

Painless Paper-Piecing
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Modifications by
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The above book is a great book, however I have modified some of the instructions to make it easier.

Modifications:

1. Use freezer paper to make your piecing pattern. You will not have to glue your fabric to your piecing pattern.
2. Cut small pieces of fabric for “legend” and cutting pattern templates. You can also glue a small piece of fabric to the piecing pattern. This helps to cut the correct colors.
3. Write cutting instructions on cutting pattern templates. Number of pieces needed from that piece and if pieces can be cut from stripes, what size strip. It is good to have this info at your fingertips.
4. Make your fabric cutting guide templates from freezer paper. You will iron the templates right to the fabric you are cutting and it makes for easy placement and cutting.

Pattern Markings

Carrefour Block

1. 1 through 9 is the order the fabric pieces are sewn together.
2. A, B, is the fabric you are using on the piece if you are using only 2 fabric. If you are making your center 1 color and the triangles on the corners a different color you will change 8-B to 8-C and 9-B to 9-D.
NOTE—If you are making a block with sections there will be another set of letters indicating the pieces that are in the sections. The Carrefour block is only one section.

Preparing Pattern Pieces

1. From the book or pattern make 1 copy and mark it “Master”.
2. Check for distortions and size if you are using a copy machine. I check this by laying a piece of graph paper on top of the pattern. Sometimes you may have to use a light box to see the pattern. If it is off, redraw by hand on the graph paper and use this to make your piecing pattern and cutting guide. After you are done making your piecing pattern from your graph paper pattern, it will be cut apart for you cutting guide.

Making Piecing Pattern From Graph Paper Pattern.

- a. Cut 1 to 4 pieces of freezer paper larger than the pattern. Stack freezer paper shiny side down and staple graph paper pattern on top in several places in hold it together. With no thread in the machine, stitch on all interior solid piecing lines. This will create a perforated fold line.

With the machine needle make a mark on the 4 corners of the block. Remove the staples and transfer numbers, letters, a small piece of fabric (optional) and cutting instructions to the freezer paper pattern. Draw a line from corner to corner.

3. On “Master” copy draw a “legend”. Write the letters down and glue a small piece of fabric next to the letter.
4. Mark the grain lines and cutting instructions on the Master copy. If not using a graph paper pattern, make 1 copy of the Master from regular copy paper (for cutting guide) and the other on freezer paper (for the piecing pattern). Using a serrated-edge dressmakers’ tracing wheel and rotary ruler, run the tracing wheel along all interior solid lines to perforate the fold lines on the piecing pattern. You can make more than 1 piecing pattern if you want to chain piece.

NOTE--If using a flatbed copier, iron a 1 inch strip of regular copy paper to the shiny side of the freezer paper at the top. This will help keep freezer paper flat and feed into the copier.

Preparing Fabric Cutting Guides

1. Cut out the block on the outside stitching (solid) line.
2. Cut out the piecing areas of the block on the interior sewing lines.
3. Glue pattern area pieces to a piece of freezer paper. Make sure pieces are at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch apart and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the outer edge of the paper. Draw a line around each piece that is $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from each edge. These lines are the cutting lines on the fabric cutting guides.
4. Press the freezer paper cutting guide pieces to the **wrong side** of the fabric you are going to cut out.

Preparing To Sew Your Block

1. Place your number 1 fabric, **wrong side** of fabric to shiny side of the freezer paper, and center it between the stitching lines with at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch showing beyond the outline of the pattern area on all sides. You can hold it up to the light to see the lines.
2. Iron in place within the lines.
3. Locate the first stitching line. This will be between 1-B and 2-A.
4. Fold back on perforated line.
5. Trim $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the paper.
6. With **right sides** together, line up second piece along the edge of piece #1 and stitch along side of the paper. You should have a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam.
7. Open paper and lay flat and press down to the freezer paper within the lines.
8. Continue with the next number until all the pieces of the block are completed.
9. Press completed block and trim $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the outside line (**NOT ON THE LINE**) of the block. This will create your $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam to sew your blocks together.
10. Remove freezer paper piecing pattern. Tip—To help remove the paper, heat with the iron.