

Make a Mug Rug: Modern Hexagons

by Catherine Redford

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Materials

Finished size: 6" x 8"

Hexagons are measured along one straight side, not on across the template, e.g., $\frac{3}{4}$ " hexagons measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " on each side.

- Fabric for hexagons, 8 pieces, 2" x 2"
Tip: Choose 8 different fabrics to make a mug rug similar to my sample.

- $\frac{3}{4}$ " English paper piecing papers, 8
- Background fabric, 7" x 9"
- Fabric for borders, 1" x 30"
- Backing fabric, 8" x 10"
- Low-loft cotton batting, 7" x 9"
- Binding fabric, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 32"
- Hand sewing supplies
- Small sharp scissors

Optional

- Painter's tape
- Bone folder or hera marker
- Embroidery floss

Resources

Acrylic hexagon templates and paper piecing forms available from:

paperpieces.com

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place a paper hexagon on the reverse of a 2" square. Fold the fabric over the paper hexagon, toward the back. Trim the extra fabric, if desired, and baste over the paper shapes.

2. Arrange the hexagons in a pleasing design.

Tip: Take photographs as you make your design so you can easily compare your options.


3. Stitch your hexagons together with fine thread and small stitches.
4. Pin the completed unit onto the background fabric. Appliqué the unit to the background fabric. Turn it over and carefully cut the background fabric away from behind the hexagon.
5. Remove the basting stitches from the hexagons, remove the papers, and press.

Note: If you are careful with the papers, they can be reused time and again.

6. Add border strips along all 4 sides.
7. Create a quilt sandwich by placing the backing fabric on a work surface, wrong side facing up, followed by the batting, and ending with the quilt top, right side facing up. Baste and quilt as desired.

Tip: For straight-line machine quilting, use painters' tape to guide your lines. Take care not to stitch through the tape. Place the tape $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from where you want to sew and use the edge of your foot.

8. Add hand quilting lines as well. They can be marked with a bone folder or hera marker and a ruler for a crease that disappears with a light steam.
9. After the quilting is complete, trim the mug rug to 6" x 8".

10. Bind as desired. 

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