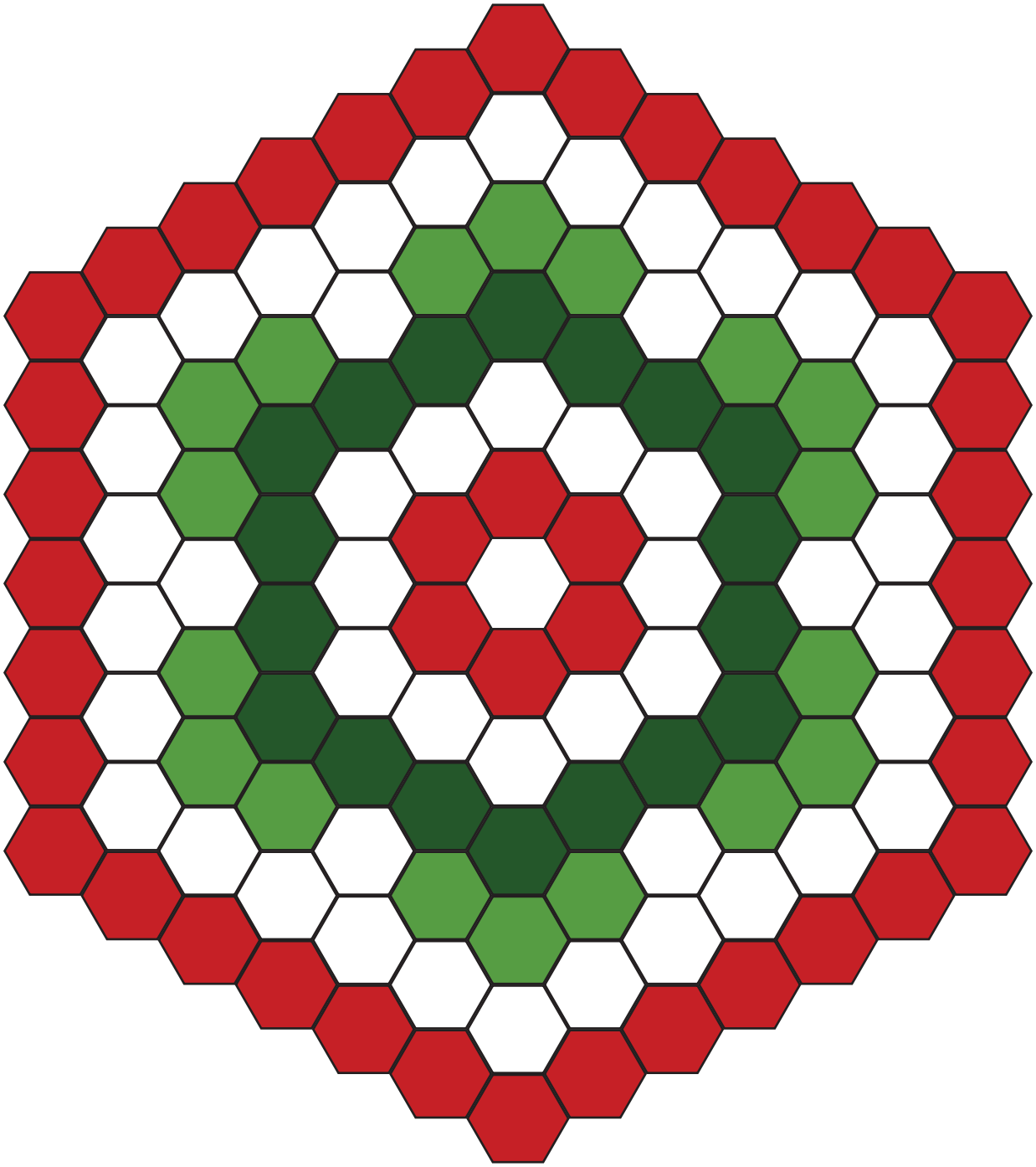
Hexie Tree Skirt



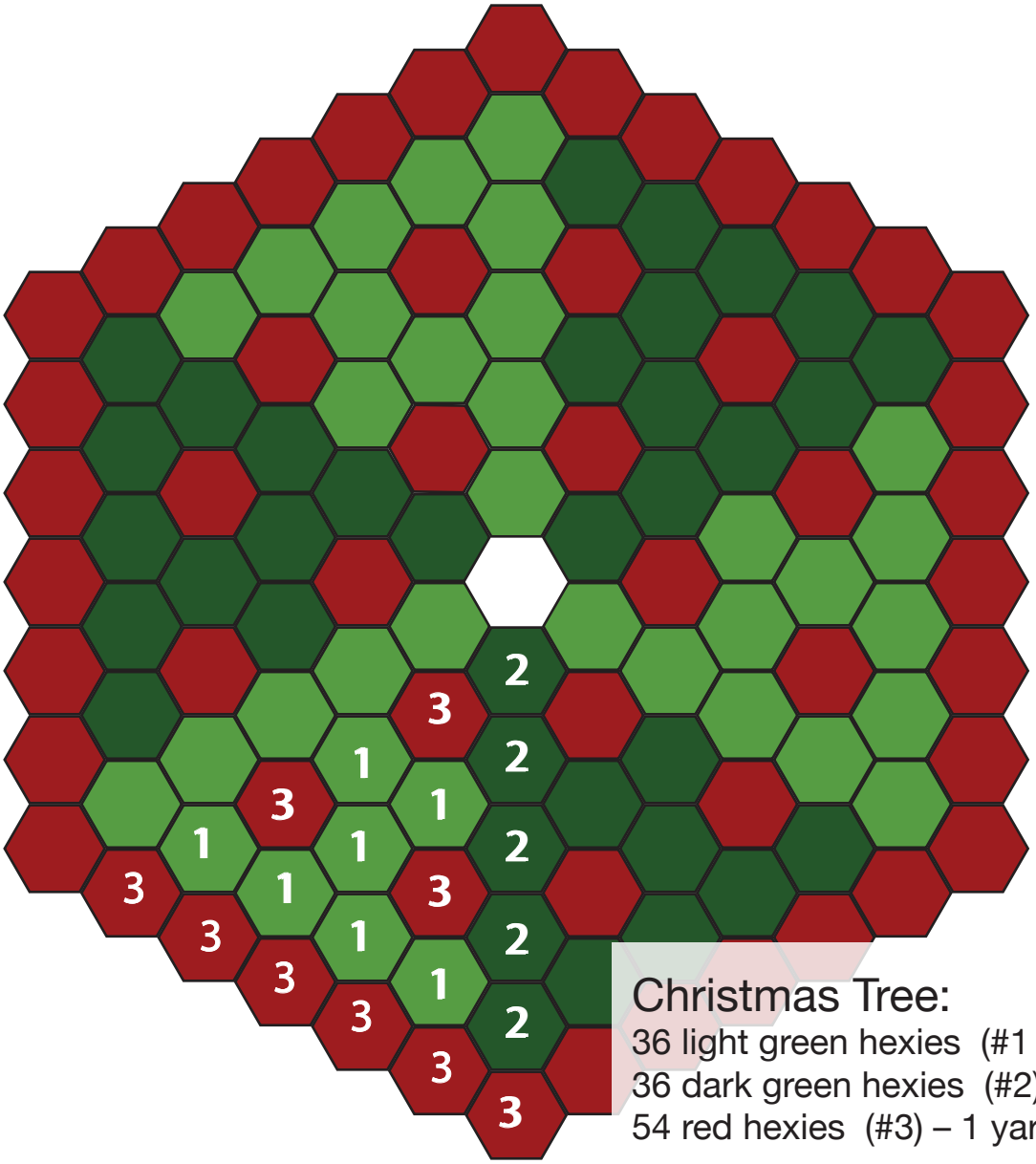
American Quilter's Society

Hexie Tree Skirt

45" Diameter

- 126 - 2" paper pieces (Each side of the hexie measures 2" and 4" across from corner to corner.)
- 2 yards of assorted color fabrics for hexies *see below
- 2½ yards backing fabric
- 1 yard bias binding

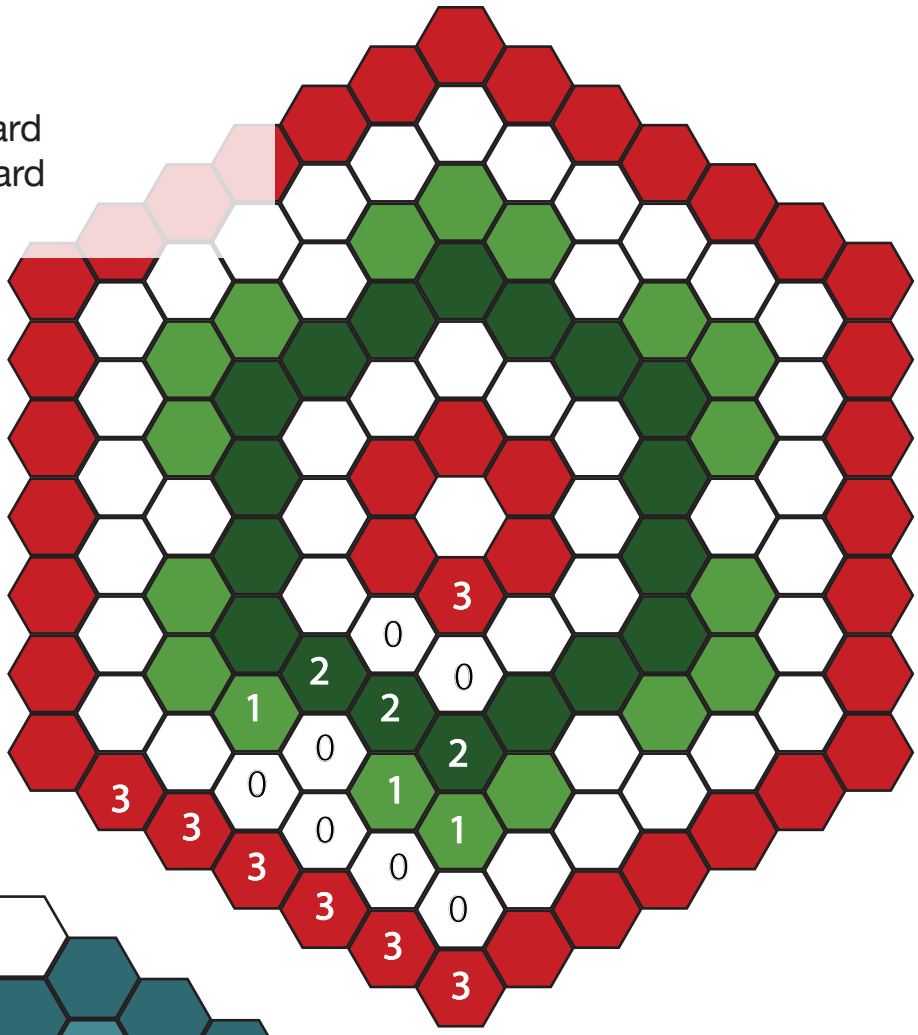
*Fabric requirements for individual designs listed below.
IMPORTANT NOTE: If your fabric measures less than 41" wide, please add ⅛ yard to each measurement.

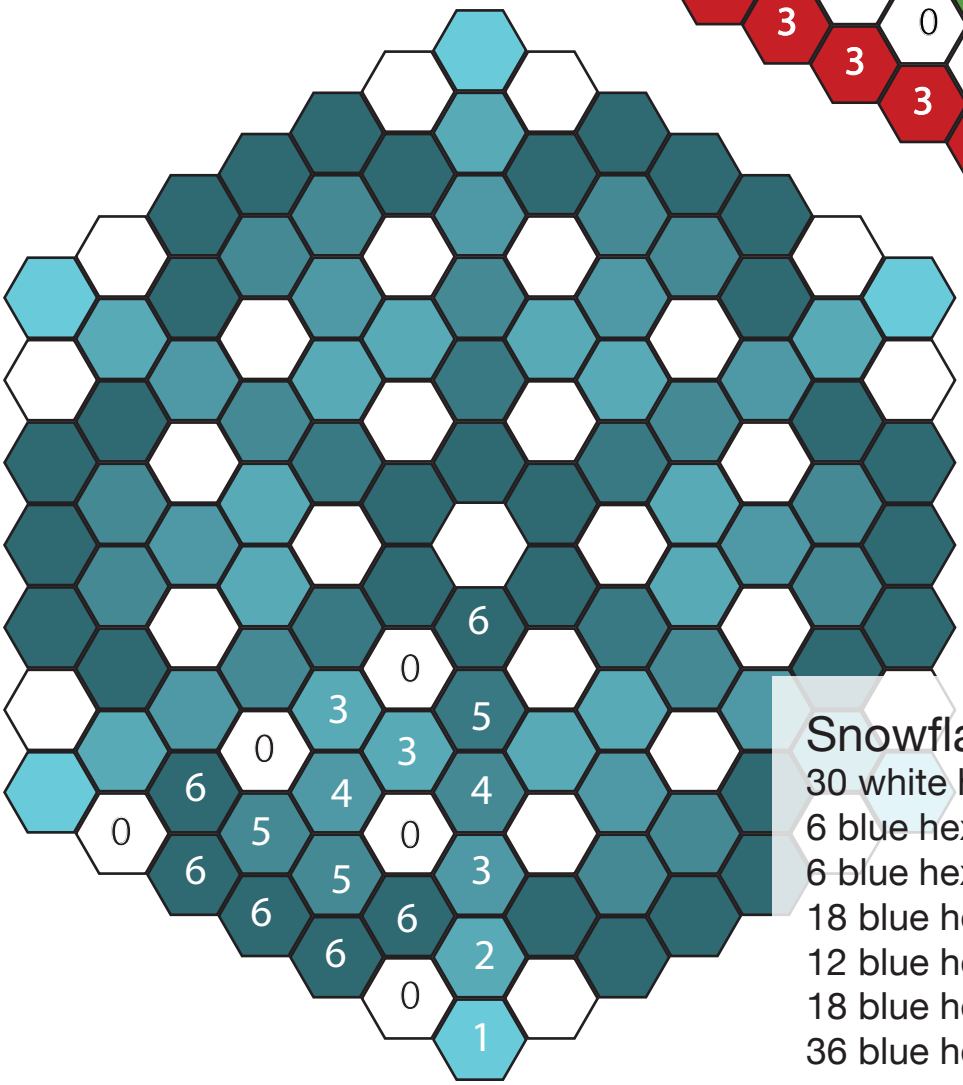


Christmas Tree:
36 light green hexies (#1 on diagram) – ½ yard
36 dark green hexies (#2) – ½ yard
54 red hexies (#3) – 1 yard

Red/Green:

48 white hexies – ¾ yard
18 light green hexies (#1) – ¼ yard
18 dark green hexies (#2) – ¼ yard
42 red hexies (#3) – ¾ yard





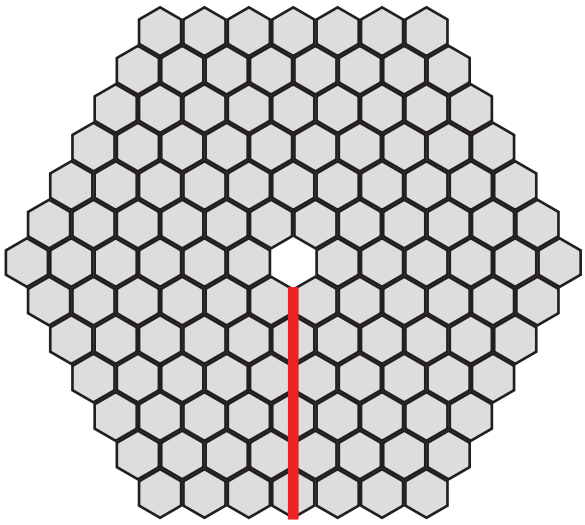
Snowflake:

30 white hexies – ½ yard
6 blue hexies (lightest, #1) – ⅛ yard
6 blue hexies (#2) – ⅛ yard
18 blue hexies (#3) – ¼ yard
12 blue hexies (#4) – ¼ yard
18 blue hexies (#5) – ¼ yard
36 blue hexies (darkest, #6) – 1 yard

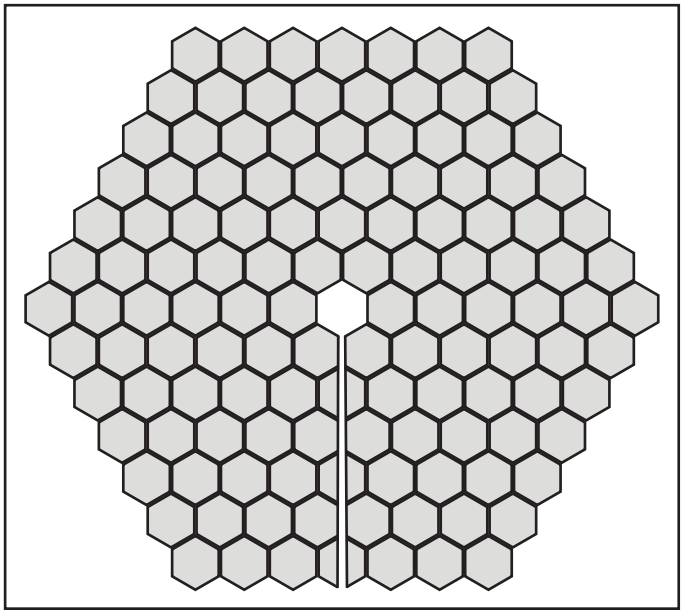
Follow the Basic English Paper Piecing Instructions (Page 6) for making and sewing hexies, placing them according to the chosen color chart. Make the full circle of the tree skirt without leaving an opening at this time. After removing the papers, press seams carefully, and press the outer seam at the bottom edge open. Do not press the top narrower edge open.

Backing:

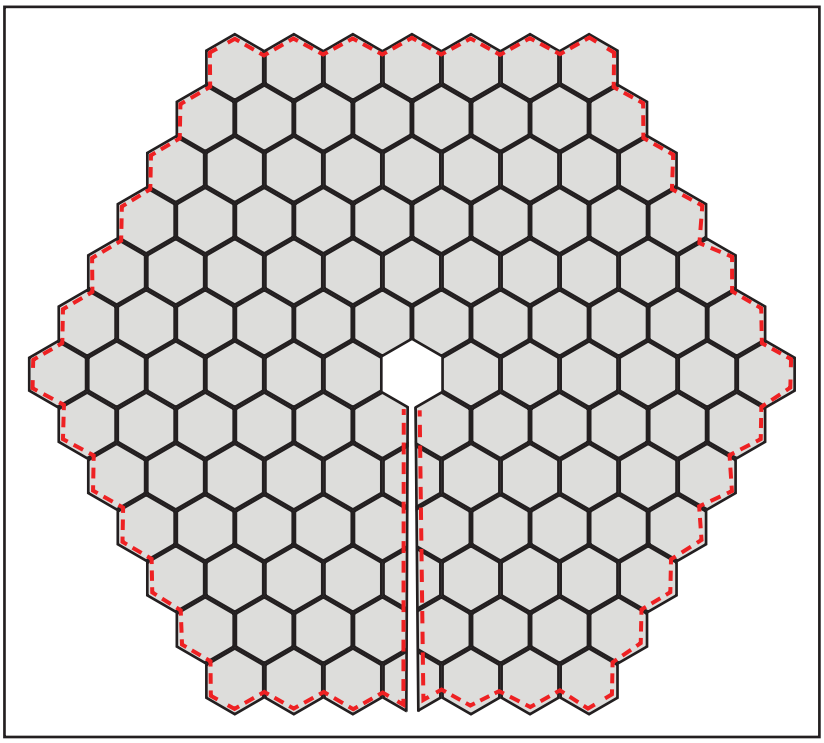
1. Cut 2 pieces of from the backing fabric, each 23" wide by 45" long.
2. Sew the right sides together along the long side. Press the seams to one side.
3. With a ruler, draw a straight line and trim the opening edge of the pieced hexie skirt as shown in the diagram below. Trim the seam allowances from both sides of this opening for a clean edge.



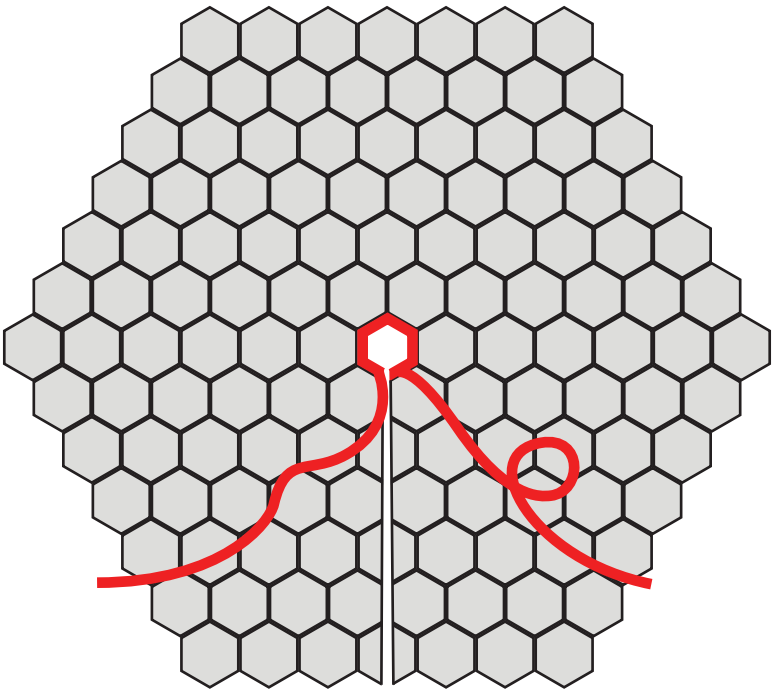
4. Place backing right side up on a flat surface. Place pieced hexie skirt on top, right side down. Pin generously and carefully.



5. Beginning at the top of the straight cut edge, stitch carefully, first along the straight cut edge, then along the outside edge of the tree skirt, and back up the other straight cut edge, following the pieced top. Stitch slowly and turn with the angles of the hexies along the entire outer curve. Trim, remove pins, turn, and press.



6. Cover the top seam with bias binding. Topstitch, leaving ends to tie the skirt to the tree.

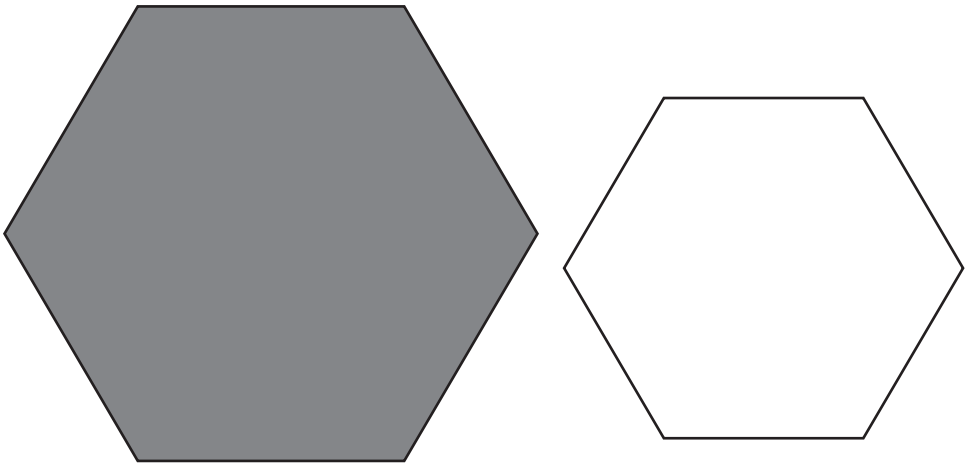


Basic English Paper Piecing

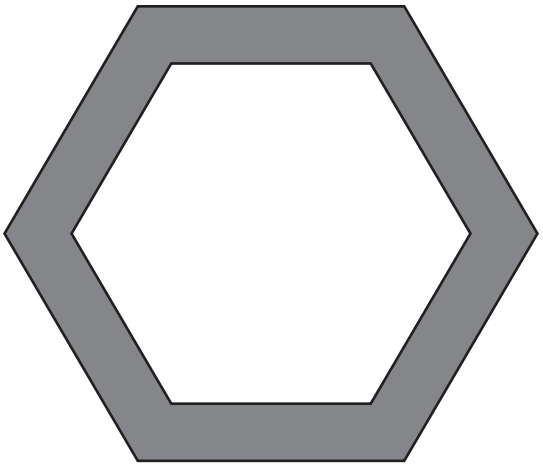
English paper piecing allows perfect corner matching. Die-cut, sturdy but flexible paper pieces fit together perfectly when the fabric is snug around them. Paper pieces are available in a huge selection of sizes and shapes from companies like Paper-Pieces.com. If you choose to cut your own paper pieces, print them with the smallest possible lines. Precision cutting of the papers is very important.

Perfection of seam allowance size on English paper piecing is not as critical. You may choose to simply cut around the paper shape, visually adding a ¼"-⅜" seam allowance. Using acrylic templates is helpful for fussing cutting a design.

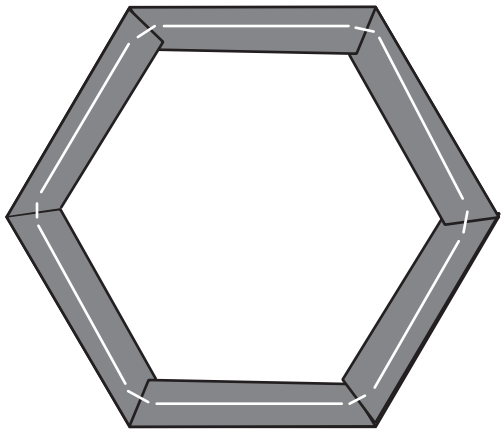
1. Cut a piece of fabric ¼" larger than the paper shape.



2. Place paper shape on the fabric.

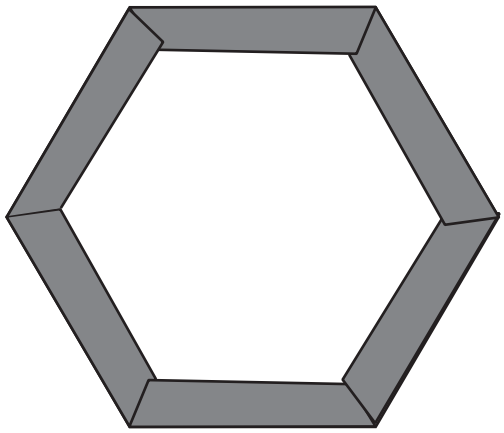


3. Hand baste the seam allowances in place, starting with the knot on top of the fabric and ending with only a small backstitch. Fold seam allowances snugly as you baste. Use tiny binder clips to secure the fabric if necessary as you work your way around the piece. On some small shapes, you will not have to stitch through the paper—taking a basting stitch across the fabric in each corner will secure the fabric snugly. Longer sides will require stitches through the paper piece.

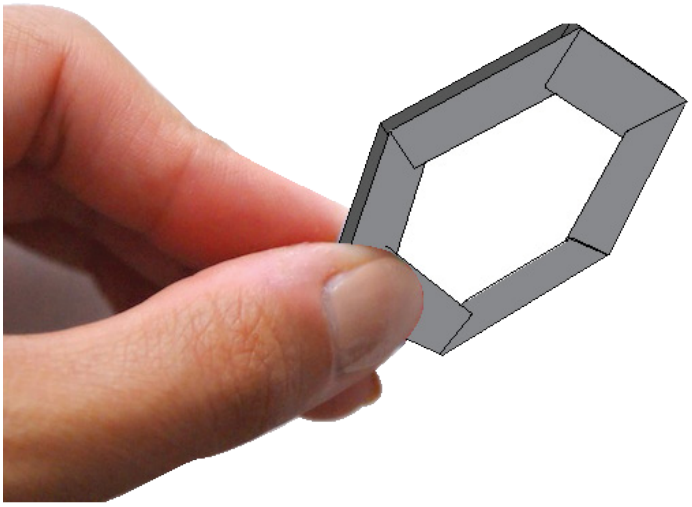


OR

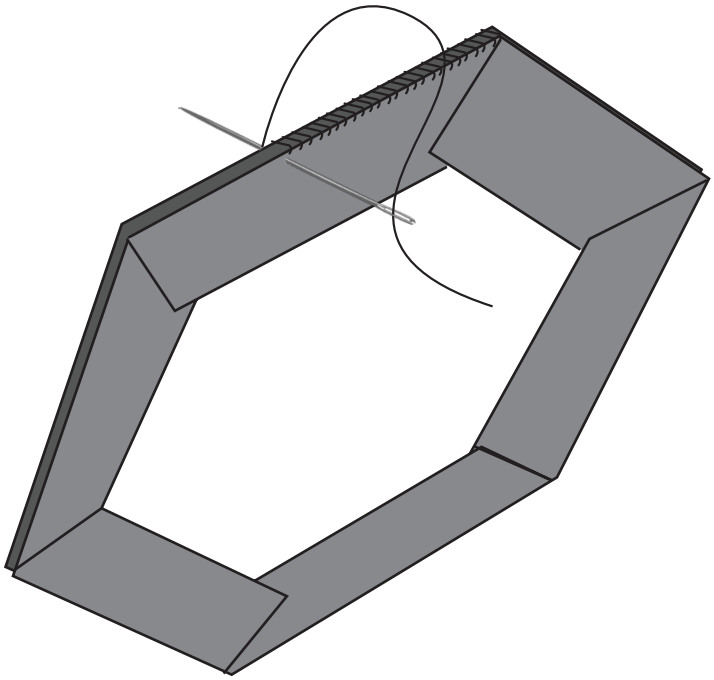
4. Alternatively, use a fabric glue pen to baste the seam allowances. Only a small line of glue is necessary, and it should not be near the seam's fold. Make sure the fabric fold line and corners are taut.



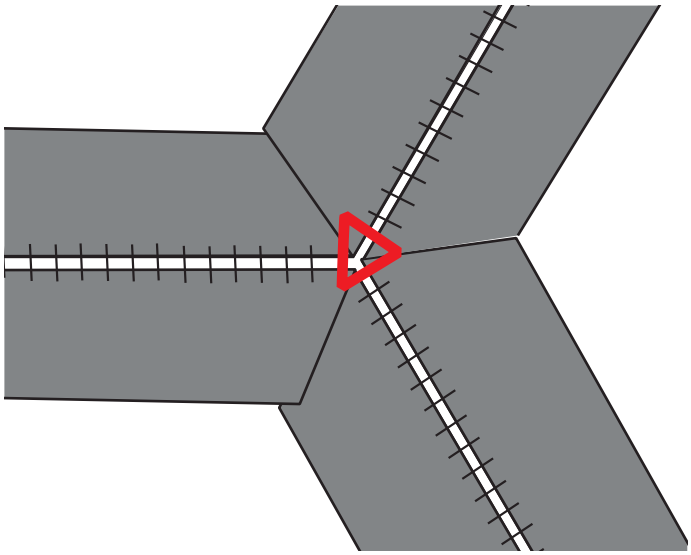
5. Hold two pieces together with the edges and ends matching exactly.



6. Whipstitch the pieces together according to the design diagram. To whip-stitch, pull the knotted thread up through the seam allowance and bring the thread over, around, and back through, catching only a couple of threads at the edge of the fabric fold as you continue across the piece. Do not catch the paper in the whipstitch, and use a small gauge thread. The goal is a nearly invisible stitch. See drawn diagram.



7. When three corners meet, make an extra stitch or two to pull the three corners snugly together.



8. Remove basting. If you have glue basted, slide a stylus or the end of a seam ripper under the seam allowance and the glue should separate easily.

9. Remove papers and press.

Happy Holidays
from all of us at AQS!