

**Sunset Country Quilters' Guild**  
**Miniature Block of the Month 2022**

**General Paper Piecing Preparation**

This technique is simply a 'sew by number' method of construction. The lines between each seam are printed on a foundation, typically paper. The printed side (right side) of the paper will be the wrong side of the block thus the pattern view is reverse of the finished block.

**Pattern preparation**

The pattern PDF has been created to print on standard 8½" by 11" paper. Regular 20 lb printer paper is my choice to use as it is easily obtained and inexpensive. There are several foundation products available on the market. Do some investigating and try some out. You may find one you prefer to use.

Print the block Sketch page on an inkjet printer. Laser printer ink may release under the heat of an iron. Measure the outside of the block on the Sketch page to ensure it is 4" x 4". If necessary, reprint with an adjustment to 'scale' in your printer dialog box. Print 2 copies of the Pattern page.

From one copy of the Pattern page, separate the sections trimming just outside the small dash lines. Sewing lines are marked with a solid straight line, straight of grain is marked with arrows and long dash lines indicate seams that are to extend into the seam allowance.

From the second copy of the Pattern page, locate sections with straight of grain arrows and cut each section out along seam lines. This creates templates for efficiently cutting fabrics.

**Fabric preparation**

Refer to the fabric cutting list.

Place your fabric right side down and position the paper template print side up with straight of grain markings aligned with the fabric straight of grain.

Trim around the template adding 3/8" – 1/2" beyond the sewing line (straight line). When pieces are symmetrically, fabric can be folded so you cut two at once.

Cut the number of each piece required and group them with the paper pattern section they will be in. You can lay them out as they will appear in the finished block to ensure you have the fabrics where you want them to be in the finished block.

**Sewing machine and area**

Thread your machine with a 50 wt neutral thread in a new 75/11 needle and a full bobbin of the same thread. A new needle will reduce the possibility of tension issues. Sewing on paper is very hard on machine needles. It is wise to replace the needle before working on another project.

Although it is generally suggested to use a small stitch length (2.0), I find using the default on most machines of 2.5 works fine. Stitches are more easily removed if necessary and the paper also releases better.

An open toe foot or clear foot will be used while sewing fabrics to the paper pattern. A ¼" foot will be used for assembling completed foundation sections.

Place a cutting mat, your 28mm rotary cutter, the suggested rulers and the 1"x6" cardboard folding tool beside your sewing machine. The iron and pressing surface can be on either side of you.