

The Quilt Room

Miniature Block of the Month

Notes on Foundation Paper Piecing

1. Set the stitch length of your machine to 18/20 stitches to the inch. The shorter stitch length perforates the paper, making it easier to tear away afterwards.
2. Select fabrics with high contrast so that the block design does not get lost.
3. Cut fabric with the wrong side facing up and at least 1in larger than needed, especially when dealing with angles and points. The surplus fabric can be trimmed later.
4. The fabrics are placed in numerical sequence on the **unmarked** side of the paper foundation and the seams are sewn from the **marked** side of the paper.
5. Place the fabric for No. 1, right side up on the **unmarked** side of the paper, making sure that it covers the whole of No. 1 and extends at least $\frac{1}{4}$ in on all sides. Cut fabric 2 at least 1in larger than No. 2. Place fabric 2 on top of fabric 1 right sides together along the joining seam line. Make sure both fabrics extend the seam line by at least $\frac{1}{4}$ in.
6. Holding the fabrics in place, lay the paper block, **marked** side up under the presser foot and sew along the line between pieces 1 and 2. Extend the stitching a few stitches beyond the beginning and the end of the line.
7. Turn the block over and trim any excess fabric in the seam allowance to a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Open up piece 2 and finger press along the seam.
8. Place fabric 3 right sides together with the fabric(s) it is to be sewn to. Make sure that fabric 3 will completely cover No. 3 and extend the seams by at least $\frac{1}{4}$ in once it has been sewn. Hold the block up to the light to help with placement. Stitch along the line, trim seam and finger press open as before.
9. Continue piecing your fabrics in this numerical manner, making sure that the last fabrics to be pieced extend the outer line by at least $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Press the completed block or section of the block. With a quilting square trim the fabrics leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam allowance beyond the outer line of the block or section of the block.
10. Only when the block is complete should the papers be removed.