



TEMPLATES

Acrylic templates are available through the Missouri Star Quilt company.

You can cut your shapes with a regular straight ruler, but you have to know the math (I don't remember the math!), and cut the appropriate amount of fabric off the end of the outside shape triangle. If you decide to try this, just remember that the OUTER shape really needs to be just slightly larger than the 1/2 inch you would expect!

FABRIC AND BATTING OPTIONS

This is a great way to use up scraps, however if you want a specific look you will need to have lots of fabric, especially for the back pieces. If you want continuity, consider purchasing a 2-3 yard 108 wide piece of backing fabric for the outside shape.

I have used several options for the batting. For a more structured look for a wall hanging, or table runner, I recommend fusible fleece. I fuse the inside fabric to the fleece prior to cutting (use some sort of silicon sheet under the fleece), then cut the inside pieces and then fuse them to the outside shape in the correct position.

For a larger piece or quilt I simply cut the batting the same size as the inside shape. This is a great way to use up pieces of leftover batting, just make sure you have enough of the same batting at your disposal. Fusible batting is also an option, and again you will have to cut each inside shape individually or use the fleece process described above.

CUTTING

For each hexagon, diamond or combination diamond/hexagon shape you will need to cut 3 pieces:

- Outside shape
- Inside Shape
- Batting (same size as inside shape)

SEWING

There are several options for sewing the outside shape around the inside shape.

- Hand sewing—this is my personal preference as I enjoy this process.
- Machine stitching—using either a topstitch around the edge, a button hole stitch that is on your sewing machine, or using a blind machine applique technique using invisible thread.

Sewing the shapes together, again several options

- Hand sewing—Use a standard whip stitch. This is the method I recommend because I enjoy the process. Also, hexagons in general require a LOT of "Y SEAMS", and these are easy to manage with hand stitching.

- Machine stitching—It is possible to machine stitch the shapes using a buttonhole stitch, especially if you have a machine that will alternate a left and right stitch. You could also use a very small zig-zag stitch with invisible thread, but it is difficult to keep it from bunching up!

A note about thread for hand stitching—I like to use a very fine polyester thread such as DECO-BOB that is made by WonderFil. I have three spools of thread, off white, light grey and dark grey and I use these for ALL of the stitching. This avoids having to tote along a lot of different colored threads.

QUILTING

Machine quilting is best. Do the majority of your quilting on the pieces BEFORE you join all the shapes, then add more quilting as desired to increase the quilts overall stability.