

- Foundation piecing is sewn with the fabric on the reverse side of the foundation, so that the lines which need to be sewn are clearly visible.
- The technique is similar to colour by numbers, always follow the number progression.
- Preparing the fabrics prior to sewing assists with speed and accuracy. Grain lines should play a part in the preparation of pieces.
- A small dab of dry glue (UHU or similar) used when attaching the first piece of fabric aids in keeping the fabric anchored to the correct area. Pins will only get in the way.
- Don't guess what might be required for sewing the next section. Using a flat ruler crease along the next sewing line and then using a quilter's ruler cut the fabric a 1/4" past the folded edge. This step gives the correct angle to apply the next piece of the block/unit.
- Foundation piecing sacrifices fabric for speed and accuracy. Many foundation designs could never be achieved with conventional patchwork techniques.
- A completed foundation pattern will be a mirror image of the paper foundation, unless the design is symmetrical.
- Always ensure that the fabric strip added at each number, when sewn and pressed back, will cover the required area, including seam allowances.
- Seams are sewn in the normal way, with right sides together, though stitched following the marked lines rather than a 1/4" seam allowance. Sometimes this will appear irregular from the fabric side of the foundation, providing you have sewn the pieces correctly and sewn on the line the finished result should be acceptable.
- Sew with a slightly smaller than normal stitch and begin and end each row a few stitches (2-4) over the intersecting lines. This improves perforating the paper and allows for easier removal at the completion of the block/unit
- There is no need to reverse or lock stitch at each end as the seam will be crossed when completing the next row.
- A small pair of tweezers can assist in the removal of paper in tight angles. If the paper is stubborn in its removal try dampening with water.

The diagrams below may help to understand the construction techniques used in foundation piecing.

The see through sections are paper side up and solid colours are fabric side up.

