

Paper Foundation Piecing Basics

- Print or trace your foundation units on thin lightweight paper such as white newsprint. White newsprint can be purchased by the ream or you can use a kid's doodle pad as a source for the paper. White newsprint (including the doodle pads) come standard as 9" x 12" sheets so if you are printing on a regular home printer you would need to trim to 8½" width to fit in your printer.
- Most paper piecing foundations have an outer perimeter line around the unit which indicates the unfinished size of the unit. For example if the finished size of the unit is 6" square then the outer line makes the unit 6½" square to account for the seam allowance necessary to join the units together. So when rough cutting your foundation units, be sure not to eliminate this outer perimeter line. Rough cut about ¼" away from this line.
- Typically, sewing lines are depicted as solid lines.
- You will always sew on the printed side of the foundation; fabrics are placed on the unprinted side of the foundation. You may pin or glue baste the first fabric (which should be placed right side up) and then place the second fabric in position (right side down). Make sure the fabric will cover the intended section before sewing.
- One way to be sure the fabric covers the section is to place it right side up against the intended seam line and check to be sure you have enough fabric to cover the section. Move your fabric around to insure a good fit then (be sure to allow for a ¼" seam allowance!), flip the fabric over so that right sides are facing the previous fabric section and the seam edges are aligned.
- Holding the fabric layers in place, flip the foundation over so that the printed side is facing you. Sew on the solid line (seam line). Use a small stitch length (2.0/15 SPI) to make removing the foundation paper easier later. If the seam line intersects with the outer seam allowance (outer perimeter line) continue your seam to cross the seam allowance to end beyond the line.
- On a cutting mat fold the foundation paper at the seam line. Trim fabric to a seam allowance of ¼".
- On the fabric side, fold back the background fabric and "press" the fabric by using a creasing tool or iron.
- Before you attach the next fabric section fold the foundation paper along the next seam line and trim the fabric from the current section to ¼" beyond the folded edge of the foundation.
- Proceed to the next number section in the sequence repeating all of the steps above until finished with the unit.
- When all sections have been attached, trim the unit to the outer perimeter line.
- If you are sewing the same unit multiple times, you can speed things up by precutting fabric pieces that will cover the sections with at least ¼" to ½" all around. Stack these pieces by section number to easily grab when needed.

Buzz Saw Block

Fabric Requirements

Two fabrics are used in the Buzz Saw block; a dark for the “saw” and a light for the background. For each unit you will need 2 dark pieces and 2 light pieces.

<p>Pre-cut your pieces as follows;</p> <p>Dark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - 2¾" x 5¼" rectangle • 1 - 2¾" x 7" rectangle <p>Light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - 2¾" x 5¼" rectangle • 1 - 2¾" x 7" rectangle 	<p>So for the entire block you will need;</p> <p>Dark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 - 2¾" x 5¼" rectangles • 4 - 2¾" x 7" rectangles <p>Light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 - 2¾" x 5¼" rectangles • 4 - 2¾" x 7" rectangles
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If you are cutting your fabric pieces from yardage, one 2¾" x 42" (WOF) strip will yield six 7" rectangles or eight 5¼" rectangles.

Glossary

Foundation Unit – One copy of the printed foundation

Section – Each foundation unit is comprised of four sections or subunits

Block – Four foundation units

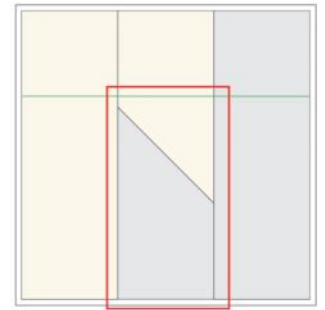
WOF – Width of Fabric

Block Pattern provided courtesy of Marcia Hohn - www.quilterscache.com.

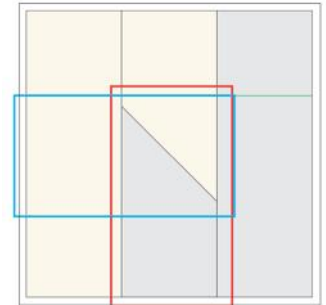
Directions and information in this document written by Candace West – www.candacequilts.com

Buzz Saw Block Directions

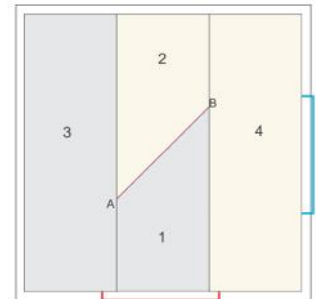
1. On the unprinted side of the foundation with the foundation paper positioned so that Section 1 is pointing away from you draw a horizontal line $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the upper point of Section 1.
2. Lay a dark $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{4}$ " rectangle on the unprinted side of the foundation paper right side up over Section 1 so that it is at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the point and $\frac{1}{4}$ " over the side seam lines and the outer edge of the foundation. You can use the line you drew in Step 1 as a reference. Pin or glue baste the fabric to the foundation.



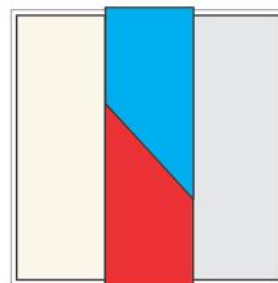
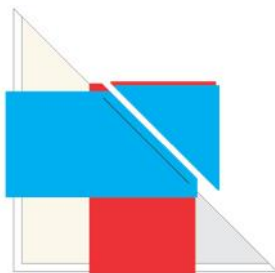
3. With the foundation paper positioned so that Section 1 is pointing away from you and the line you drew is horizontal, position a light $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{4}$ " rectangle perpendicular to Section 1. The top edge should align with the horizontal reference line and one short edge will extend $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the right of Section 1.



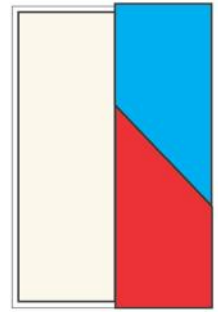
4. Holding the fabrics in place, flip the foundation over and sew on the 1st seam line. Drop your needle into the foundation at point A and sew to point B. I take one or two backstitches at each end of the seam to secure since this is an interior seam.



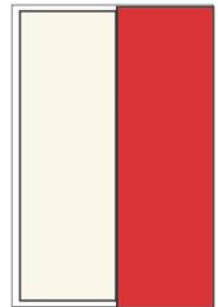
5. Fold the foundation along the seam line and trim the fabrics to a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press open.



6. Fold the foundation along the next seam line (Section 3) and trim the fabrics from Section 1 and 2 to a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Unfold.

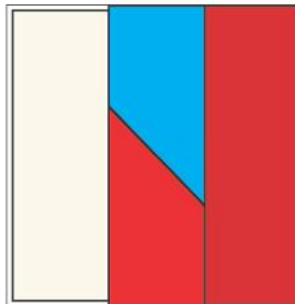


7. Align the long edge of a dark $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x 7" rectangle with the cut edges of Section 1 and 2 making sure that the fabric covers the entire length of Section 3 (including outer perimeter seam allowance).

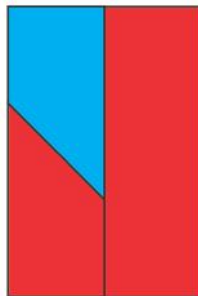


8. Holding the fabrics in place, flip the foundation over to the printed side and sew the seam on the printed line for Section 3.

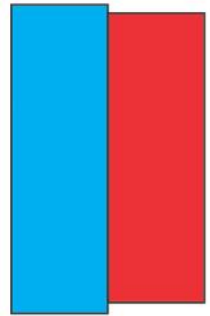
9. Fold the foundation along the seam line and trim the fabrics to a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press open.



10. Fold the foundation along the next seam line (Section 4) and trim the fabrics from Section 1 and 2 to a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Unfold.

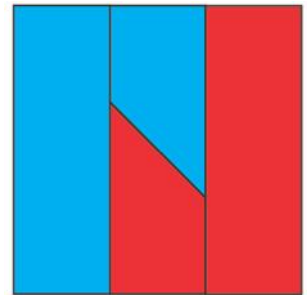


11. Align the long edge of a light $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x 7" rectangle with the remaining cut edges of Section 1 and 2 making sure that the fabric covers the entire length of Section 4 (including outer perimeter seam allowance).



12. Holding the fabrics in place, flip the foundation over to the printed side and sew the seam on the printed line for Section 4.

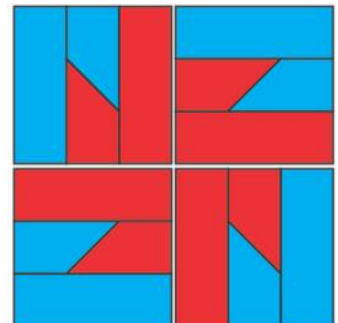
13. Fold the foundation along the seam line and trim the fabrics to a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press open.



14. Press unit and then trim along the outer perimeter line to complete unit.

15. Complete 4 units for each block.

16. Sew the four units together like you would a 4 Patch block; Two quarters make a half, then the two halves together, nesting the seams in the center. Sew on the printed seam lines for a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



17. Press all block seams in a counter clockwise direction. Open the seam allowance in the center to "spin" the center. This will help the block lay flat.

18. Check the block for size and square up if necessary, but the beauty of paper piecing is that it is perfect 99% of the time!