

## English Paper piecing.

Print off the template sheet , ordinary copy paper will be fine, cardboard is too thick.

The fabric template is the larger one and this is the one you use to cut the fabric.

### **Sew Basting**

Sew basting is another option of stabilising your fabric around the paper template. There are 2 methods of sew basting. The first, using a single strand of thread and needle, you simply hand sew through the fabric seam allowance and the paper template, wrapping the fabric around the paper template as you sew around the shape. Make sure that you stitch over the fold at each corner to secure your fabric. This method keeps your fabric securely around the paper template.

A second option is to pleat the fabric to hold it around the paper template. This method does not sew through the paper template and instead, you fold the fabric around 2 sides of the paper piece and make small stitches at the corner where the fabric folds over itself, sewing only through the fabric. Move to the next corner and fold the fabric around the paper piece and sew a few stitches there. Continue to move around your paper piece until you return to your beginning where you will secure your stitches with a small knot. When using this method, make sure your fabric is securely folded around the paper template to ensure accuracy when piecing your shapes together.

### **Sewing**

Stitch along the edge of the shapes, using a fine thread and a #11 straw needle. Join pieces with a whip stitch, place basted pieces face to face with wrong sides facing outward, align the pieces up evenly and stitch along the edge. Knot one end of an 18" length of thread using a quilter's knot or other large knot that keeps the thread from popping through your fabric. Using a single strand of thread (a double strand will more likely show) slide the needle beneath the seam allowance and come out at the point you wish to begin sewing. Sew only through the fabric, not the paper template. There should be a small channel along the edge of the folded fabric that your needle can pick into. Catch a small bite of fabric, but more than a few threads for stability. Stitch about 15-20 stitches per inch. You do not need to cut your thread at the end of sewing each shape, simply align the next 2 shapes and continue sewing.

At the beginning and end of each shape, knot your thread by passing the thread through a stitch loop twice before cinching the stitch closed, and then sew back 2-4 stitches to secure your knot. That way you can easily remove individual shapes later if necessary.

Small, close stitches will show less on the right side. You can use your fingers, low tact tape or small clips to hold the pieces in place as you sew. Using a small clip will take the pressure off your fingers and hand and help you avoid holding the pieces too tightly, which can result in sore fingers or hands.

If you feel stuck with how to piece two shapes together, lay them out in the way you wish for them to look and work backwards. Often you'll sew one seam and then twist it into another place to sew the other side of the shape. You can use your fingers or small clips to hold the pieces in place as you sew. You may need to bend and gently fold your shapes to be able to sew the shapes together.