

Supply List

Introduction to Paper Piecing

This class aims at teaching you the basics of paper piecing. On the sample, one leaf is repeated (18 times) to produce a table topper or wall hanging measuring 18 inches X 18 inches. The same fabric can be used within a leaf, as in the sample, or each leaf can be made using a variety of fabrics, making it ideal for using up scraps, if you love that look.

Some general points about paper piecing:

- ° Each piece of fabric is sewn to the paper in sequence. I.e., 2 is sewn onto 1, then 3 is sewn onto 2, then 4 is sewn onto 3, etc.
- ° You will be sewing with the paper on top (pattern visible) and the fabric under the paper, wrong side to the back of the paper, so the “picture” emerges on the back of the paper.
- ° To make the paper easier to remove, you sew with a very small stitch (I use a stitch length of 1.5).
- ° When sewing one piece of fabric to another, you must begin and end exactly on the start and stop points on the pattern.

Equipment:

1. A sewing machine in good working order (don't forget to bring your manual with you).
2. Scissors. Both fabric scissors and paper scissors
3. Add a quarter ruler (this is a must)
4. Cutting mat, rotary cutter and a ruler
5. Tweezers, for removing paper
6. **Optional:** travel iron and ironing mat (this will save you a lot of steps)

Supplies:

1. Fabric:
The pattern gives you the fabric requirements for the pattern as it is (e.g. stems and veins of varied fabrics). I made the sample using co-ordinating fat quarters. Each leaf of a given fabric requires 2 strips of leaf fabric, cut across the width of the fat quarter.
If buying **yardage** specifically for this project, then you could purchase a minimum cut (about 4 inches in width), of different co-ordinating fabrics for the leaves. To better guide you, the fabric is cut into the following sizes at the outset:

The **background** fabric is cut into 2.5 X 3 inch rectangles (You need 4 for each leaf, making a total of 96 background rectangles. You will need seven 2.5 inch strips to give you the required number of background rectangles, that is about ½ meter

The **leaf** sections are cut into 1.5 X 3.5 inch strips

The **veins** between leaf sections are cut into 1 X 3.5 inch strips

The **stems** (same fabric as the veins) are cut into 1 X 7 inch strips

2. Thread (it does not have to match, so just choose a neutral or whatever you have on hand)
3. **18 copies of the complete leaf, that is 18 copies of side A and 18 copies of side B.**

I first pencil traced out 2 sets of leaves, then pasted them onto paper and photocopied that to minimize the waste of paper. Make sure you photocopy at 100%. The lighter weight the paper, the easier it is to tear off once you are finished stitching.

You must bring several copies of the complete leaf pattern with you to class as there is no time to trace off the pattern in the class, and no photocopying facilities nearby.

Each half leaf block, as shown, measures 2 inches X 6 ½ inches. If you do not want to work with such small pieces, you can enlarge the pattern. Of course, yardage requirements and final dimensions of the project will change, but the fundamentals of paper piecing remain the same.

4. Fabric glue.
5. Pressing solution, such as Best Press or Acorn.

I prefer Acorn because it comes with a “pen” that can be filled with solution and that runs along the seam to place the solution exactly where you want it.

