

**Sew-Sides:** The sew-side on each piece of fabric is the first seam sewn onto the foundation paper. The sew-side on every piece of fabric you sew onto the foundation paper will always line up with the trimmed quarter-inch seam along the folded edge of the foundation paper.

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

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

**Ziploc Bags:** We use Ziploc bags to keep the Templates and Template Layout Sheets together with the Foundation Papers. After you cut your fabric pieces for each unit the fabrics are placed into the corresponding bags with the Foundation Papers.

## GENERAL TECHNIQUES

**Foundation Strip Piecing:** This technique involves sewing oversized strips of fabric under the foundation paper to create a strip set. The strip sets are cut apart and trimmed to the proper size after the sewing is completed. This is done to speed up the piecing process and eliminate the stretching issue that normally occurs when sewing a strata of strips.

**Foundation Paper Piecing:** The technique of Foundation Paper piecing involves sewing fabrics to a foundation of paper that has preprinted lines and sewing instructions. This allows for perfect points and seam allowances when piecing an intricate quilting design. Oversized pieces of fabric are sewn together and then cut to the proper size after the sewing is completed to speed up piecing and allow for imperfections to be corrected along the way.

It is important when paper piecing that the fabric pieces are cut big enough to successfully cover the section being sewn, plus the extended seam allowance. Quiltworx.com papers are designed with dashed lines showing the seam allowances and our patterns include well-planned Template Layout Sheets and templates. The Template Layout Sheets and templates help cut pieces large enough to quickly place them and the dashed lines help guide the positioning of fabric beneath the paper so it covers the proper area. The cutting templates are designed to minimize fabric waste and simplify the piecing process.

**Floating Points:** Floating points are designed so the tip of the point does not intersect with a seam allowance. Floating a point is a "forgiving" way to piece unit/blocks together because nothing is designed to match up. The most critical step to floating a point is learning how to tear back the Foundation Paper when adding the next piece. With these instructions you will have the opportunity to work with several block designs in which we incorporated floating points.

**Cutting Techniques:** Efficiency has also been incorporated into our cutting techniques. With these instructions, we will introduce you to pre-cutting techniques using 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.

**Stacking Techniques:** We have included graphics and instructions on how to stack and prepare fabric pieces and the workspace for chain piecing. The #1 benefit of stacking is staying organized. Template pieces are positioned and stacked in the order in which they are sewn onto the Foundation Papers. This allows you the ability to complete the same steps on several blocks at the same time. This technique is very efficient and saves many hours of sorting and sewing.

**Curved Piecing:** We approach curved piecing differently than the traditional way of clipping and pinning. (TRP) Lines, pins and glue are applied to the seam allowance to hold the fabrics in place along the raw edges, which helps ensure a perfect fit when sewing with a quarter-inch seam allowance.

**Curved Line Paper Piecing:** We will also be teaching our newest approach to curved paper piecing. A basting stitch sewn onto a curved line is used as a guide to fold the paper back against, allowing us the ability to trim a quarter inch seam allowance along a curved edge. A curved template piece can now be sewn to the foundation paper.

**Smart Corners:** Quiltworx.com now designs many of its foundation units with "Smart Corners," which takes all the work out of placing the unit pieces together during the assembly process by building the corner of the paper to perfectly match the finished seam allowance and eliminating all dog ears. You will find this to be very helpful as you assemble the units.

**Registration Points (TRP) Technique:** Judy has written a new technique for marking Registration Points (Match Points between units on seam lines). In general, basting stitches are sewn at key locations marked on the foundation papers called (TRP) Lines before the papers are trimmed and removed. TRP Lines are easier to see and match when sewing the units together. Plus, they are perfectly placed!

**Layout Groups:** This quilt was divided into (3) Group Layouts. Each group is made using one or more different Foundation Units or Templates. The Groups are identified as **Groups J, G, and B**.

## FOUNDATION PAPERS AND TEMPLATES

### ► Preparing the Foundation Papers:

The Foundation Papers are included on the newsprint sheets labeled NP and are used as your sewing guides during the piecing process. They are cut out by trimming the excess paper away, approximately 1/8" beyond the outside perimeter of each Foundation Unit. Cut out the number specified in the instructions for each Group Layout, clip together, and place in the respective bags. If you are cutting multiple sheets that include identical foundation papers, you can stack the papers and cut them all at the same time. Align and match the units on each sheet when cutting multiple layers. Place a pin at each corner to keep everything aligned. A stapler may help to keep the papers from slipping, causing you to mis-cut the papers located further down in the stack.