

Cutting and Stacking Techniques: Efficiency has also been incorporated into our cutting techniques through the use of paper piecing templates and Template Layout Sheets. If these concepts are new to you, you will find them to be one of the most satisfying parts of our patterns. Template Layout Sheets were designed to teach organization skills, save hours of cutting time, and cut down on wasted fabric. We also include graphics showing how to stack and prepare fabric pieces before cutting and before paper piecing, using the Templates as a guide for staying organized. Again, our goal is to save you hours of sorting and sewing, by establishing a “procedural process” that keeps you focused on one step at a time and also minimizes mistakes!

Cut Out Technique: This pattern teaches a technique we use in several of our quilts that requires you to piece your unit, then go back and cut part of it away to create a 3-dimensional overlap of units.

Design Elements: There are (3) design elements used to create the layout in this pattern. They are referred to as Unit A, Unit B, and Unit C.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FOUNDATION PAPERS AND TEMPLATES

Ziploc Bags: You will need (4) large Ziploc bags to keep your pieces organized. Label the Bags according to the information below. You will sort the Foundation Papers, Templates, Cut Out Templates, and Template Layout Sheets according to the information on the newsprint graphics shown on the following two pages.

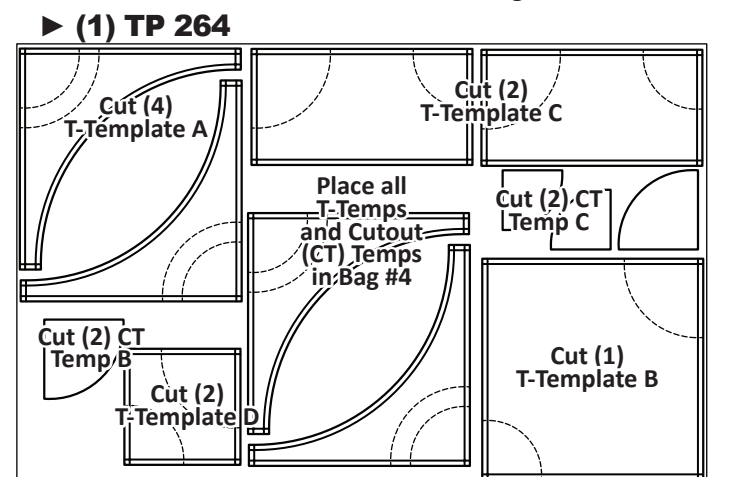
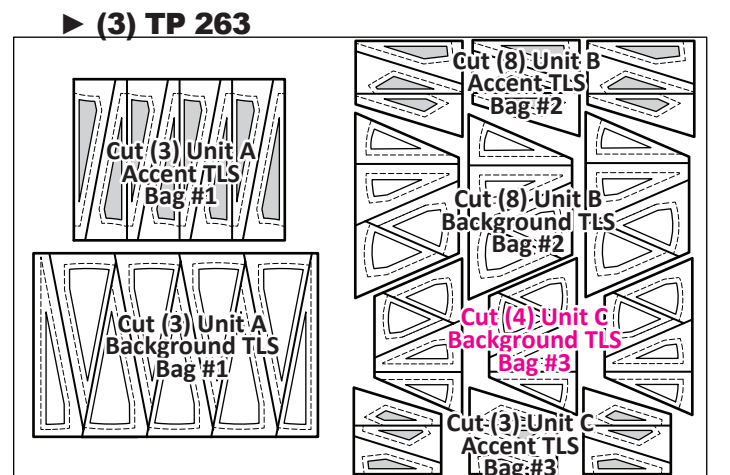
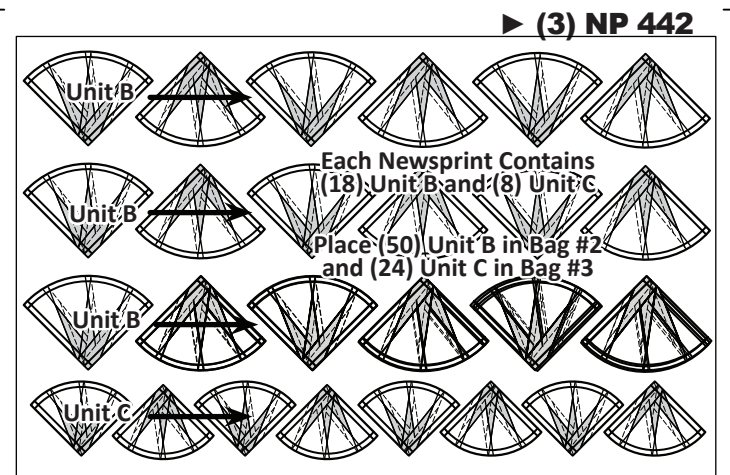
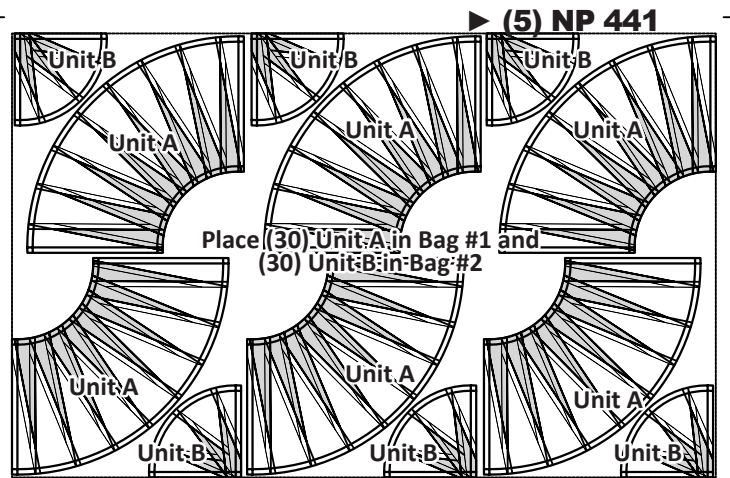
- Bag #1: Unit A (30) Foundation Papers and (3) Unit A Background and Accent Templates Layout Sheets.
- Bag #2: Unit B (80) Foundation Papers and (8) Unit B Background and Accent Templates Layout Sheets
- Bag #3: Unit C (24) Foundation Papers and (3) Unit C Background and Accent Templates Layout Sheets.
- Bag #4: Background T-Templates and CT-Templates.

NOTE - Extra Template Layout Sheets and Units: To optimize the layout for these papers, you will have some extra foundation papers and layout sheets. You can discard the excess in your pattern or save them in case you make a mistake.

Preparing Newsprint (NP) with Foundation Papers: The Foundation Papers are used as your piecing guides and are cut out by trimming the excess paper away, *approximately 1/8”* beyond the outside cutting line. Once the papers are cut, the papers are clipped together and placed into the corresponding bags as shown in the newsprint graphics on Page 2.

Hatching: Hatching has been added to the foundation papers and templates. The following information about the hatching will help you throughout the pattern.

1. The shaded sections (referred to as hatching) on the foundation papers and Template Layout Sheets correspond with each other. The hatched sections reference the accent elements on the foundation papers.
2. The unhatched sections are referred to as background.
3. Hatching does not denote the use of light, medium, or dark fabric. Your background fabrics may be light, medium, or dark. Your accent fabrics may also be light, medium, or dark.
4. Sec. #s and TEMP #s assigned to the background sections and accent sections on each foundation unit are also assigned to the corresponding templates and Template Layout Sheets.



Preparing Template Newsprint (TP): The TP newsprint includes Traditional Templates (T-Templates), Template Layout Sheets (TLS), and Cutout Templates (CT Templates). T-Templates are used to cut pieces to the exact size needed to complete the quilt. Template Layout Sheets are cutting templates consisting of several paper piecing templates grouped into one large, pre-cut cutting template. The layout for the templates is designed to utilize grain line, save fabric and speed up the cutting process. Template Layout Sheets are then used to cut out the fabric pieces. Each layout sheet is placed onto a stack of fabric before it is cut apart. A rotary cutter slices through the paper and fabric at the same time, allowing several layers of fabric to be cut at once. A Cutout Template is used after the paper piecing is completed to cut away a portion of a foundation paper making a place to sew a new piece in its place.

Template Layout Sheets and T-Templates are cut out on the dark solid line that forms a box around each group. Do not cut on any of the interior Cut Lines on the Template Layout Sheets at this time.

After the cutting is completed, the templates and Template Layout Sheets are sorted, then placed into the assigned bags as noted in the newsprint graphics shown on Pages 2 and 3.

GENERAL FABRIC INFORMATION

Fabric Width: The yardage amounts and cutting instructions were calculated to use 42" wide fabrics. If the fabrics are not 42" wide, you might want to recalculate the yardage before you begin cutting.

Cutting Errors: If cutting mistakes are made, when cutting your strip sets you will probably need to insert a new fabric color to replace what was improperly cut. If additional supplies are needed to correct an error, please contact Quiltworx.com and we will try to help you get what you need. You will be liable to cover shipping.

Follow Instructions: You may find yourself confused as you begin, but let me assure you this process works. Read through the instructions, and study the graphics before you start. Follow the instructions step by step. Once you complete the first Foundation Sheet, it will all make sense and you will be hooked.

SELECTING AND CUTTING FABRICS

Selecting your Fabrics: Selecting your fabrics can be done by:

- Purchasing a pre-made kit (your yardage should follow the cover quilt yardage listed on the back of the pattern or in the table to the right).
- You can select your own fabrics using the

same color concept as the cover, simply choosing your own colors in the same yardage amounts as recommended on the back of the pattern or below. Just paste your own fabric choices into each box.

- You can use Quiltster! In this case, you can use a pre-loaded color template to play with real fabric swatches and audition color concepts and a wide range of fabrics to create your very own, unique version of Raindrops. Your yardage will calculate out as shown below, but you will be able to see your quilt before you finalize your fabric choices.

Once you decide on your fabrics, press them and begin the cutting process. You will cut all of the accent fabrics at the same time, then sort the pieces into the proper bags. Then, all of the background fabrics and sort the pieces into the proper bags.

Cutting Errors: If cutting mistakes are made during the cutting steps for each bag, you will probably need to purchase some additional fabrics to complete your project, so follow directions carefully.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Cutting Your Fabric: Read the information printed on each Template Layout Sheet before you begin cutting your fabrics. *Note the following:*

Full Quilt Yardage					
ACCENT FABRICS			BACKGROUND FABRICS		
FABRIC #	YARDAGE INCH	ASSIGNED COLOR	FABRIC #	YARDAGE INCH	ASSIGNED COLOR
<u>Fabric A1</u> ACCENT 1	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B1</u> BACKGROUND 1	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A2</u> ACCENT 2	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B2</u> BACKGROUND 2	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A3</u> ACCENT 3	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B3</u> BACKGROUND 3	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A4</u> ACCENT 4	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B4</u> BACKGROUND 4	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A5</u> ACCENT 5	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B5</u> BACKGROUND 5	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A6</u> ACCENT 6	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B6</u> BACKGROUND 6	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A7</u> ACCENT 7	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B7</u> BACKGROUND 7	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A8</u> ACCENT 8	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B8</u> BACKGROUND 8	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A9</u> ACCENT 9	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B9</u> BACKGROUND 9	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH
<u>Fabric A10</u> ACCENT 10	<u>5/8 yd</u> or (19")	FABRIC SWATCH	<u>Fabric B10</u> BACKGROUND 10	<u>7/8 yd</u> or (28-3/4")	FABRIC SWATCH

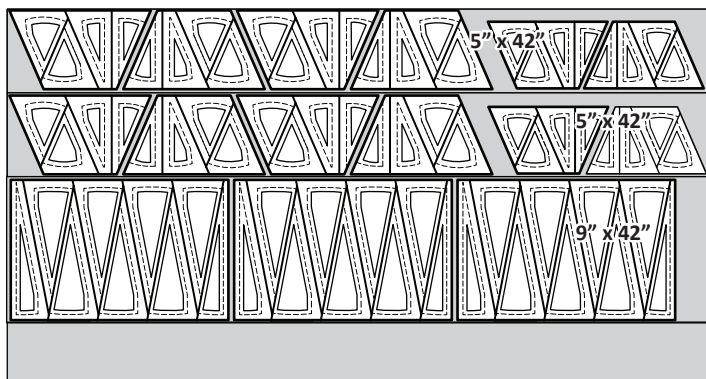
1. There are Cut Lines on each Template Layout Sheet referred to as Cut Lines 1, 2, 3, and etc. The Template Layout Sheets ARE NOT sub-cut until AFTER they have been laid on top of the respective pieces of fabric.
2. When the fabrics are stacked beneath the Template Layout Sheets, only then should these lines be cut. If you cut on any other lines, you will ruin your fabric pieces. The excess fabric around each template is not cut off until after the fabric pieces are sewn to the Foundation Papers.
3. Large paper clips are used to hold the Template Layout Sheets onto your fabrics. I normally place my paper clips on each section around the edge of the Template Layout Sheet before I cut the sections apart. This keeps the templates and fabrics together for each section.

We have also organized the cutting so the biggest pieces are cut first for the larger units. Cutting the biggest pieces first is more efficient and allows you the ability to use up the leftover fabrics for smaller pieces.

► Accent Fabric Cutting Instructions

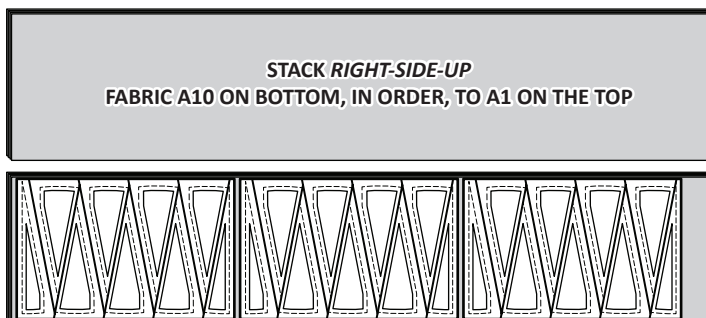
Fabrics A1 to A10 (Accent Fabrics): 5/8 Yards of each fabric (19" per fabric)

1. Stack your (10) 5/8 Yard cuts of fabric **right-side-up** with Fabric A1 on the top, in order, to Fabric A10 on the bottom.
2. Cut (2) sets of (10) 5" by 42" strips.
3. Cut (1) 9" x 42" strip per fabric.

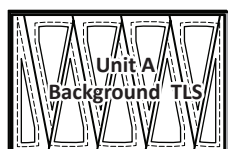


► Unit A, Bag #1, Fabrics A1 to A10:

Step 1: Cut (3) stacks of (10) 9" by 13-3/4" rectangles from the strips (the size of the **Unit A Background TLS**).



Step 2: Position (1) copy of the **Unit A Background TLS** onto each stack of fabric. Put paper clips at each section template around the perimeter to hold the fabrics and templates together. Then, place your ruler on Cut Line 1 and slice through the paper and fabric at the same time. Continue cutting until all the sections are cut apart. Place the pieces into Bag #1.



► Units B & C, Bags #2 & 3 Fabrics A1 to A10:

Step 1: Unit B; From each of the (2) sets of 5" x 42" strip stacks, cut (4) stacks (40 pieces total from each stack) the size of the **Unit B Background Template Layout Sheet**,

Step 2: Before cutting the Unit C Layout Sheets from the remaining strips, remove the bottom (4) fabrics (Fabrics A7 to A10) from each stack. This will leave you with (6) layers in each strip set. Discard the pieces you just removed.

Step 3: Cut (2) stacks, the same size as the **Unit C Background Template Layout Sheet**.



Step 4: Position (1) copy of the **Unit B Background TLS** onto each of the (8) stacks of fabric cut to the size of the Template Layout Sheet. Each stack should have (10) pieces, for a total of (80). Put paper clips at each section template around the perimeter to hold the fabrics and templates together. Then, place your ruler on Cut Line 1 and slice through the paper and fabric at the same time. Continue cutting until all the sections are cut apart. Place the pieces into Bag #2.

NOTE - Remove Fabrics: Remember is Step 2 above, you were supposed to remove the bottom (4) fabrics (Fabrics A7 to A10) from each stack and discard.

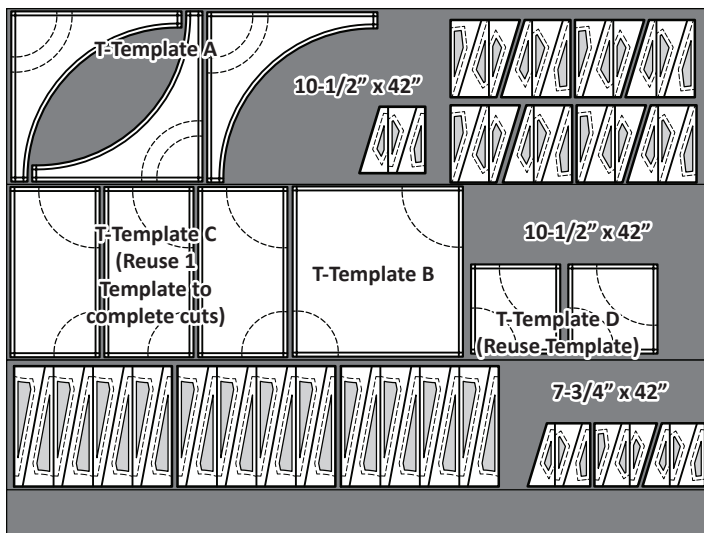
Step 5: Position (1) copy of the **Unit C Background TLS** onto each of the (4) stacks of fabric cut to the size of the Template Layout Sheet. Each stack should have (6) pieces, for a total of (24).

Step 6: Put paper clips at each section template around the perimeter to hold the fabrics and templates together. Then, place your ruler on Cut Line 1 and slice through the paper and fabric at the same time. Continue cutting until all the sections are cut apart. Place the pieces into Bag #3.

► Background Fabric Cutting Instructions

Fabrics B1 to B10 (Background Fabrics): 7/8 Yards of each fabric (28-3/4" per fabric). A graphic showing the layout of the pieces is at the top of the next column.

1. Stack your (10) 5/8 Yard cuts of fabric **right-side-up** with Fabric B1 on the top, in order, to Fabric B10 on the bottom.
2. Cut (2) sets of (10) 10-1/2" by 42" strips.
3. Cut (1) 7-3/4" x 42" strip per fabric.

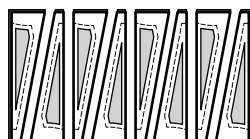


► Unit A, Bag #1, Fabrics B1 to B10:

Step 1: Cut (3) stacks of 7-3/4" by 10-1/4" rectangles from the stack of 7-3/4" x 42" strips. Reserve the end for the Unit C Accent pieces. You will have a total of (30) pieces.



Step 2: Position (1) copy of the *Unit A Accent TLS* onto each stack of fabric. Put paper clips at each section template around the perimeter to hold the fabrics and templates together. Then, place your ruler on Cut Line 1 and slice through the paper and fabric at the same time. Continue cutting until all the sections are cut apart. Place the pieces into Bag #1.



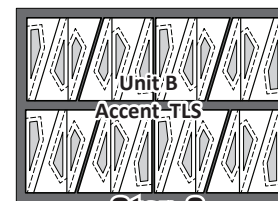
► Units B & C, Bags #2 & 3 Fabrics B1 to B10:

Step 1: From each of the (2) sets of 10-1/2" x 42" strip stacks, cut the following as shown in the graphic at the top of Page 5:

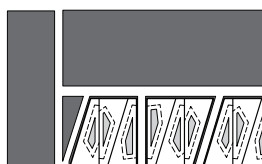
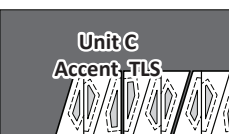
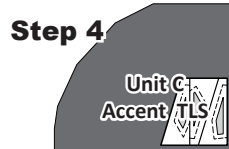
- From Strip Stack 1, cut (3) *T-Template A* stacks, each including (1) of each of the (10) fabrics, then reserve the rest for the Unit B & Unit C Accent pieces.
- From Strip Stack 2, cut (3) *T-Template C*, (1) *T-Template B*, and (2) *T-Template D* from each of the (10) fabrics.

Step 2: Sub-cut the leftover fabrics for the Unit B Accent Pieces as shown in the following graphics. Use the *Unit B Accent Template Layout Sheet* as a guide to cut (8) stacks of (10) fabrics the same size as the TLS.

Step 3: Position (1) copy of the *Unit B Background TLS* onto each of the (8) stacks of fabric cut to the size of the Template Layout Sheet. Put paper clips at each section template around the perimeter to hold the fabrics and templates together. Then, place your ruler on Cut Line 1 and slice through the paper and fabric at the same time. Continue cutting until all the sections are cut apart. Place the pieces into Bag #1.



Step 4: With the fabrics still in order from B10 on the bottom to B1 on top, sub-cut the leftover fabric from the 7-3/4" x 42" strip and the leftover from the 10-1/2" x 42" strip used to cut T-Template A using the *Unit C*



Background TLS as a guide. You will have a total of (4) stacks of (10) pieces of fabric.

Step 5: Discard the bottom (4) pieces in each stack (Fabrics B7 to B10) before finishing the cutting.

Step 6: Put paper clips at each section template around the perimeter to hold the fabrics and templates together. Then, place your ruler on Cut Line 1 and slice through the paper and fabric at the same time. Continue cutting until all the sections are cut apart. Place the pieces into Bag #3.

GENERAL PIECING INSTRUCTIONS

Tension, Stitch Length, and Needle Size: Your machine tension and stitch length should be adjusted according to the weight of the paper on which you are sewing. Sew a couple practice seams through a few scraps of paper and fabric. Check the tension for even, tight stitches. If the paper is hard to pull away from the fabric, tighten the stitch a bit. If the paper falls apart during the sewing process, loosen the stitch a bit. Check the stitch length every time you begin sewing.

Thread Size: Size 50 and 60 weight threads are the most commonly used thread for foundation paper piecing on newsprint. They are strong enough to hold up to the stress of removing the paper without breaking.

Needles for Lightweight Paper: I use size 70 Microtex Sharp needles when I sew through the news print because the lighter weight threads require a smaller stitch length and needle.

Pressing: Most ink used for printing is not permanent if it gets pressed into your fabric, but it can cause a big mess. The ink will wash out of most fabrics but try to avoid this problem by following these guidelines.

1. Press on the backside of the paper to avoid the black lines, keeping ink off the bottom of the iron. Protect your ironing board by placing a strip of muslin over it while working on foundation paper.
2. Press the foundation papers, one piece at a time, to prevent pressing ink marks into the fabric directly under the piece you may be pressing. Set it to the side, and then press the next piece. Steam may cause the ink to come off easily and shrink the paper a little, so use caution with the steam. If the paper curls in the pressing process, turn the temperature down on the iron just a bit and adjust the steam.

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.

Template Pieces: The Template pieces designed for this pattern are bigger than the sections they were designed to cover on the foundation paper. If a fabric piece does not cover the section it was intended to cover, it means one of several things:

1. The fabric piece may have been positioned incorrectly before sewing it onto the foundation paper.
2. The fabric pieces may have been cut out incorrectly by cutting on the wrong lines, or cutting with fabrics facing wrong-sides together.
3. You may have forgotten to trim the quarter-inch seam on the previous Strip. Whatever the reason, remember, mistakes can be corrected.

Sew-Sides: The sew-side is the first side of any template piece that is sewn onto the foundation paper. Since most of the template pieces in this pattern are directional, it is necessary to match the sew-sides up with the trimmed quarter-inch seam allowance. If this is not done, the pieces can be reversed, causing them not to cover the sections they were intended to cover.

Stacking the Templates: The templates pieces for each section on the foundation paper are pre-stacked by aligning the sew-side along the top edge of each template. This is done to help organize and position the template pieces making it possible to pull each fabric piece off the stack in the order they are sewn. Pay attention to the sew-sides when stacking the fabrics for the foundation paper piecing. This will help with the placement of the pieces as they are sewn onto the paper. Graphics have been included for each foundation paper to help you visualize the pre-stacking order for the respective fabric pieces.

Fabric Glue: Fabric glue is helpful for adhering the first piece of fabric under Sec. 1 on the foundation paper as it keeps the first piece positioned for a successful start to the piecing process.

Chain Piecing: Once you catch onto the steps with foundation paper piecing try setting up your work space for speed piecing. Chain piecing can be accomplished while foundation paper piecing by preparing multiple papers and sewing all of Sec. 2 to Sec. 1 before moving to Sec. 3, and so forth. This will make your sewing process move much faster. *Refer to the **CHAIN PIECING EXAMPLE** (right).

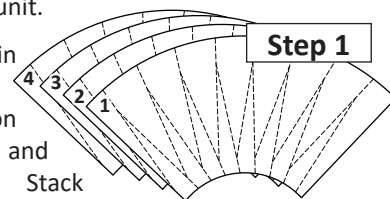
Removing the Foundation Paper: To remove, place your finger at the end of each seam. Pinch the fabric, seam, and paper. Begin tearing the paper off, starting with the last piece sewn onto the foundation paper. Continue removing the paper in descending order, finishing with the first piece glued to the paper.

Too Much Glue: Too much glue when attaching the first piece to the paper can make the paper difficult to remove. The paper and glue that remains stuck to the fabric will not hurt the fabric. Washing the quilt when it is done will cause the glue to dissolve and the paper will become part of the filler. If you don't want to wash the quilt and the paper leaves a shadow under the fabric, spray a dab of water on the small pieces of remaining paper and continue removing what is left.

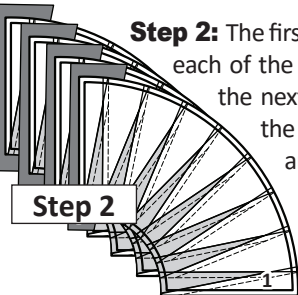
CHAIN PIECING EXAMPLE

The paper piecing instructions only show single layers of each paper piecing step. However, the following stacking process can increase production. Speed piecing involves completing each step multiple times, stacking as you go, and keeping the units and work space organized as you sew. I highly recommend that you try this process after making the first unit.

Step 1: Number the papers in (3) sets from 1-10 (only 4 are shown for demonstration purposes), on the frontside and backside of the last section. Stack from (1-10, then 1-10, then 1-10 for a total of 30 papers).

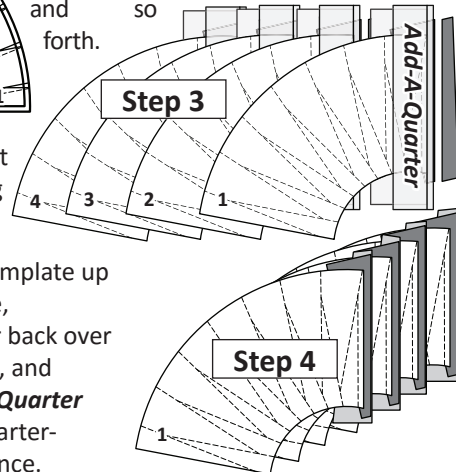


Step 2: The first piece of fabric is placed under Sec. 1 on each of the foundation papers before moving onto the next step. Fabrics A1 & B1 are paired with the papers labeled as #1. Fabrics A2 & B2 are paired with the papers labeled as #2 and so forth.



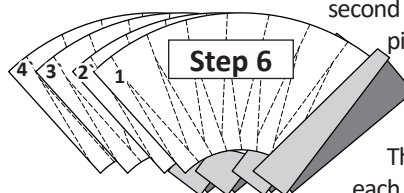
Step 3: The next part of the chain piecing involves:

- Lining the Fold Template up with the Sew Line,
- Folding the paper back over the fold template, and
- Using the **Add-A-Quarter** ruler to trim a quarter-inch seam allowance.



Step 4: Sec. 2 fabric is now placed properly beneath each paper.

Step 5: The fabrics are sewn onto the paper, playing follow the leader, starting with the first piece of paper on the top of your stack, then the second and third, and so on, until all the pieces have been added.

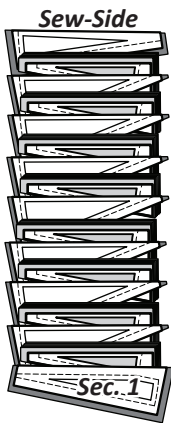


Step 6: The fabric is pressed on the backside of the paper. The steps are repeated as you add each new section of fabric.

SORTING AND STACKING: BAG #1 UNIT A

In Bag #1, there are several stacks of pieces clipped to each template for Sections 1-17 on Unit A. You will have (3) stacks labeled with each Section Template number. You can sew these together 1 stack at a time, or all at once. It may help to label them as Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3.

Begin the sorting process by positioning the templates and fabric pieces facing **right-side up**, with the **sew-sides** aligned at the top as shown to the right. Sec. 1 does not have a sew side. The pieces are stacked in the order they are sewn.

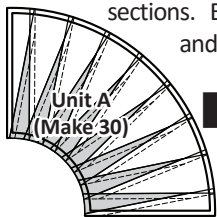


Stacking: The stacking process begins with Sec. 17 on the bottom. The pieces are stacked in reverse order finishing with Sec. 1 on top.

Labeling Your Papers: Before you begin paper piecing, it is a good idea to number your foundation papers as 1 to 30 as noted

in the Chain Piecing example. Even if you are using a scrappy layout, the backgrounds and accents in each block should be out of the same fabric. Numbering the papers (front-side and backside under Sec. 17), then putting them back in order before you add each new piece will help assure you are always sewing the proper fabric to the unit you are working with.

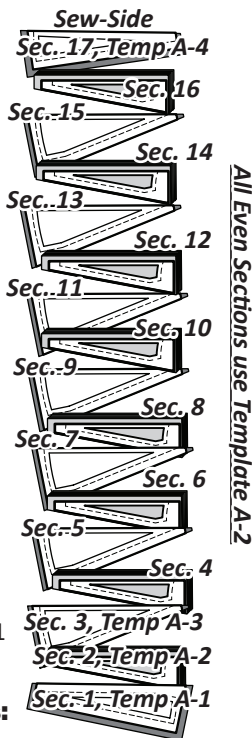
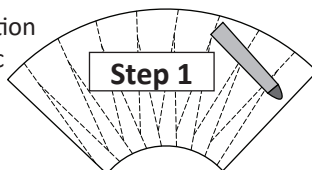
Color Check: As a reminder, Fabrics A1 to A10 are always sewn onto the odd numbered sections, while Fabrics B1 to B10 are always sewn onto the even numbered sections. Each unit should use the same background color and accent color throughout.



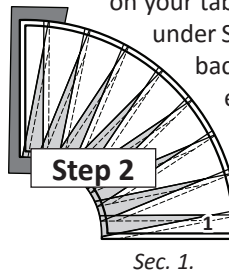
FOUNDATION PAPER PIECING UNIT A

NOTE - Tracing the Dashed Lines: Flip the foundation paper over on a light table and trace the dashed lines printed on the front side of the foundation paper onto the backside. You will only need to trace the first few pieces to get you started.

Step 1: Find Sec. 1 on the foundation paper. Place a small amount of fabric glue on the **backside** of the paper under Sec. 1.

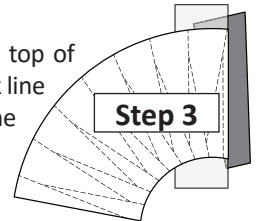


Step 2: Position the first piece of fabric for Sec. 1 **wrong-side up** on your table. Lift the foundation paper, slide the fabric under Sec. 1. Glue is used to adhere the fabric to the backside of the paper. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for each foundation unit.

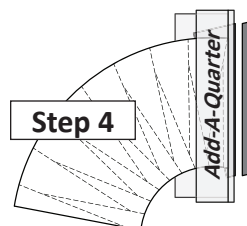


NOTE - Fabric Placement: The wrong-side of the fabric is against the backside of the paper. The fabric must extend beyond the edges of the dashed lines to cover the underneath side of

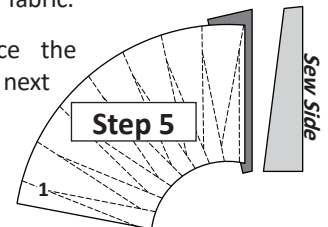
Step 3: Place the fold template over the top of Sec. 1. Line the edge up with the solid black line marked Line 1. Fold the paper back over the top of the fold template.



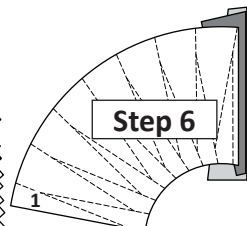
Step 4: Place the **Add-A-Quarter** ruler next to the folded back section lip-side down and trim the fabric with your rotary cutter. This leaves you with a quarter-inch seam allowance that is lined up with the sew side on the next piece of fabric.



Step 5: Place the fabric piece for Sec. 2, **right-side up** next to the folded back paper as shown.



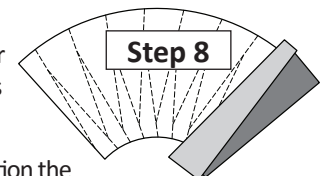
Step 6: Lift the foundation paper and slide the fabric under Sec. 2. Line the sew-side up with the trimmed seam allowance. Make sure the fabric extends beyond the boundaries of the dashed lines for Sec. 2. Repeat **Steps 3-6** for each foundation paper before moving onto Step 7.



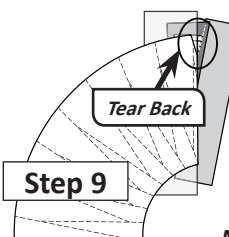
Step 7: Sew on Line 1. The stitches should start and stop about 1/8" past the beginning and the end of each stitch line. Complete the sewing on each unit before moving onto the next step.

NOTE - Trimming the Threads: Sewing past the ends of your sew line makes it possible to cut the thread ends off each time you trim with your **Add-A-Quarter** ruler.

Step 8: Loosen the glue under Sec. 1, then press the fabric pieces open on the backside of each paper.



Step 9: Position the fold template over the top of Sections 1 and 2, lining the edge up with Line 2. Fold the paper back and tear the paper along the stitches on **Line 1**. Stop tearing when you hit the fold template.



NOTE - Tear Back the Paper: Tearing the paper along the stitches allows the fabric to relax making it possible to place the **Add-A-Quarter** ruler along the folded edge.

Step 10: Trim the fabric with the **Add-A-Quarter** ruler.

