# Your Guide to English Paper Piecing

by InstantPiecing.com

## Your First Project:
Four Steps from Start to Finish

**1. Cutting**
Cut your fabric in strips with a seam allowance of ¼ to 1/2". Then place your paper shapes on the back of the fabric, and fix them with a pin each. Next, cut the fabric to separate the individual shapes and finally you cut the fabric around each paper piece.

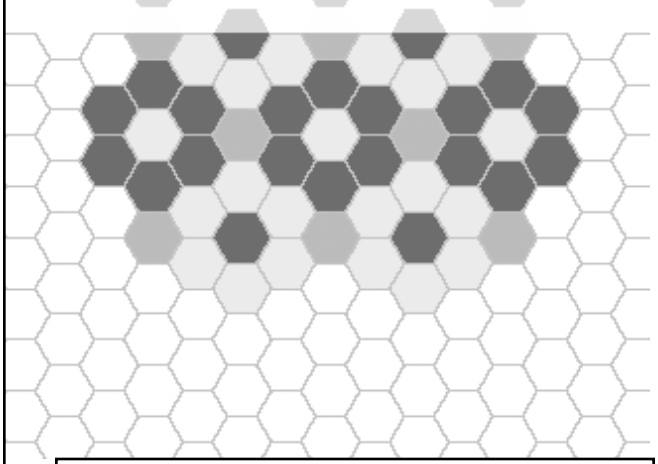
**2. Basting**
Wrap the fabric around the edge of the paper and fix it that way. Continue with one side after the other until all sides are basted.

**3. Whip-Stitching**
Lay together two basted shapes and whip-stitch along the edges, with approximately 8 – 10 stitches per inch.

**4. Finishing the Top**
Continue to sew together all your basted shapes according to your pattern or your quilt layout diagram.

## What it's all about:
English Paper Piecing Defined

English paper piecing is an old method to sew patchwork by hand, using paper shapes, wrapping the fabric around it, basting it, and whip-stitching the basted pieces to complete patterns and projects. The most common patterns are „Grandmother's Flowergarden" which consists of hexagon shapes, and „Baby Blocks" which is made of diamonds.



## Learn from the Pro's:
Tips & Tricks

**1.** The hexagon is the easiest shape to sew because of its wide angles in contrast to an 8 point diamond with 45° angles.

**2.** Start with some larger shapes with edge lengths of 1 ½ to 2 inches. The smaller the shapes are the more complicated it is to baste them.

**3.** Right from the beginning of an EPP project use great care when cutting out the templates from the printed paper. The more precise you cut the more precise you sew.

**4.** Be sure to use the same quality and weight fabric when choosing two or more different colors which is usually the case.

**5.** Remember: InstantPiecing.com is always there to provide help along the way. Drop by our ever-changing website regularly and enjoy our great selection of shapes plus lots of free stuff!