

Tropical Rainbow

Quilt Size: 78" by 78"

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Designed by Bradley and Judy Niemeyer

Drafting and Graphic Layouts: Sarah Brown, Bradley, Billy, and Del Niemeyer

Quilt samples made by Judy Niemeyer and Cindi McCracken

Quilting by Vicki Ibison

General Information: Bradley and Judy Niemeyer designed the layout and foundation pieces for Tropical Rainbow. A collection of fabrics designed by Island Batik were used to make both quilts shown on the box. A sewing technique called foundation paper piecing is used when sewing the fabric pieces onto the foundation units. Curved piecing and traditional piecing skills are required to join the units after the foundation piecing is completed.

Foundation Papers: The foundation piecing designs are printed on newsprint. Newsprint is lightweight and tears away from your stitches without damaging the threads. This pattern includes the following pages, which is enough paper to complete one (1) 78" by 78" quilt.

<i>NP-95: Unit A & Unit S:</i>	<i>13 pages</i>
<i>NP-96: Units BA-R, BA-L, BS-R, & BS-L:</i>	<i>2 pages</i>
<i>NP-97: Unit B:</i>	<i>4 pages</i>
<i>NP-98: Units BC-L & BC-R:</i>	<i>2 pages</i>
<i>TP-27: Template & Template Layout Sheets:</i>	<i>2 pages</i>

Cutting and Yardage: This pattern includes the cutting and yardage information for both cover quilts.

Extra Foundation Papers: [An additional border can be purchased to increase the size of this quilt. Information will be posted on our web page at www.quiltworx.com after the packages are completed.](http://www.quiltworx.com)

Instructions: These instructions teach a traditional approach to foundation paper piecing. Paper piecing, curved piecing, and traditional piecing techniques are required to assemble this quilt. We have designed special cutting techniques using oversized templates on a **Template Layout Sheet** to speed up the cutting process by stacking and cutting several layers of fabric at one time. We have listed below several advantages to using the oversized templates to pre-cut your fabric pieces.

- 1: Fabric pieces can be stacked and cut at one time.*
- 2: Stacking techniques and chain piecing techniques can be used with the foundation papers.*
- 3: Templates can be designed to utilize grain line.*
- 4: Using templates will eliminate most fabric waste.*
- 5: Cutting your fabrics with over sized templates and Template Layout Sheets, allows you the freedom to cut your pieces without having to worry about accuracy.*
- 6: Yardage can be estimated for the fabrics needed to make your quilt.*

After the fabric pieces have been cut for each of the foundation sections, the fabric pieces and templates are placed into a bag along with the foundation papers. This will help you keep your fabrics and papers organized for each unit.

Corrections: If we find that corrections are needed for this pattern after publication, they will be posted on my webpage under the 'Corrections' button. You may want to check it out before you start your quilt at www.quiltworx.com.

General Supply List: Steam iron, ironing board, medium sized cutting board, 6" by 24" ruler, small scissors, rotary cutter, seam ripper, template plastic, and a sewing machine with a quarter-inch foot.

Paper Piecing Supply List: 12" add-a-quarter ruler, Scotch tape, washout fabric glue stick, flower pins, large Ziploc bags, small Ziploc bags, stapler, a Purple Thang, size 70 sewing needles, and a high-quality cotton thread. Other handy items used to keep your templates, fabrics, and papers organized are paper clips and binder clips.

Definition of Common Tools

Purple Thang: A small plastic tool used like a stiletto that does not poke through the fabric. It is used to help feed the fabric through the pressure foot and between the feed dogs when sewing over heavy seams or doing curved piecing. This tool has other purposes as well, which include loosening the foundation paper, turning applique, and removing the stabilizer from the applique pieces.

Add-a-Quarter Ruler: A small ruler with a quarter-inch lip on the bottom side, which is used to trim the quarter-inch seams for foundation paper piecing. These can be purchased in three (3) sizes: 6" 12" and 18" rulers. I recommend the 12" for this pattern.

Washout Fabric Glue: I use UHU Stic fabric glue to adhere the first piece of fabric to the **backside** of the foundation paper.

Flower Pins: Flower pins are a long pin with a flat plastic flower glued to the end of each pin. The flower is flat so the paper can easily be folded back over the pin and still lay flat.

Fold Template: A flat piece of template plastic, which is used as a straight edge when folding the foundation papers, before trimming with your add-a-quarter ruler. A fold template can be made by cutting a 3" by 12" piece of template plastic.

Dictionary of Common Terms

Right-side of the Paper: The side with all the printing, also referred to as the front side of the paper.

Wrong-side of the Paper: The blank side with no printing, also referred to as the backside of the paper.

Sewing Lines: The dark solid lines on the foundation papers marked Line 1, 2, 3, etc. are the sewing lines. These lines are also used when trimming the fabric with the add-a-quarter ruler. Don't confuse these with the dotted lines.

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Template, Cutting Instructions:
Unit BA-L and BA-R: Bag #3

Note: The Unit A Background, Template Layout Sheet is used to cut the background pieces for the BA-R and BA-L pieces.



Unit A Background, Template Layout Sheet

1: You should have eight (8) 7" by 13-1/2" bright background pieces in Bag #3. Stack the eight (8) pieces into one pile *right-side-up*.



2: Position one (1) copy of 'Unit A Background, Template Layout Sheet' onto your fabrics.

3: Center the layout sheet onto your fabrics leaving excess fabric extending beyond the perimeter of the **Template Layout Sheet** on all four sides.

4: Starting with Line 1, slice through the paper and fabric at the same time with your rotary cutter. Continue cutting on each line in numerical order until all the sections are cut apart.



5: Clip the templates and fabric pieces together for each section with a binder clip and place them back into Bag #3.

Unit BA Spike, Template Layout Sheet

1: You should have eight (8) 6" by 12" dark pieces in Bag #3. Stack the eight (8) pieces into on pile *right-side-up*.



2: Position one (1) copy of 'Unit BA Spikes, Template Layout Sheet' onto your fabrics.

3: Center the layout sheet onto your fabrics leaving excess fabric extending beyond the perimeter of the **Template Layout Sheet** on all four sides.

4: Starting with Line 1, slice through the paper and fabric at the same time with your rotary cutter. Continue cutting on each line in numerical order until all the sections are cut apart.



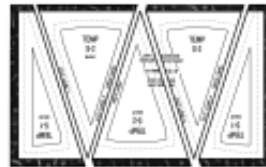
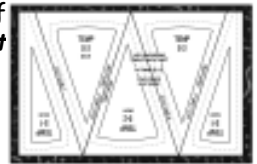
5: Clip the templates and fabric pieces together for each section with a binder clip and place them back into Bag #3.

Template, Cutting Instructions: Unit BS-R and BS-L: Bag #4

Note: The Unit S Background, Template Layout Sheet is used to cut the background pieces for the BS-R and BS-L pieces.

1: You should have sixteen (16) 6" by 8-1/2" dark pieces in Bag #4. Re-stack these pieces *right-side-up*.

2: Position and center one (1) copy of 'Unit-S Background, Template Layout Sheet' onto the top of your pieces.

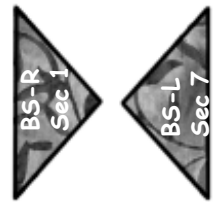


3: Starting with Line 1, slice through the paper and fabric, cutting on each line in numerical order until all the sections are cut apart.

4: Clip the templates and fabric pieces together for each section with a binder clip. Then, place them back into Bag #4.

Template S-3:

1: You should have sixteen (16) pieces cut and in your bag. Re-stack the pieces into two (2) piles facing *right-side-up*. Label the pieces and place them back into Bag #4.



Unit S Spikes: (A total of 48 pieces are needed)

1: You should have twenty-four (24) 1-3/4" by 7" pieces in Bag #4. already cut and separated in stacks of four.

2: The other twenty-four (24) pieces are cut from the leftover bright fabrics strips, which were place in this bag earlier. From these strips, choose four (4) colors, then cut six (6) additional 1-3/4" by 7" pieces each color. This will give you another twenty-four (24) pieces. These pieces should be separated and placed into stacks of four as mentioned above.

Template, Cutting Instructions: Bag #5 and Bag #6 (Cut 136 pieces)

Unit B, Unit BC-L, and BC-R:

1: You should have thirteen (13) dark 10-1/2" by 42" strips in Bag #5. Stack the strips *right-sides-up* and cut twelve (12) 2-3/4" by 10-1/2" strips from each piece. You only need (152) pieces to complete the border so you will have four (4) pieces leftover.



Only cut (12) pieces from each strip.

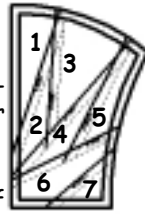
Clip the pieces together, in the same order they were cut, in each stack. Then, place the stacks back into Bag #5. The previous strips you just finished cutting are also used for the BC-L and BC-R corner units in Bag #6.

Later in the pattern, before you begin the paper piecing on the border units, I will have you lay out all the foundation papers for border units, including the corners. At that time, you will arrange the fabric strips on the backside of the foundation papers, to create an even transition of color flowing from one piece to the next.

**Now, take a deep breath, and relax!
 The cutting is completed.**

**Foundation Paper Piecing: Unit BS-L:
Bag #4: Make 8 Units:**

Unit BS-L: The background fabric is used for sections, 1, 3, 5, & 7, and the spike fabric is used for sections 2, 4, & 6.



Step 1: Trace the dotted lines on the backside of your first piece of foundation paper. Then place Unit BA-L, *right-side-up* on your table. Place a small amount of fabric glue on the **backside** of the paper under Sec. 1.



Step 3: Position the first piece of fabric under Sec. 1 *wrong-side-up* on your table. Make sure the underneath side of Sec. 1 is covered with the fabric.

Note: The wrong-side of the paper is glued to the wrong-side of the fabric.

Continue adding each piece to the foundation paper as directed in steps 3 to 14 for units BS-R. When the foundation piecing is finished, trim off the excess fabric and foundation paper.



Do not remove the foundation papers at this time. Set the pieces back into Bag #4, and continue with the border units.

Border Papers: Units B, BC-L, BC-R:

Before you begin sewing the pieces onto the foundation papers, layout the border and corner papers to match the [exploded views shown on pages 14 and 15](#). Arrange the fabric pieces for the border papers *right-side-up*, on the **backside** of the foundation papers, to create an even transition of color flowing from one piece to the next.

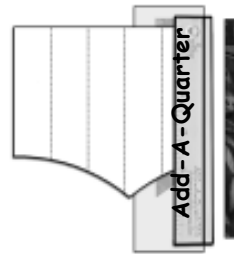
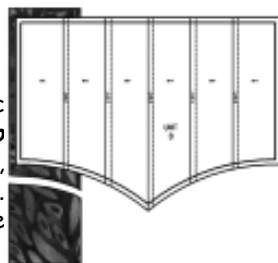
Note. When you arrange the fabric pieces on the foundation papers, remember to flip the papers over to the backside, otherwise the fabric pieces will not match up with the papers.

After the fabrics have been arranged on the foundation papers, stack the fabric pieces in descending order with fabric #1 on the top and fabric #6 on the bottom. Pin the stacks onto each foundation paper.

The papers for the Border Units are larger than the previous four units. Larger foundation papers can be more difficult to work with sometimes because the fabrics quite often move under the larger papers during the sewing process. If you find your pieces are moving under the paper in the sewing process, try pinning the pieces to the foundation papers. Flower pins work great for this. The flat tops are easier to work with on the paper, as they allow the paper to lay flat when it is folded.

**Foundation Paper Piecing: Unit-B:
Bag #5: Make 16 Units:**

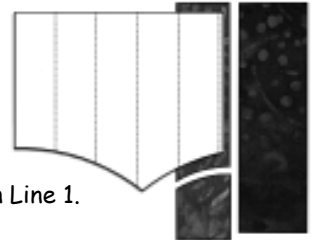
Step 1: Glue the first piece of fabric under Sec. 1. Glue the *wrong-side-up* to the **wrong-side** of the paper. Then, trim off the excess fabric as shown. This will make it easier to handle the paper.



Step 2: Fold back the paper on Line 1 and trim the first seam allowance.

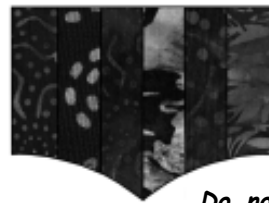
Step 3: Place the second piece of fabric for Sec. 2 *right-side-up* next to the folded back paper, as shown below.

Step 4: Lift the foundation paper and slide it under the fabric, centering it directly under Sec. 2. Line up the edge of the second fabric with the trimmed quarter-inch seam.



Step 5: Open the paper and sew on Line 1.

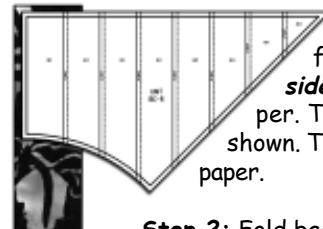
Step 6: Loosen the glue under Sec. 1. Then, flip the paper over and press the fabric pieces open on the **backside** of the paper. Don't press any folds into the seam.



Continue adding each piece to the foundation paper until the paper piecing is complete. When the foundation piecing is finished, trim off the excess fabric and foundation paper.

Do not remove the foundation papers at this time. Set the pieces back into Bag #5, and continue with the corner units.

**Foundation Paper Piecing: Unit BC-R:
Bag #6: Make 4 Units:**

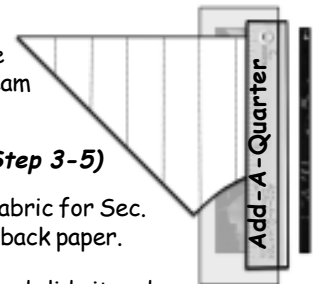


Step 1: Glue the first piece of fabric under Sec. 1. Glue the *wrong-side-up* to the **wrong-side** of the paper. Then, trim off the excess fabric as shown. This will make it easier to handle the paper.

Step 2: Fold back the paper on Line 1 and trim the first seam allowance.

(Graphics are not included, for Step 3-5)

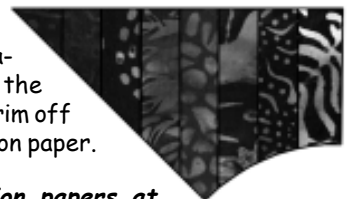
Step 3: Place the second piece of fabric for Sec. 2 *right-side-up* next to the folded back paper.



Step 4: Lift the foundation paper and slide it under the fabric, centering it directly under Sec. 2. Line up the edge of the second fabric with the trimmed quarter-inch seam. Then, open the paper and sew on Line 1.

Step 5: Loosen the glue under Sec. 1. Then, flip the paper over and press the fabric pieces open on the **backside** of the paper.

Continue adding each piece to the foundation paper until the paper piecing is complete. When the foundation piecing is finished, trim off the excess fabric and foundation paper.



Do not remove the foundation papers at this time. Set the pieces back into Bag #5, and continue with the corner units.