

THE HEXIE PINCUSHION

An introduction to English Paper Piecing

Description

If you're looking for an introduction to English Paper Piecing, these Hexie pincushions are for you. These make for a great handmade gift, easily slow stitched as a project on the go.

Supplies

Materials: one fat quarter or eight 2.5" square scraps, pre-cut paper hexie templates, pincushion stuffing (crushed walnut hulls or flax seed & polyfill)

Plan to need: Neutral colored 50w thread, at least one Wonder-clip, fabric scissors, sewing needle for hand sewing, water soluble glue stick or Sewline glue pen for fabric.

Finished pincushion: 4"x2"

Instructions



1. On the wrong side of your fabric, place all eight paper hexie templates, point at top, being aware of at least 3/8" margins around all templates. When satisfied with placement, use a glue pen or glue stick to adhere all eight templates to your fabric. This only requires a smidgen of glue onto the fabric in the center of each hexie.
2. Cut the fabric hexie out, allowing at least a 3/8" seam allowance around the paper hexie template. This is a great time to practice fussy cutting if you haven't already and have fun looking at your fabric in a new way!
3. With right side down, and paper side up, start by drawing along one edge of the paper template with your glue stick - not too much, but just enough to tack fabric edges. Now fold the fabric edge down, using fingers to affix fabric to paper. Repeat with the next five sides until entire hexie paper edges are encased by fabric.





4. On a flat surface, layout six hexies to surround a central one, and a second central hexie to be attached as an “arm”. Think about hexie placement and directionality of the fabric design to get the most out of your design. Then start stitching your circle of six hexies to the central hexie first. Holding two hexies right sides together and secured with a wonder clip, use small whip stitches through the fabric, not the paper, being sure to secure each hexie point with a single slip knot before progressing to the next edge.

5. Add on the eighth hexie remaining to the top of one of the surrounding hexies, like an “arm”. Proceed to stitch up two vertical sides of one pair of side hexies, adding a slip knot at each point. Continue stitching these vertical joints and attaching to one side of the hexie “arm” so that it will become the center back hexie of your pincushion. As you form your pincushion inside out, gently pinch hexies in half as you work all seams in this manner. Be sure to leave one seam open along one side of the back central hexie.

6. When complete, remove all paper templates by gently peeling them off*. Turn pincushion right side out through the opening. Press all seams flat.

7. Stuff your pincushion with enough crushed walnut hulls and polyfill so your pincushion is full and weighty. Whip stitch your final seam opening shut. Now you can sift through your own fabric stash, and start creating more hexie pincushions!

