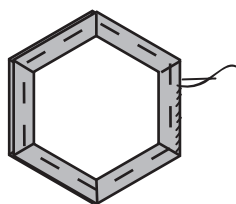
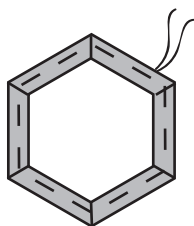
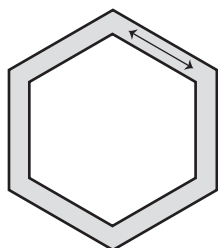
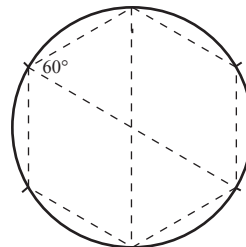
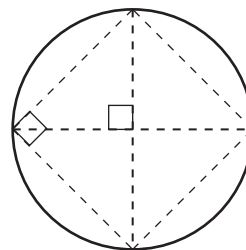


English Paper Piecing

Circles have no end. Perfect squares and lovely right triangles can be created from circles

Circles are also the beginning of hexagons, any size. The size of the hexagon needed is determined by measuring one straight side. That will be the compass span for drawing a circle, also called the radius. Score the circumference of the circle with that radius. Connect consecutive score marks with straight lines and a perfect hexagon will emerge.

Connect opposite points of the hexagon for 60° diamonds and triangles.



1. Make hexagons or other shapes out of light-weight card stock or buy precut shapes the size needed.
2. Cut fabric shapes $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than the paper shapes. Note grain line arrow. Cut consistently if possible.
3. Hand baste a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance folded over the paper shape, which is next to the wrong side of the fabric. Keep the thread endings on the right side of the fabric for easier removal.
4. When paper shapes are covered, place them, one at a time, right sides together and whip stitch them together as shown. Use well-matched thread and catch only the very edge of the fabric. Tie off in the seam allowance.
5. Sew other tessellating shapes together until the desired unit is made. Remove basting and papers only when each shape is surrounded by other contiguous shapes or is applied into place. Cut away the background fabric to remove the papers.
6. Use the paper shapes until they are no longer functional.

Try English Paper Piecing with other complex shapes such as a house with many angles, or dissect hexagons to make patterns which look like geraniums. Or simply make a Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt. It features the most honored of tessellated shapes and every quilter should try one. Just remember, it takes a lifetime but will become the family heirloom. When the quilt is completed, record the beginning and ending dates on the label if you can remember them. The quilt is only as old, by conservator's standards, as the most recent fabric used.