

HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT made by Brigitte Giblin



Copyright Brigitte Giblin Quilts
HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT
MADE BY BRIGITTE GIBLIN

LITTLE QUILTS - HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT

made by BRIGITTE GIBLIN

Finished size: puzzle quilt centre - 26" x 29" plus 2 borders - total 35"x 46"

MATERIALS

- Scrap fabrics for the hexagons and puzzle pieces
- .3m (1/3yd) fabric for the first border - A
- .5m (2/3yd) fabric for the second border - B
- Optional: pre-cut "Hexagon Puzzle Quilt papers" available from www.brigittegiblinquilts.com
- Hand sewing tools

METHOD

This quilt is made using the English Paper Pieced method - see the notes attached on Paper Piecing. Fabrics are basted over hexagons and other shapes first and then whip-stitched together to make up the body of the quilt. You may choose to hand piece this quilt using accurate 1/4" seam allowance.

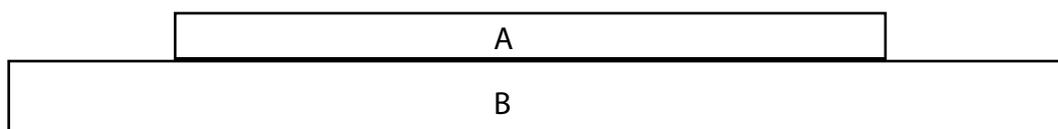
TIP - choose bright scrappy fabrics for the centres of the blocks. Surround each centre with fussy-cut hexagons to define each area of the quilt.

Start with the centres and then "audition" suitable fabrics for the framing hexagons. Sew together in Blocks A, B and C first, and then sew the blocks together with the filler blocks D. Complete the quilt by adding the edge and corner pieces. Papers can be removed from the centre of each block and from quilt centre to make assembly easier. Once the whole quilt is assembled, press lightly and remove all papers when cool.

BORDERS

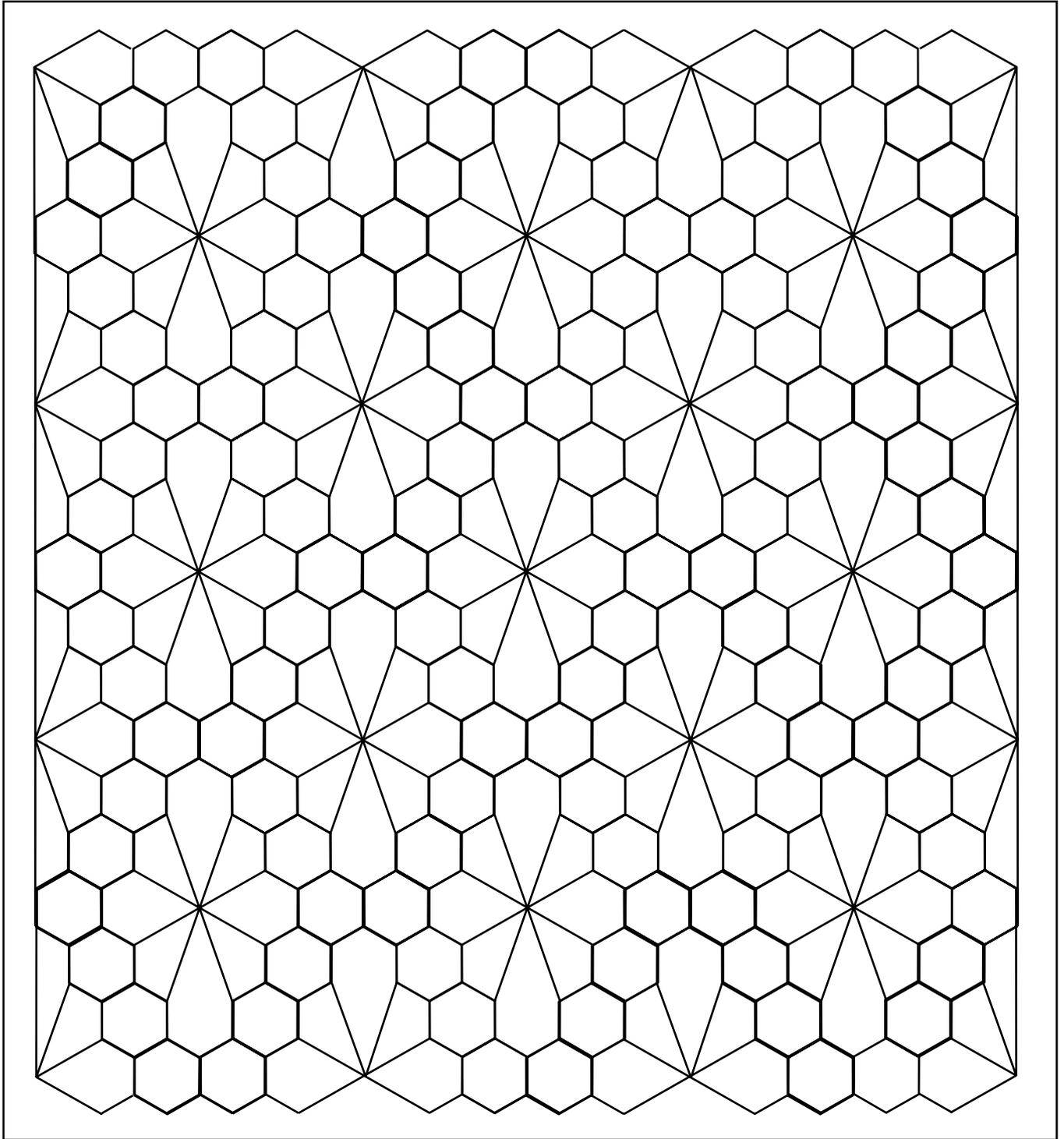
From the first border fabric - A, cut 4, 2 3/4" wide strips, selvedge to selvedge.

From the second border fabric - B, cut 5, 4" wide strips, selvedge to selvedge. Sew the second border strips together to make one long strip and then recut into 4 strips for the outer border.

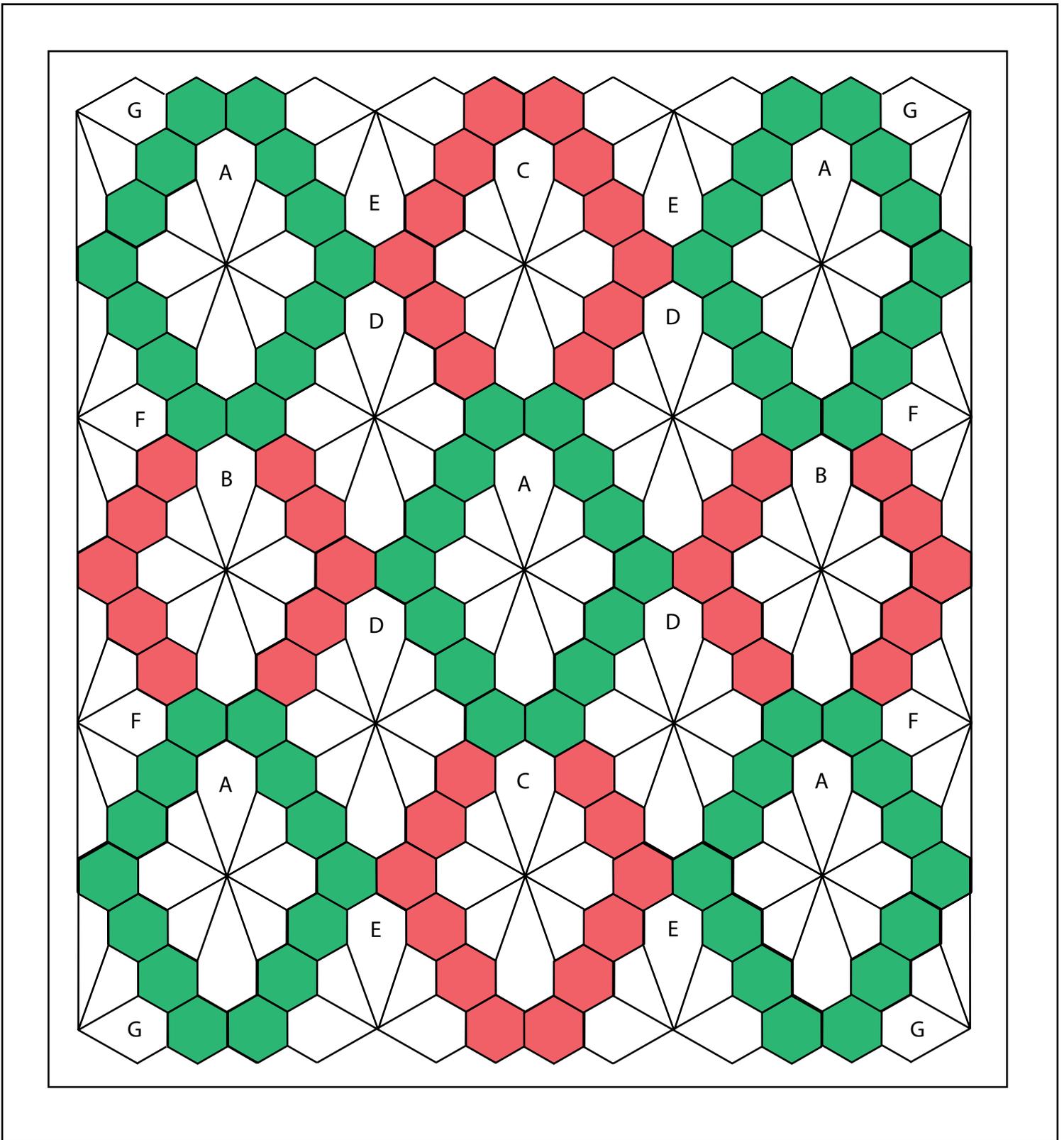


Mark the centre of each border strip. Pin centres together and machine sew along the length. Press. Place a border under each side of the quilt centre. Pin and then baste in place. **NOTE:** the border seams should meet at the corners. Fold the corners to form a mitre, pin and then baste in place. Turn the work to the back and trim the excess fabric away from corners. Applique the 4 sides of the quilt centre to the borders.

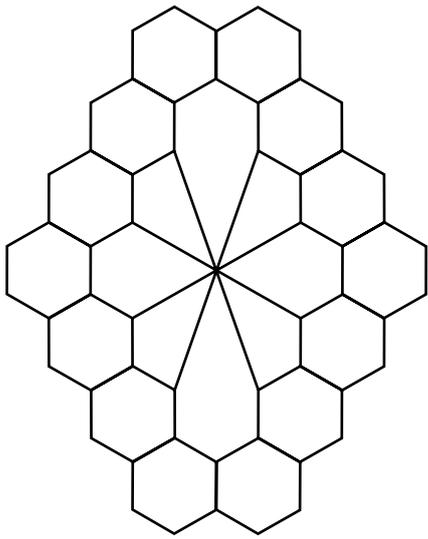
FINISH as desired.



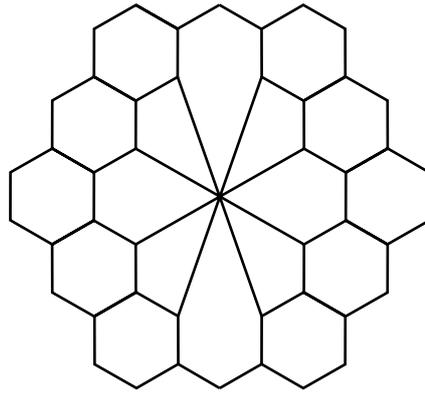
Copyright Brigitte Giblin Quilts
HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT
MADE BY BRIGITTE GIBLIN



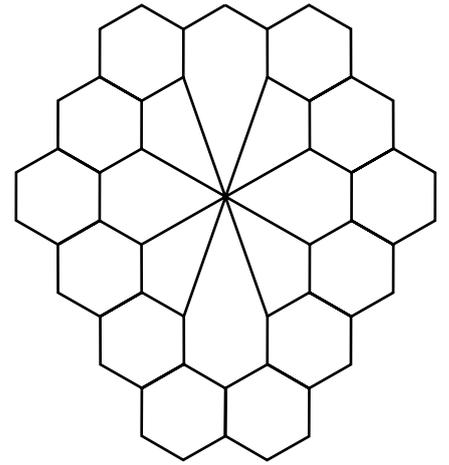
Copyright Brigitte Giblin Quilts
HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT
MADE BY BRIGITTE GIBLIN



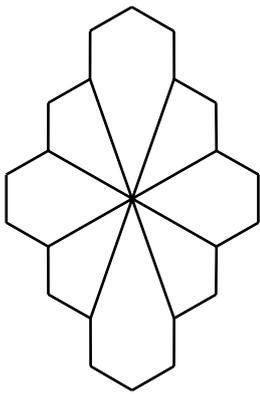
block A - make 5



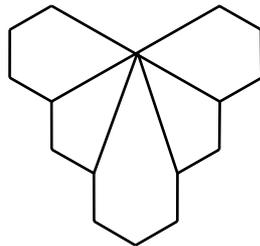
block B - make 2



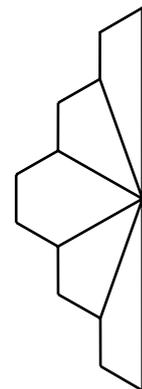
block C - make 2



block D - make 4

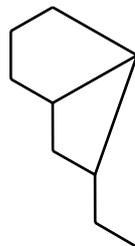


block E - make 4
for the top and bottom
edges



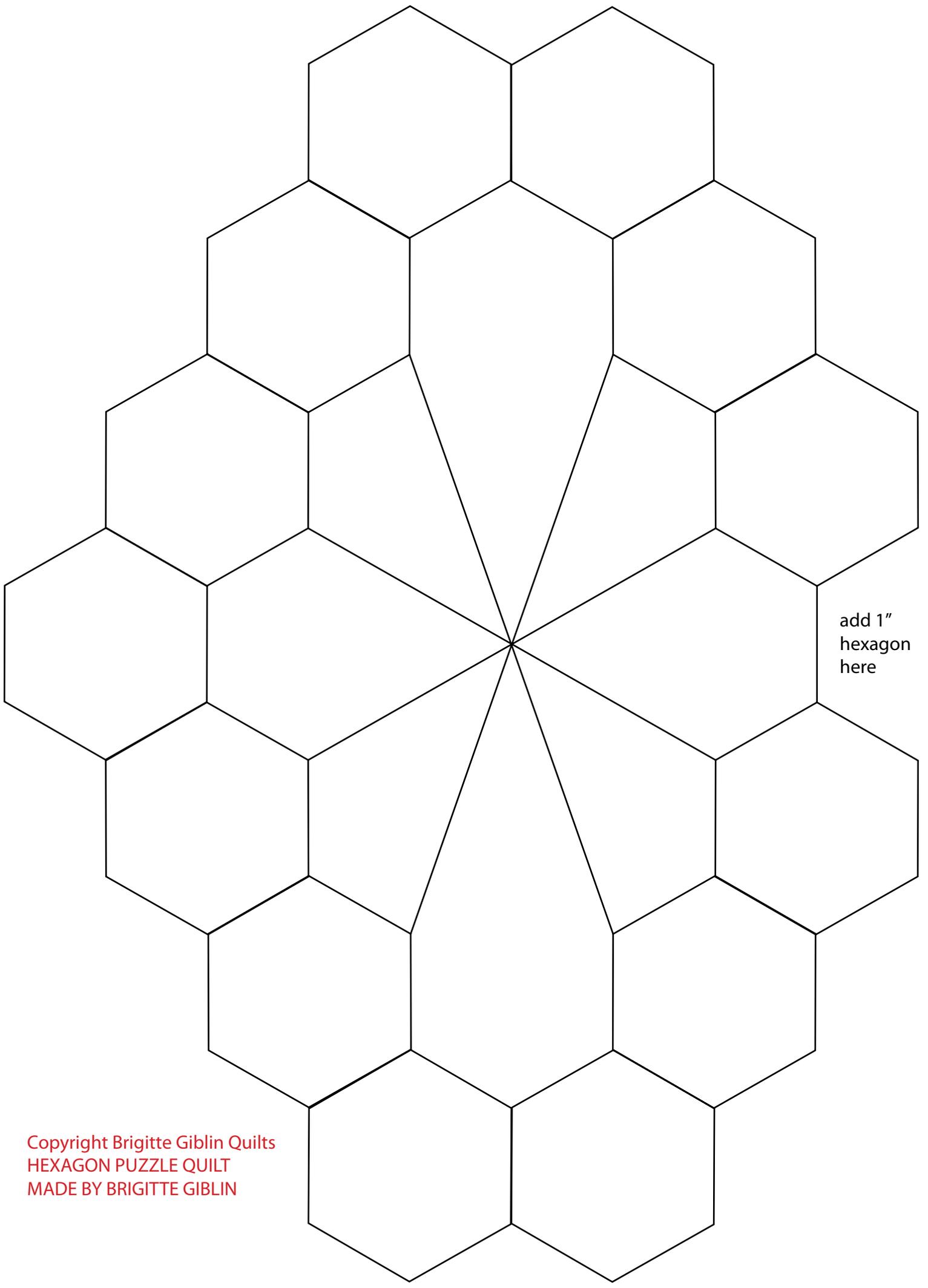
block F - make 4
for the sides

1" hexagons - 114
custom flat jewel shapes - 30
jewel shapes - 42
half flat jewels - 12
custom kite shapes - 72



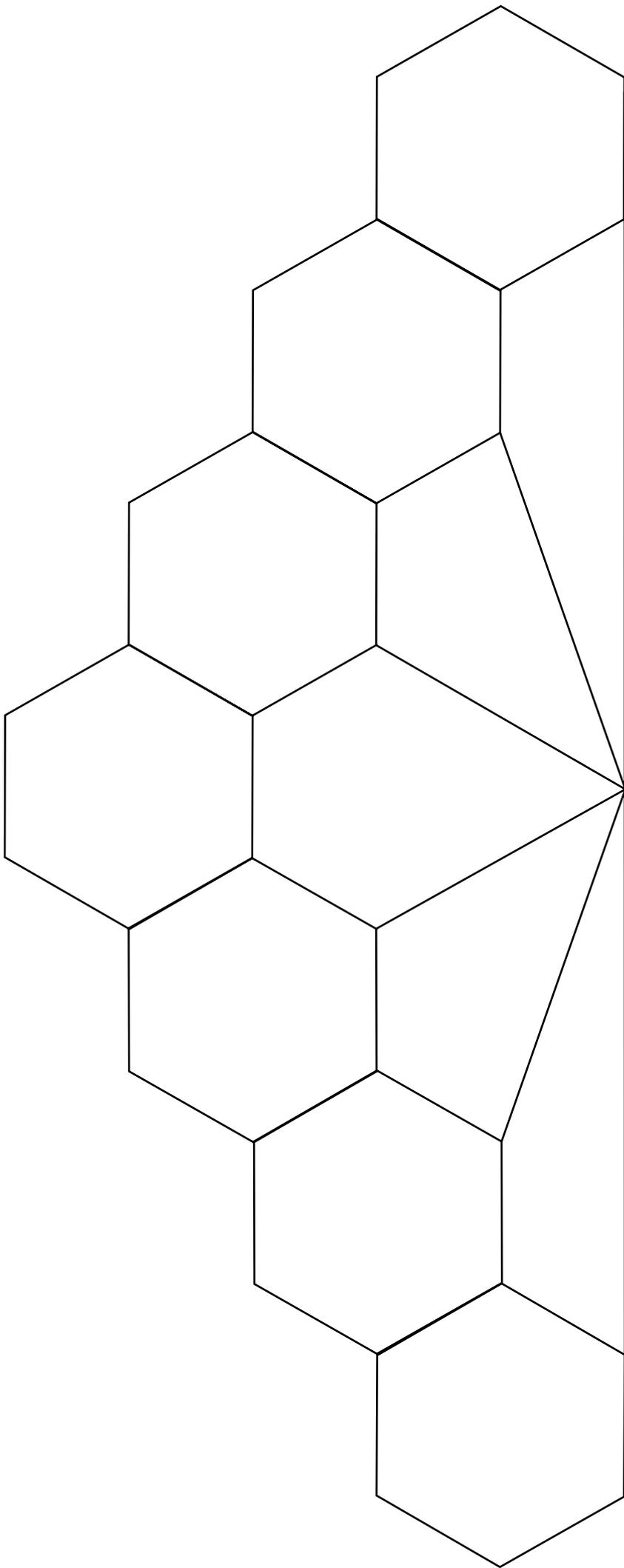
block G - make 2
and 2-reversed
for the corners

Copyright Brigitte Giblin Quilts
HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT
MADE BY BRIGITTE GIBLIN



add 1"
hexagon
here

Copyright Brigitte Giblin Quilts
HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT
MADE BY BRIGITTE GIBLIN



Copyright Brigitte Giblin Quilts
HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT
MADE BY BRIGITTE GIBLIN

Half block-F
for sides



Copyright Brigitte Giblin Quilts
HEXAGON PUZZLE QUILT
MADE BY BRIGITTE GIBLIN

Paper Piecing Instructions

Paper Piecing – The English Method

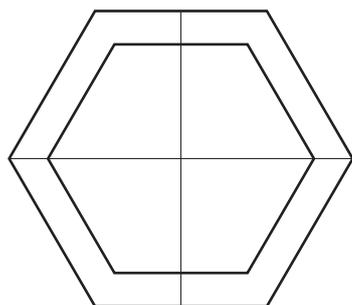
WORKING WITH HEXAGONS – BRIGITTE

GIBLIN

The larger the hexagon, the more seam allowance you will need. e.g.:

- for a ½ inch hexagon – allow ¼ inch seam allowance
- for a ¾ inch hexagon – allow a scant 3/8th inch seam allowance
- for a 1 inch hexagon – allow 3/8th inch seam allowance
- for 1 ½ inch hexagon and over – allow ½ inch seam allowance

NOTE: A hexagon is measured along the edge, which is equal to the radius.



Make accurate cutting templates in clear plastic, including the seam allowance.

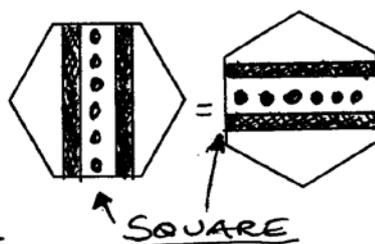
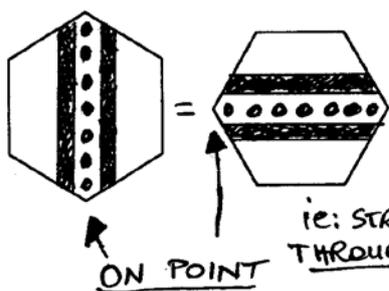
Mark the original hexagon shape in the centre, and lines on point and square for fussy cutting fabrics.

Try not to pin, but if you need to, use a short appliqué pin on the fabric side so that your thread will not get caught as you sew.

Baste the fabric over the papers without stitching through the paper. This way the papers can be removed without removing the basting. The basting secures the folded edges and prevents them bunching when the work is washed.

Centre the paper piece on the wrong side of the fabric. Fold the fabric over one side of the paper and hold it in place while you fold the adjacent side over, neatly pleating the fabric at the corner. Take two small stitches across this folded corner, fold over the next side and make one stitch across the corner. Continue in this manner until the last fold and finish with 2 stitches across the corner.

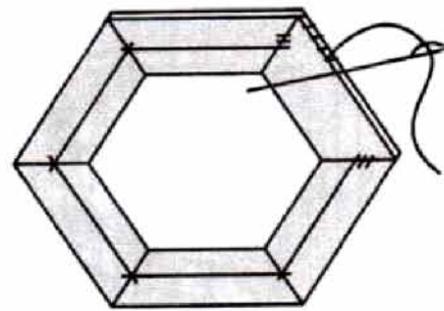
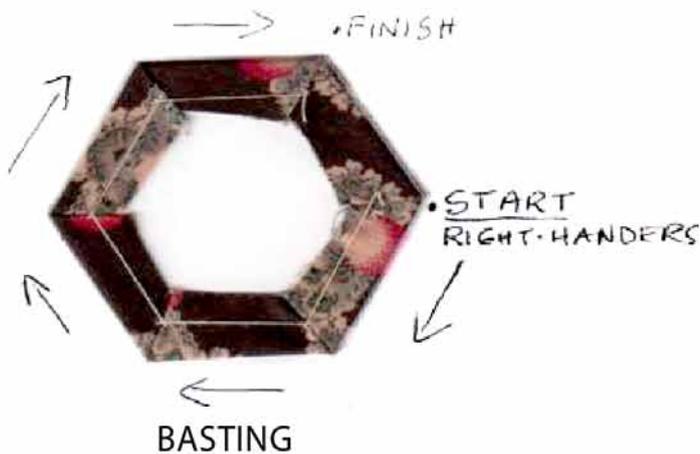
How you fussy-cut your fabrics will have a dramatic effect on the look of your paper piecing. Using stripes and geometric prints on the outer edge of diamond shapes will act as a frame around fussy-cut motifs for the centre and surrounding 8 hexagons. Consider whether you need to fussy-cut with the featured motif or stripe placed “on point” or “square” to achieve the desired effect. See example below



Centre: cut 1
 Inner diamond: cut 6 square; 2 on point/ends
 Outer diamond: cut 12 square;
 2 on point/ends; 2 on point/sides



(NOTE: STRIPE RUNS DOWN ONE HALF OF HEXAGON)
 ON POINT



WHIP STITCHING

Hold 2 hexagons together, right sides facing. Knot your thread and insert under a corner so that the needle comes out on the point. Sew straight across, catching only one or two threads and spacing stitches 1/16th inch apart, so that you have 12 stitches plus one to finish on a 1-inch hexagon – 13 stitches in all. If you have difficulty inserting your needle, your fabric is basted too tightly over the papers.

Note: *always leave papers in outer edge of work until the next round is sewn on. Internal papers can be removed as needed and reused.*

Needle size is also very important for hand stitching. Try using a number 9 or 10 milliner or straw needle. This is a fine, long needle, making it ideal for all hand work.

It is easy to hold and will not get “lost” in your fingers. It is the only needle I use for appliqué, hand piecing, whip stitching and quilting. I prefer number 10 for appliqué and slightly thicker number 9 for quilting.

OTHER SHAPES AND SIZES

It's a good idea to always make clear plastic templates including seam allowance, and lines through centre for fussy cutting.

All paper pieced shapes can be basted without stitching through the papers up to 2” sides.

Shapes with sides longer than 2 inches should be basted through the paper.

Any shape with sides longer than 1 ½ inches will have a constant ½ inch seam allowance when cutting fabrics.

For large shapes, a bull dog clip or paper clip will help to hold the fabric and paper shape together while basting.

DID YOU KNOW?

You will rarely see quilting on an antique paper-pieced quilt. Old English and French paper pieced quilts were simply backed and edged without batting or quilting. They were used as decorative coverlets on beds or furniture or as bed and curtain hangings.

Papers were sometimes left inside quilts made for charity – this added an extra layer of warmth – there is a reference to the “rustling of the quilt” in *Oliver Twist*.

Most of the effect of paper pieced quilts is in the fussy cutting of fabrics to achieve dramatic impact. It takes a little longer to cover papers and whipstitch them together, so don't feel bad about not quilting your finished project. Back it, edge it with a fringe, pompoms or rick rack and enjoy!

Copyright Brigitte Giblin

Brigitte Giblin Quilts

Email: mail@brigittegiblinquilts.com

Web: www.brigittegiblinquilts.com