

Foundation Paper Piecing - General Instructions

Foundation Paper Piecing is a technique in which fabric pieces are sewn to a paper foundation. Foundation paper piecing is not hard, but like other things getting started is sometimes difficult.

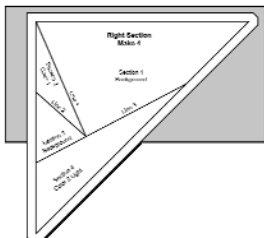
Supplies Needed:

- Foundation Templates - Make the required number of copies of each foundation template that will be used. In the Compass Collection these are clearly marked on each piece. These can be copied on regular copier paper.
- Fold Template - This can be a piece of template plastic, an index card or a postcard. You just want something thin with a rigid edge for folding.
- General Supplies - Your usual quilting supplies will be needed - rotary cutter, cutting mat, iron, good quality thread, etc.

Let's get started!

Cut fabric pieces for each area of the foundation templates. These are marked Section 1, Section 2, etc. on your foundation templates. Add a generous amount of extra fabric to allow for seam allowances as well as a bit of "wobble" room. As you become more familiar with the technique, you will use less generous amounts of fabric. But for now, better safe than sorry.

Shorten your stitch length so that you are sewing 15 - 20 stitches per inch. Each machine's setting is different. Also begin with a nice new sharp needle.



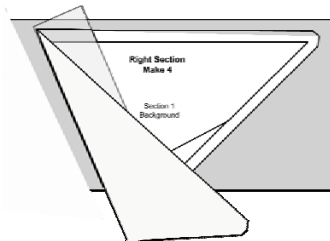
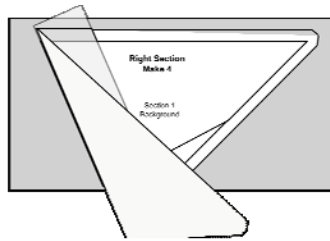
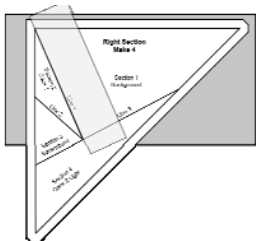
Step 1 - Positioning that first piece!

Center Fabric for Section 1 **BEHIND** Section 1 on the foundation template. **WRONG** side of fabric to **UNPRINTED** side of foundation.

Make sure that all of Section 1 plus seam allowance is covered by fabric. Pin or Glue this piece in place.

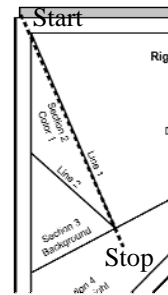
Step 2 - TRIM

Place the FOLD TEMPATE along Line 1. Fold the paper back over the fold template. Trim the excess fabric to ¼". A small rotary cutter ruler can be used for this. A handy tool to have is an Add A Quarter™ ruler. These can be found in most quilt shops. They have a nice "lip" that makes trimming very easy.



Step 3 - PLACE NEXT FABRIC

Place the next fabric (Section 2) also on the UNPRINTED side of the template. This fabric will be **RIGHT** sides together with the fabric already there. Align the edge of the fabric along the ¼" seam.



Step 4 - Sew

Sew all seams by stitching on the lines. Open the paper and Stitch on Line 1. Begin and end stitching about ¼" before and after the ends of the line.

Step 5 - Press

Press each seam to the side after it's been stitched. Press on the right side of the fabric. Make sure that both sections are covered with fabric before moving on.

Step 6 - Begin the Next Section

Now it gets easy. Repeat Steps 2 - 5 until the unit is complete. You will place your fold template on Line 2 next and

TRIM (Step 2)

PLACE NEXT FABRIC (Step 3)

SEW (Step 4)

PRESS (Step 5)

Step 7 - TRIM FINISHED UNIT

Once all fabrics have been added to the template, trim the excess fabric from the papers. The trim line is the solid outside line of the template. Remove papers from all units and assemble your block.