

SPOOL VASE BOUQUET

by Cathy Price, Lanark County Quilters Guild



This adorable spring block pattern can be made using either English Paper Piecing or Appliqué – you choose! There are lots of possibilities for finishing, making stems, and adding your personal touch.



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Cutting Instructions

BACKGROUND

- 1 – 11" X 13"
(will be trimmed to 10½" x 12½"
after appliqué is sewn on)
- 2 – 4" x 8½"

SPOOL THREAD AREA

- 1 – 3½" X 6½"
Choose a stripe or linear fabric
for fun.

SPOOL ENDS

- 2 – 3½" x 1½"
- 4 – 1½" squares
Draw a diagonal line on the back
of these.

FLOWERS

- Templates Provided
One Hexagon centre per Flower
Six Petals per Flower

STEMS

- Approximately 37" total in length,
cut either 1" wide, or 1¼", if you are
not comfortable sewing fabric that
is too narrow.

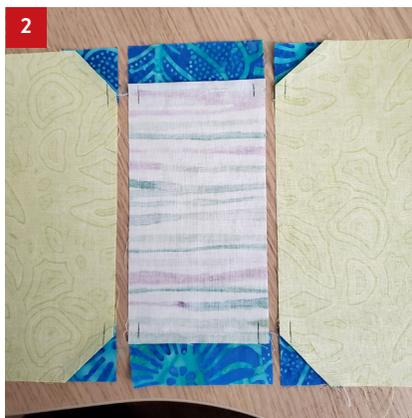
LEAVES

- Template Provided

Construction

THE SPOOL SECTION

- 1 Sew the two Spool Ends to the top and bottom of the Spool Thread Area.
- 2 Place the four squares onto the background right sides together as shown. Sew on the diagonal lines you drew. Trim leaving a ¼" seam allowance. FIGURE 1
- 3 Sew the three sections together by pin sewing. On the back of all three pieces, mark the ¼" where the seams will meet, then put right sides together. FIGURE 2
- 4 Insert a pin to line up the angled piece with the straight piece. FIGURE 3
- 5 Sew the larger background piece to the sides. Iron towards the spool.

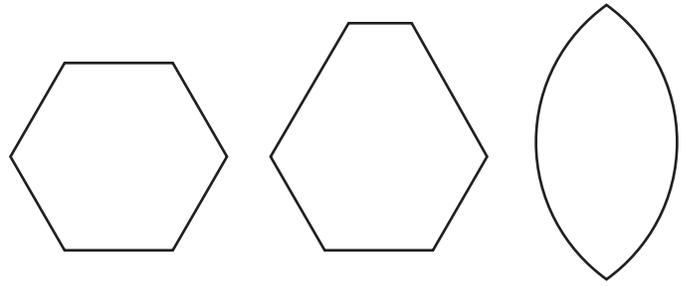


THE FLOWERS

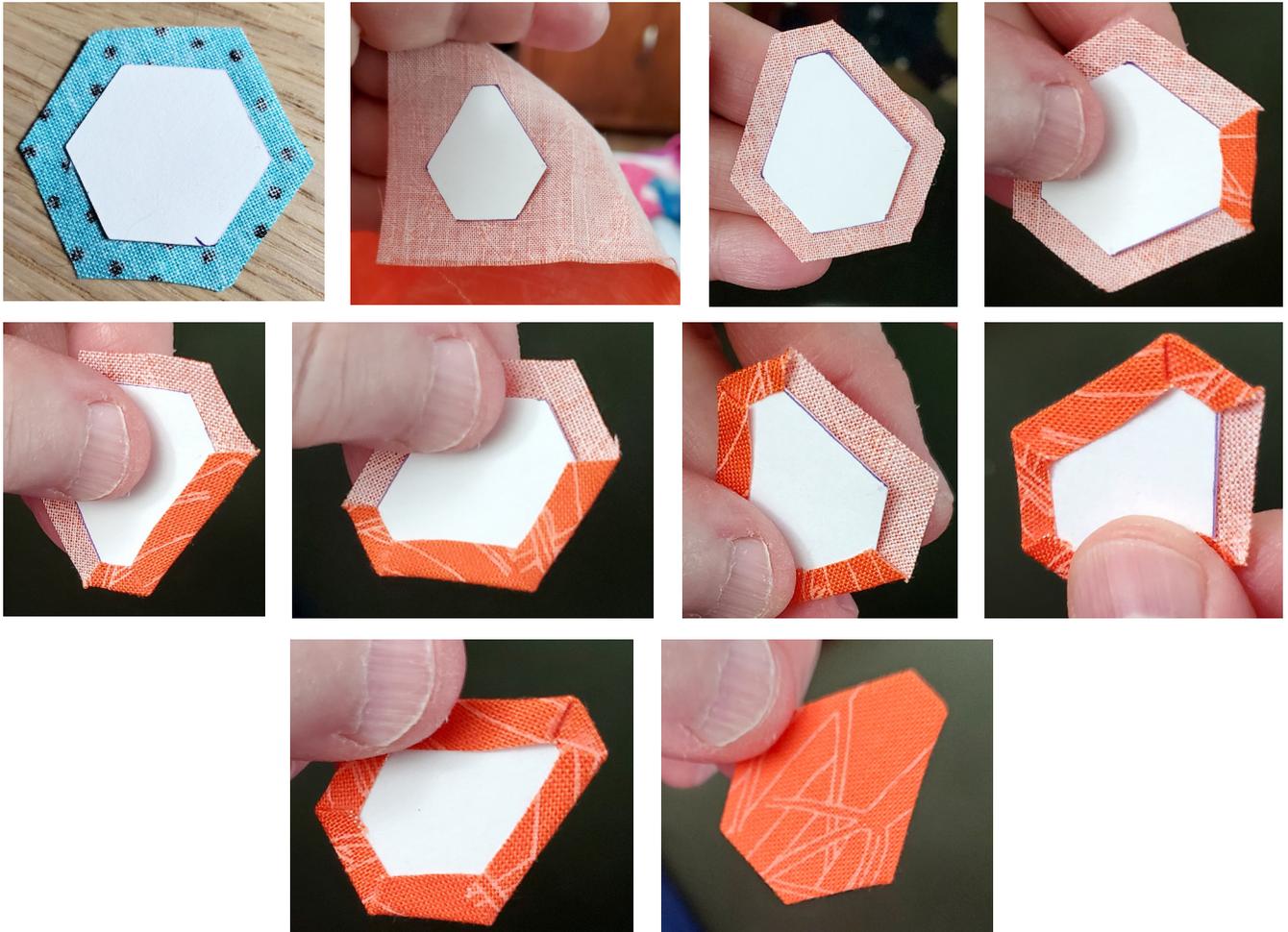
Now it's time to work on the flowers, which you can either English Paper Piece, or appliqué. Here are the EPP instructions.

1 Trace the pattern onto medium weight fusible interfacing, like Appliquik. The fusible interfacing can stay in. (I used cardstock, and had a difficult time pulling it out.)

For each flower, you will need one hexagon for the centre, and six petals. Use the templates to make cutouts. If using cardstock, a quick swipe of gluestick will attach the cutout to the back of your fabric. If using fusible interfacing, trace the outline onto the front of the facing (the dull side), and iron the shiny side onto the back of your fabric.



2 Cut your fabric a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge of the template. I used $\frac{3}{16}$ ", by eye. I find a quarter inch is too big; so much bulk. Once stuck to the fabric and cut out, put a bit of glue on the paper on the short end of the petal, turn fabric to the wrong side, and stick it. I use the Fons & Porter gluestick, but any one will do. I work my way around counterclockwise, sticking each side down, until complete. For the Hexagon, start anywhere, and work your way around.



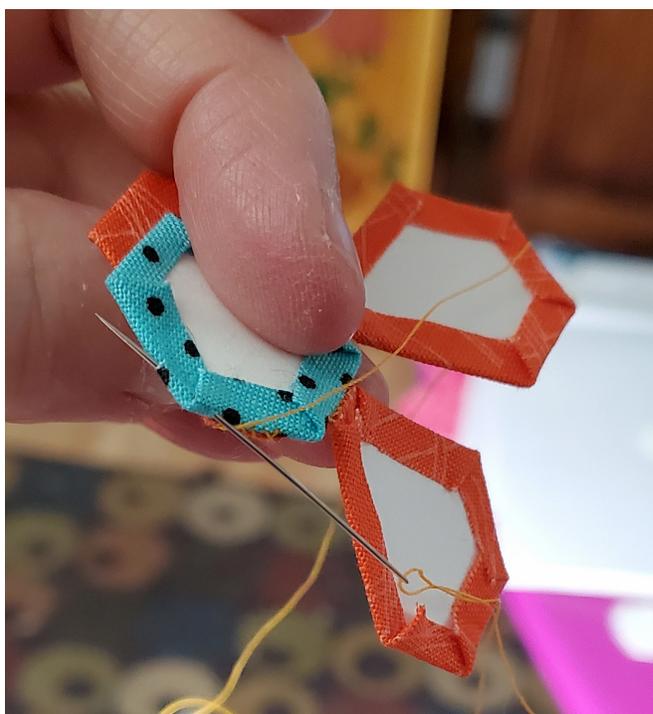
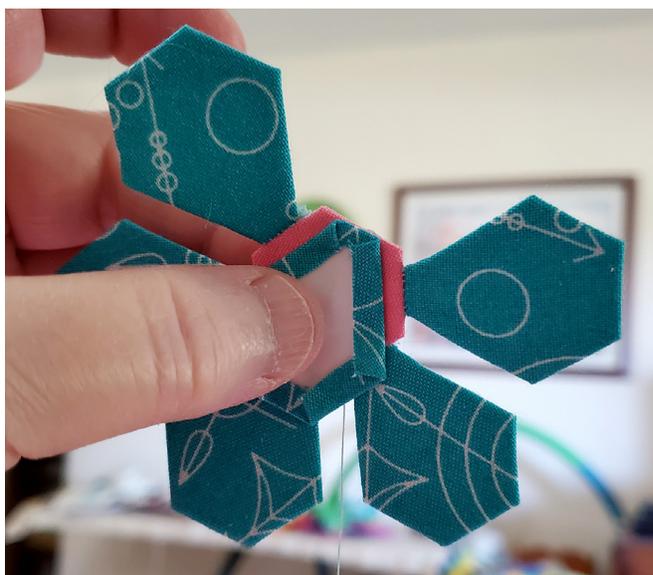
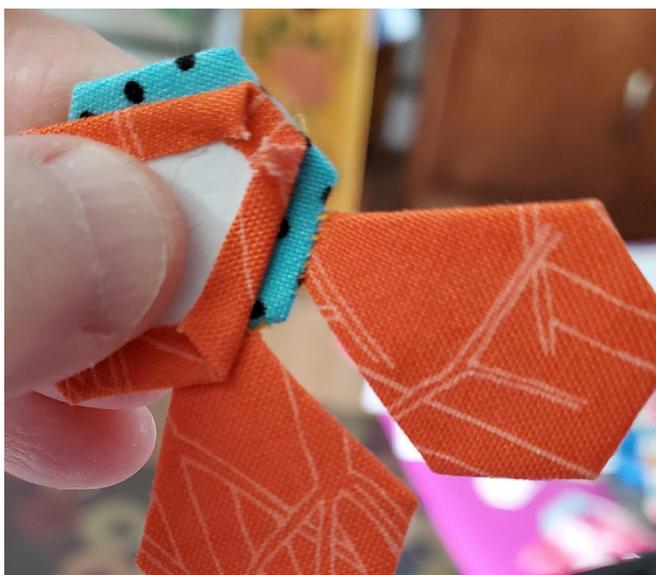
Now for sewing the flower together. The instructions show the whip stitch for English Paper Piecing, but you may prefer to use appliqué. Your quilt, your choice!

Lay out one Hexagon and six petals.

Thread your needle with a thread that matches the petal colour, not the centre. Hold your Hexagon, lay a petal on top, right sides together, and centre it on one side of the hexagon.

Whip stitch it in place, a bit closer than you would normally, because it is a short distance, say eight stitches, which includes always doing two at the beginning and two at the end of each section. Catch about two threads of each, and try not to catch the paper. Then run the thread behind and inside, and come out where the next stitch will start. Work your way around, until all the petals are attached, then tie off.

Now, iron your flower. If you used cardstock, now is the time to pull it out while it is warm, and then re-iron carefully. You can always use starch, if you want. Or put a bit of gluestick under the edges, if they are not cooperating.



THE STEMS

We all have our preferred method of doing stems, but you don't need to make them using fabric cut on the bias; the stems don't curve enough to worry about that. My stems are $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide finished. I cut the fabric an inch wide, fold it in half the long way, wrong sides together, at the sewing machine, and sew it a $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the folded edge, all the way to the other end. I iron the seam open, making sure it lands in the centre of the stem, and trim the seam allowance enough so that it won't show on the other side.

You need a total of 37" (not all in one piece).



THE LEAVES

The quantity of leaves is up to you. You may wait to decide after you've placed the flowers and stems on your block, to see what looks good. I prefer not to place the leaves on top of the stems (it makes them too bulky) and feel five is enough.

Prepare the leaves the same as the petals. I put gluestick down one side, then smoothly fold it over the paper to stick it. Use your fingernail to smooth out any wrinkles. Use Appliquik tools if you have them, but if not, use your thumb and fingernail, or an awl.

After the first side, do the second. You will have a tail left sticking out at each end. Just dab a bit of glue on it, and fold it back again, so it doesn't show on the front.

Catherine Price loves creating patterns and working out how to do things, in order to come up with interesting ideas for Block of the Month at her guild, the Lanark County Quilters Guild.

Many thanks to Catherine for sharing this lovely spring pattern with members of CQA/ACC.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

1 Lay out your Background piece (it's taller than wide), and place your flowers where you want them. Keep in mind that the block will be trimmed down a bit, so stay away from the edges. Start laying the stems, cut to length as you go, making sure they go under the centres of the flowers, with a slight curve, and down to the bottom edge.

Keep the stems to the centre three inches at the bottom. Use the Spool block as a reference, to make sure it looks like the stems are going into the vase. You may have to rotate flowers so that the stems are behind the petals, rather than in between two petals.

2 Glue down the stems and flowers. I use Roxanne's Glue-Baste-It, but you can use Elmer's, glue stick, or pins. Then sew them down by either hand or machine.

3 Once you've sewn down the stems and flowers, place and sew the leaves.

4 Next, iron the block from behind, then trim it down to 10½" x 12½".

5 Sew the Spool portion to the bottom of the Flower portion. This completed block should measure 10½" x 20½".



The hand-sewn version, front and back.



Machine-sewn.



Blanket-stitched.



**I hope you enjoy making this block.
It makes me smile.
—Cathy Price**

Please share your block photos on the [Canadian Quilters Association – Quilting Projects Facebook page](#).