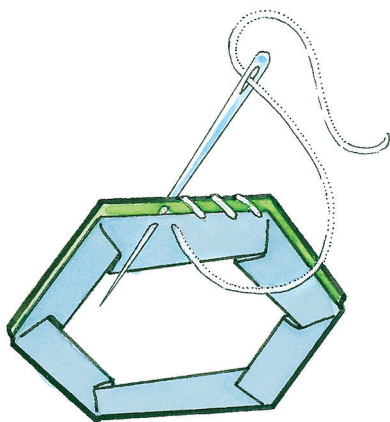


FIGURE 4

**5** Continue sewing the project pieces together with a whipstitch in the correct order for your project (Figure 5). After all of the pieces have been sewn together, carefully pull the fabric seam allowance away from the paper to release it. Refold the seam allowance, if needed, and press your project so the seams are nice and flat.

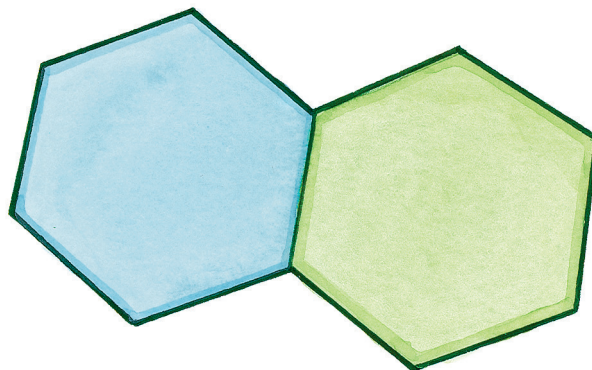


FIGURE 5

### author advice

#### TIPS FOR BETTER ENGLISH PAPER PIECING

1. Use a binding clip to hold the pieces together until you sew them.
2. Try not to catch any of the paper when sewing pieces together.
3. Knot the beginning and end of each seam. The tinier the knot, the better to prevent bulk, but it must be strong.



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