

Auto-Pilot Paper Piecing

by
Jodie Davis

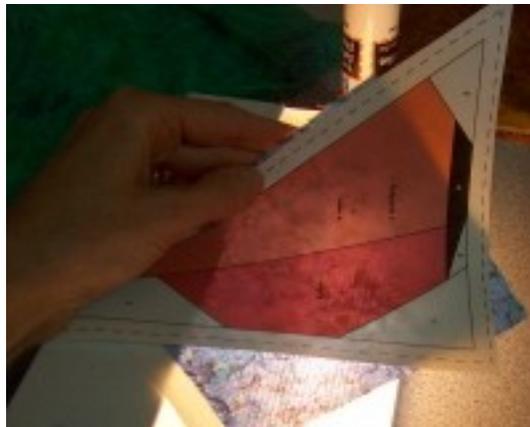
Watch Jodie show Liz Porter how to paper piece this block on episode #1306 of Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting.

For the pattern and instructions, go to the TV section of the FonsandPorter.com website and look for series #1300.

Keep this printout handy by your sewing machine. Follow the steps and the photos, and keep reminding yourself of the autopilot tips to keep your paper piecing seam ripper free!

Step 1

The printed side of the paper is the wrong side of the finished block. So, place the wrong side of the fabric for Patch #1 against the plain side of the paper so as to generously cover the area of patch #1. A dab of glue stick will hold it in place.



Auto Pilot Paper Piecing
A few simple rules that take the mental gymnastics out of paper piecing.

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Rule #1: *The unprinted side of the paper is the right side of the finished blocks.*

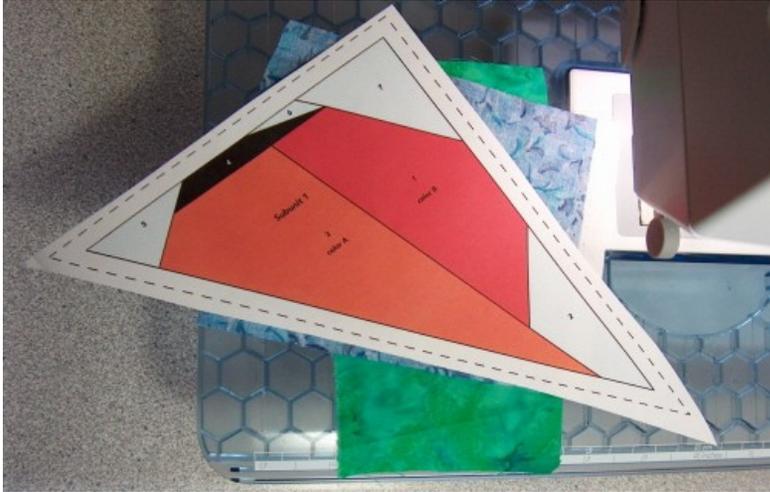
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Rule #2: *Cut large/Cut frustration or Waste fabric not time!*

Don't fuss over cutting!! Cut fabric large! Jodie's Philosophy: Time is precious. I'd rather waste fabric than rip. Besides, my duty as a quilter is to buy lots of fabric so the fabric companies make MORE!

Step 2

Lay your fabric for piece number 2 on the sewing machine bed, right side up. Lay the #1 fabric on top, which just so happens to be glued to a piece of paper. (Remember it's the same as regular piecing—right sides together.)



Shorten stitch length to about 15 stitches per inch, and sew. Start a few stitches before the line between Patches 1 and 2 and end a few after.

The first stitching line is the one between Patch #1 and Patch #2. Just like regular piecing!

Step 3



Trim the seam allowance. To about 1/4.”

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Rule #3: *Just like in regular piecing, fabrics are right sides together. Nothing is different.*

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Rule #4: Place the fabric for the next patch right side up on the bed of the sewing machine

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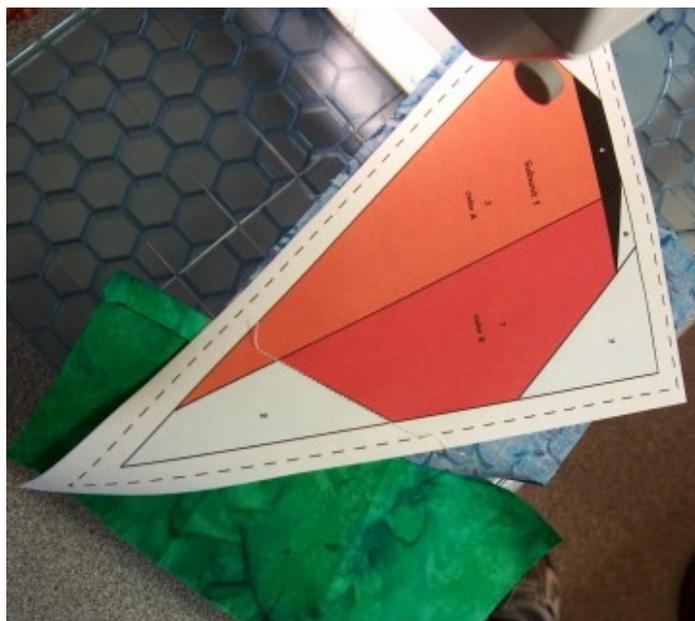
Rule #5: Place the paper/block printed side up over the fabric for the next patch with the low number, the one you just sewed, to the left. And the extra fabric to the left.

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Rule #6: No one is going to see your seam allowances, so who cares if they are perfect? I find that some students like the precise method of using the 1/4” ruler, but many get all confused with the folding and flipping. It is much easier to learn with this no fuss method.

Step 4

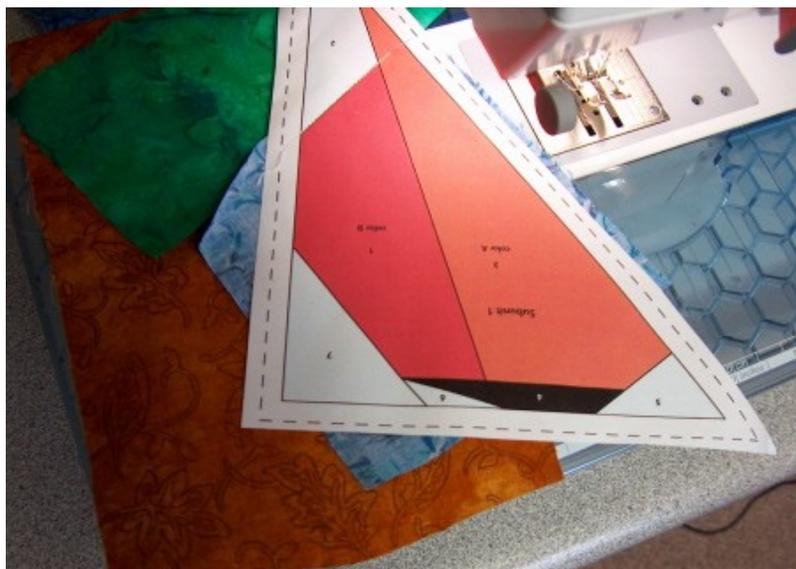
The seam is sewn! Again, remind yourself that the paper is simply there as a guideline for precise sewing. All you have done is sewn two pieces of fabric together. Don't let the paper throw you off.



I have pressed the pieces open here. Note that my stitches start and end beyond the drawn line, about 3 or 4 stitches. This is just like sewing into that 1/4" seam allowance when regular piecing. You'll sew over these when you add patches, and they will therefore be secured.

Step 5

As before, lay the fabric for the next piece, Patch 3, right side up on the sewing machine bed and lay the block, fabric side down on top. This way you will always get their fabrics right sides together.



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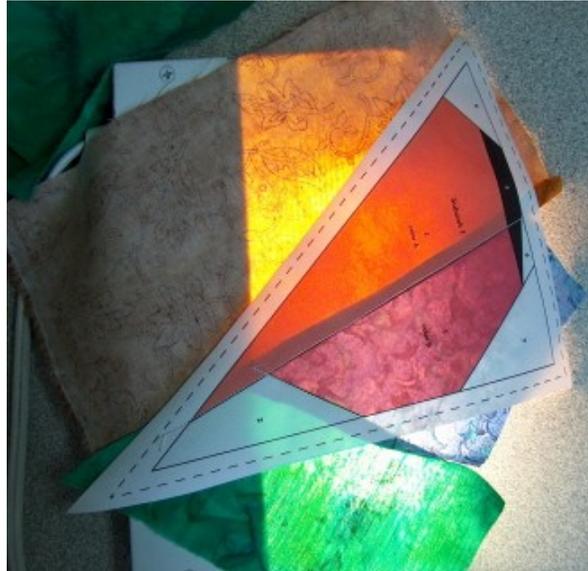
Rule #5: Place the paper/block printed side up over the fabric with the low number, the one you just sewed, to the left. And the extra fabric to the left.

This is the no-brainer way of always getting the fabric placed correctly—NO SEAM RIPPERS!

Step 5

Patch 3 is sewn in place and pressed open. I have placed it on my mini fluorescent light so you can see through it. Yup, my seam allowances aren't perfect, but you'll never see them again.

Keep adding patches. Leave the paper in until the block is sewn into the quilt top.



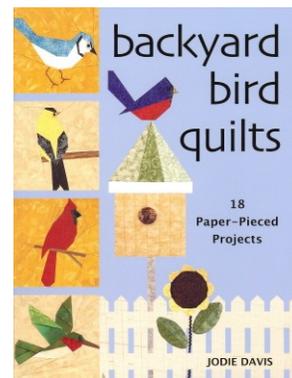
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's *Project FeederWatch*



For more information go to:
www.birds.cornell.edu

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders in backyards, nature centers, etc. all across North America. Feeder-Watchers periodically count the highest number of bird species they see at their feeders in November through early April. FeederWatch helps scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. It's FUN!

All patterns for the birds and instructions for the projects shown in the video are found in Jodie's Book, *Backyard Bird Quilts*. It is available from ShopFonsandPorter.com



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