



# Quiltscapes

## Quilt School Lesson V

### Footsteps to Successful Paper Piecing

*Achieve accurate, detailed shapes in quilt blocks with this creative "piece-by-number" method.*

#### Supplies

- Paper scissors
- Glue Stick
- Rotary Cutter and Mat
- Add-a-Quarter ruler (optional, but very helpful!!)
- Iron

#### Getting Started

- Use cheap thin type paper. No need to purchase vellum or expensive paper-piecing sheets.
- Print paper copies from a master copy, as accuracy diminishes each time a copy is used
  - A. Print enough for your patterns plus 2 extra.
  - A. Keep a master copy for your files,
  - B. Use the second for individual pattern segments, if desired.
    - 1) Mark outer edges of pattern on back to indicate grain.
    - 2) Cut out segments, working backwards from the highest number down to #1.
    - 3) Transfer any marking on plain side of pattern segment such as segment number, how many pieces to cut of each, where you would like the **grainline** to be.
    - 4) Lay out patterns for segments, and cut out with generous (1/2") seam allowance around each edge.
- Fold each line on the pattern pieces
- Plan your color layout, and if necessary, color in with marker, colored pencil or just write the color.
- Each pattern piece is numbered. Begin with segment #1 and work sequentially.
- Remember you are constructing your block from the back side of the finished block, so fabric will be placed on the blank side of the pattern. You will be constructing a mirror image of the printed pattern.
- Reduce stitch length to 18 –20 stitches per inch. This will perforate the paper and make it easier to remove when the time comes.
- Take a few stitches before and after stitching lines. Stitch off the pattern when stitching to an outside edge of the block.
- Cut first piece of fabric (segment #1) with a generous seam allowance around each edge.
- Pin or glue-baste fabric for segment #1 right side up on the blank side of the pattern, checking that all borders are properly covered.

*Now you're ready to begin!*

# Footsteps to Successful Paper Piecing



With printed side of pattern up, FOLD pattern back on the line between the section you are working on and the next section in sequence.



TRIM your fabric to 1/4" from the fold line. A helpful tool is the *Add-A-Quarter* ruler, or *Add-an-Eighth* if you are making tiny blocks, if you don't want to eyeball it.

- Keeping the pattern folded back, you should be able to ENVISION the next segment from the fold lines you made around section #2.
- If helpful, MARK or color in that segment.
- Check to ensure that you have ample seam allowances.
- All remaining pieces of fabric after the first piece will always be stacked RIGHT sides together.
- ALIGN your next piece of fabric along the trimmed edge, and you are ready to...



Fold pattern back into place just before sliding under the needle, pinning if necessary, then STITCH, beginning several stitches before the line and ending several stitches after the line.



PRESS segment away from previous segment, ready to begin the steps to add the next piece!



SUCCESS!! YOU DID IT!!

REPEAT these little footsteps, following the numbered sections in order of sequence. Use a dab of glue stick to secure fabric all the way to the edges. DO NOT STITCH around the edges of your block, unless you love to torture yourself by picking out tiny little pieces of paper between your seam allowances...Paper stays on until your segments are joined.