

## Definition of Common Terms and Tools

**Purple Thang:** A small plastic tool used like a stiletto that won't poke through the fabric. It is used to help work fabric between the presser foot and feed dogs when sewing over several seams.

**Add-A-Quarter Ruler:** A small ruler with a quarter-inch lip on the bottom side 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" & 18" rulers for this pattern.

**Washout Fabric Glue Pen:** I use a water soluble fabric glue pen to adhere the first piece of fabric to the *backside* of the foundation paper. The fabric glue pen can also be used to help hold the raw edges together when sewing the units together.

**Flower Pins:** Flower pins are a long pin with a flat 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 used as a straight edge while folding back the foundation papers just before trimming with the Add-A-Quarter ruler. A 3" by 12" piece of template plastic should be cut to use with the 12" Add-A-Quarter. A 3-1/2" by 18" piece is cut for the 18" ruler.

**Sewing Lines on the Foundation Papers:** The sewing lines on the foundation papers are the *dark solid lines* separating each section. The lines are marked in chronological order starting with Line 1, 2, 3 and etc.

**Dashed Lines:** These lines are reference lines marking the edge of your 1/4" seam allowance. They are not sewing lines. The dashed lines are used to help you locate the actual shape and size of each section on the *backside* of the paper.

**Sewing the Fabric Pieces on the Foundation Paper:** When sewing the fabrics to the foundation paper, each fabric piece must cover the underside area plus the extended seam allowance for each section you are sewing. The dashed lines can be used to locate this area before adding your fabrics. This can be done using three different techniques and each technique works.

1. I fold and crease the papers on the dashed line before I add the next piece of fabric. After creasing the dashed lines, I flip the paper over to find each section on the backside of the paper.
2. You can also trace the dashed lines on the backside of the foundation paper. This can be done by using a light-table or by placing the paper up to a window. Tracing works best when you are working on large foundation units.
3. Some people hold the paper up to a light-source to see if the fabric has been properly placed under the section they are sewing.

**Ziploc Bags:** We use gallon Ziploc bags to keep the templates and template layout sheets together with the foundation papers. After you cut your fabric pieces, the fabrics are placed into the Ziploc bags with the templates and foundation papers. You will need (5) bags for this project. Label your bags as follows:

- Bag #1, VC-Unit E
- Bag #2, VC-Units C & D
- Bag #3, VC-Unit B Template VCB-1 & VCB-2
- Bag #4, VC-Unit A Template VCA-1 & VCA-2
- Bag #5, Templates CL-1, CR-1, CL-2, CR-2

## Templates & Template Layout Sheets

**Paper Piecing Templates:** These are oversized templates designed for cutting the fabric pieces for each section on any foundation unit. Each template is designed to include extra fabric in the seam allowance of varying amounts depending on how the templates are used when positioning them under the foundation paper.

**Why the extra seam allowance?** The extra allowance of fabric speeds up your piecing process and reduces the chance that you may not have enough fabric to work with when you sew it onto your foundation paper. After the fabric is sewn onto the foundation paper, the excess fabric is trimmed away using your Add-A-Quarter ruler.

**Template Layout Sheets:** A template layout sheet is made by grouping together several *paper piecing templates* into one larger sheet of paper with internal cut lines that are not cut until AFTER they are laid on top of your fabric stack. Your rotary cutter is used to slice through the paper and fabric at the same time, allowing several layers of fabric to be cut at once. A *template layout sheet* works best when using several fabrics to complete a series of repetitious blocks. Below are (7) very good reasons for using layout sheets to pre-cut your fabric pieces.

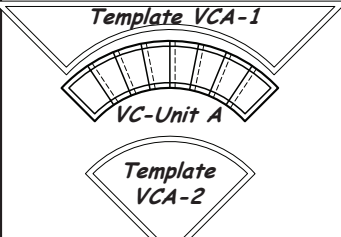
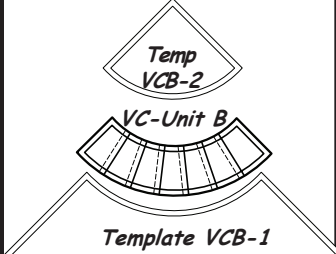
1. Fabric pieces can be stacked and cut at one time.
2. Stacking techniques and chain piecing techniques can be used when sewing the foundation papers.
3. Templates can be designed to utilize grain line.
4. Using templates will eliminate most fabric waste.
5. Cutting fabrics with oversized templates allows you the freedom to cut your pieces without having to worry about accuracy.
6. They require very little math when figuring yardage.
7. They are FAST!

## Cutting Out the Foundation Papers, Templates, and Template Layout Sheets

The foundation papers must be cut out of the newsprint at this time. This is done by trimming away the excess paper, approximately 1/8" beyond the outside cutting line. You will find the foundation units, VC Units A, B, C, D, & E, printed on the newsprint sheets, NP 224, 225, & 226.

The templates and template layout sheets are cut out next. These are cut out on the dark solid line that forms a box around each group.

After the cutting is completed, the foundation papers, templates, and template layout sheets, are sorted and placed into the (5) different bags. The bags are labelled according to the information provided in each of the following boxes.

<p>Place the following into Bag #4.</p> <p>(12) of VC-Unit A (2) Template VCA-1 (2) Template VCA-2</p> 	<p>Place the following into Bag #3.</p>  <p>(16) of VC-Unit B (2) Template VCB-1 (2) Template VCB-2</p>
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