

WELCOME TO
inklingo



RESCUE YOUR GFG!

Many quilting friends have started English Paper Piecing (EPP) a Grandmother's Flower Garden (GFG) which is not finished, and which is likely to remain an unfinished object (UFO). Many quilters tell me they wish they had known about Inklingo before they started EPP.

If you enjoy EPP, and finish your projects, that's great. Stop reading. Enjoy your favorite technique and feel happy about it. However, if you are looking for a more precise, simpler, faster way to finish your quilt, Inklingo is the answer.

EPP sounds perfect in the abstract, especially because it is portable and only requires simple tools. It makes sense that if you start with accurate templates, the finished quilt must be perfect too. It sounds very relaxing and enjoyable. Yes, it all sounds good to me.

So why are there so many EPP GFG UFOs, eh?

I think it is because although it sounds relaxing and easy, it is actually very, very slow to get results. It is difficult to hide the stitches, and it isn't as portable as we hope because it requires good light to make thousands of tiny stitches. When it finally gets bigger, it stops being portable, especially with plastic/mylar templates.

The pink flower (above) took about an hour to make with EPP. However, with Inklingo, I can make at least 3 flowers in an hour (including pressing) while I "watch" TV.

Would you feel better if you could finish that UFO quickly? If something faster *AND* better appeals to you, read on!

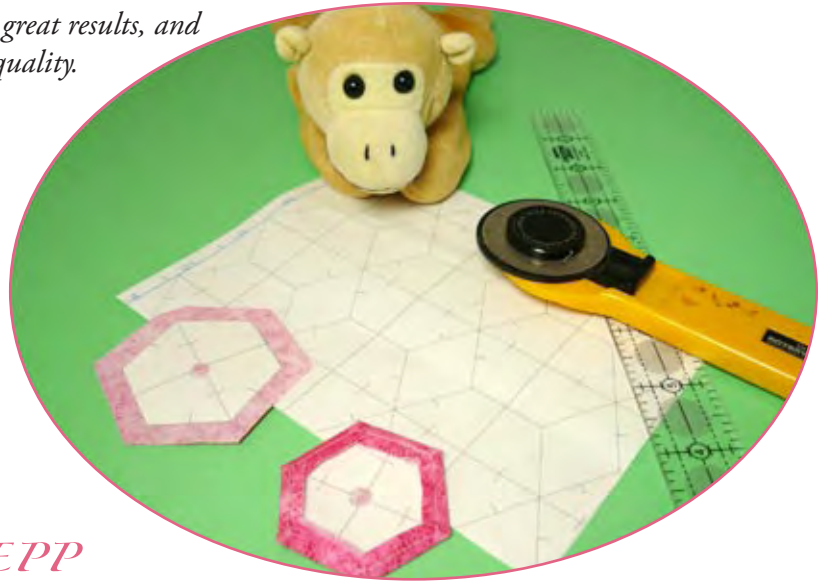
GFG

TIME TEST

*Threading a #12 needle in dim light
in a moving car, sewing batik hexagons
with a running stitch with cold fingers,
wearing a bulky winter coat:*

15 minutes per flower

Slow does not guarantee great results, and in this case, fast is high quality.



EPP

EPP instructions vary a little bit depending on the teacher—type of knot, type of template, basting technique, type of thread, stitching order, special accessories, etc. This brief overview of EPP describes a simple method with freezer paper (FP) templates printed with Inklingo.

Print Inklingo hexagons without seam allowances on FP (above). Iron that FP to a second, unprinted sheet of FP (plastic side to paper side) and cut the hexagons with a rotary cutter and ruler. Two layers of FP make the templates sturdy and re-usable.

An advantage of printing the shapes on FP (instead of ordinary paper) is that the plastic coating sticks to fabric when pressed with a hot, dry iron, so no pins are required for the next step.

Iron each FP hexagon (plastic side) onto the wrong side of an individual fabric hexagon printed with Inklingo, or onto the wrong side of unprinted, uncut fabric. If unprinted, leave space between the templates for the seam allowances. Cut the fabric with scissors or a rotary cutter. Many quilters use scissors because the seam allowances do not have to be exact for EPP., so they just cut by “rock of eye” to add at least a 0.25 inch on all sides.

Turn the seam allowances over the edges of the FP template and baste in position with a neat fold and a stitch at each corner (example page 4, top). It is not necessary to stitch through the paper, so the templates can be re-used. So far, so good.

(Note: Some quilters like to punch a hole in each hexagon template, to make it is easy to remove after the stitching is complete. I don't usually bother, but I did for the photo above. FP templates are easy to remove even without the hole.)

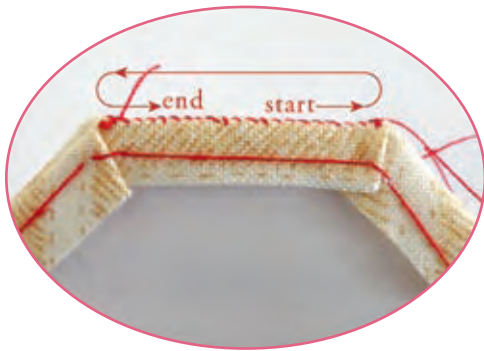
Slow Flower



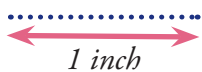
EPP

The whip-stitching is the slow, relaxing step, intended to guarantee precision and portability.

Align two pieces right sides together and whip-stitch (“overcast”) without stitching through the paper. Carefully align the angles at the corners. (There are no matching marks visible on the templates.) It is difficult to pin through templates, so just pinch the shapes firmly together to avoid shifting. The FP templates can be removed once all sides of a hexagon have been stitched.



Align two pieces right sides together and whip-stitch, without stitching through the paper. Stitch right to left or left to right, whichever you prefer, and continue to the next seam without breaking the thread.



Lucy Boston made 20 whip-stitches to an inch and they did not show on the front.



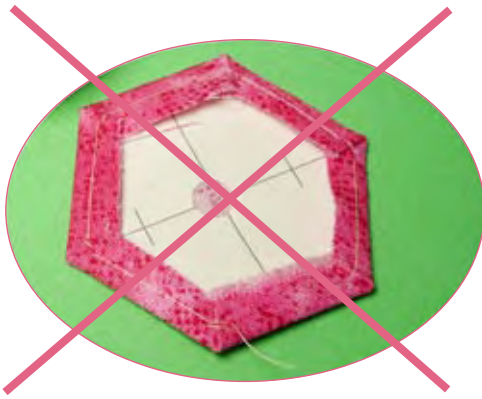
Some quilters stitch by feel, but for me, whip-stitching requires good lighting to see well enough to make tiny stitches which only catch a thread or two of each fabric. Unfortunately, ‘relaxing’ can become ‘tedious’ with the effort to make thousands of very tiny, invisible stitches which just catch a couple of threads. If you require good lighting to get good results, it limits portability. For example, I cannot make invisible, tiny whip-stitches in the car.

I am pretty handy with a needle, but stitches still show (above and left). Carrying many thread colors in your portable kit helps, however re-threading with a new color or switching needles is a nuisance when you would prefer to stitch continuously from one seam to the next. It depends on how fussy you are about having some stitches show on the front.

For me, even when the stitches are small and regular, seeing them on the front spoils the effect, especially on miniatures, where details are important.

If whip-stitching becomes discouraging, an EPP GFG UFO is born.

Next, Inklingo to the rescue!



NO BASTING



GFG WITH INKLINGO

Print the shapes on fabric with Inklingo and your ordinary Inkjet printer, and cut with scissors or a rotary cutter. You can prepare stacks of perfect hexagons quickly, and they are ready to go.

Inklingo makes hand piecing more fun than ever before because preparation is so fast and easy. Spend more time sewing, and less time getting ready to sew!

Pin at the matches to ensure that bias edges are not distorted. Sew with a simple running stitch.

A running stitch is easier to master than a whip-stitch, and it only takes two loads of the needle on a one-inch seam—not 20 minuscule stitches! I can stitch anywhere, even when the lighting is not ideal.

It is simple, portable, and relaxing with Inklingo's stitching lines and crosshairs to guide you. The results are precise.

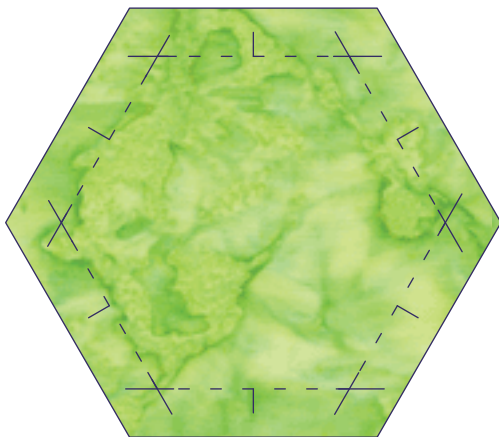
Not only does Inklingo simplify the cutting and sewing, it uses fabric efficiently too (next page).

In my opinion, this method also makes a better quilt, especially since none of the stitches show (next page) and the seams can be pressed to the side (page 8).

You are already familiar with a running stitch, but there are illustrated instructions in *The Inklingo Handbook* which cover all of the details, including continuous stitching, inset seams, "circling the intersections," and pressing techniques.



JUST PRINT, CUT, & SEW



1.0 INCH

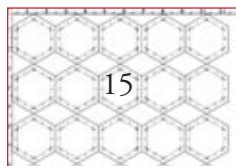
No matter how closely you look, the running stitches are hidden in the seam! Hooray!



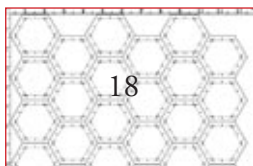
ADVANTAGES OF INKLINGO

Inklingo hexagons can be printed on fabric for rotary cutting or scissors, or printed on freezer paper for templates, with or without seam allowances. Print fabric as small as 3 x 5 inches for scrappy quilts.

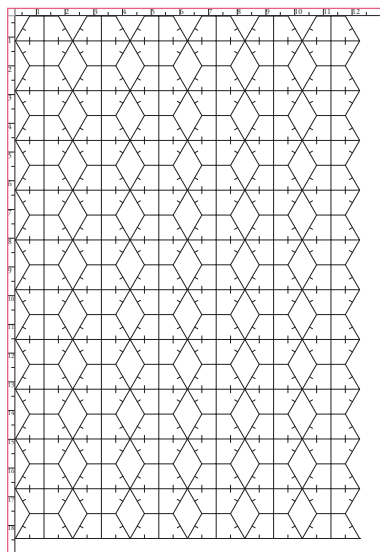
- More portable and relaxing than whip-stitching with templates
- Efficient use of fabric (especially with layouts to cut with scissors)
- Cut with scissors *or* a rotary cutter—your choice
- Stitching lines, matching marks, and crosshairs on each piece
- No basting
- No templates
- No matter how closely you look, the running stitches are hidden
- Combine hand and machine piecing in the same quilt (hybrid)
- Compatible with fussy cutting
- Seams are pressed to the side, not open



8.25 x 12
Landscape
(rotary)



8.5 x 13
Landscape
(scissors)



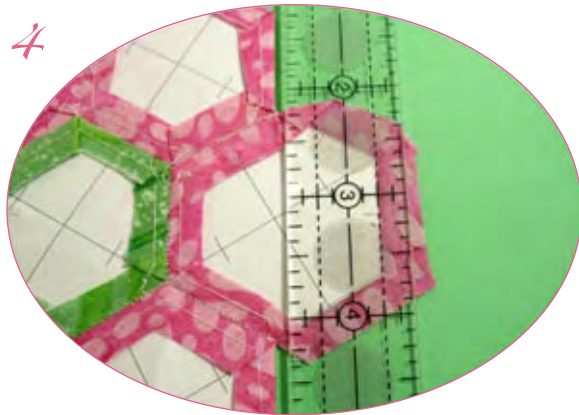
No Seam Allowances



Sew and press three or more of these flowers with Inklingo in the time it would take to sew one with English Paper Piecing, and none of the stitches show on the front!



EPP RESCUE If you have started a quilt with EPP and would like to finish it with Inklingo, you can! Print and sew the rest of the hexagons with Inklingo.



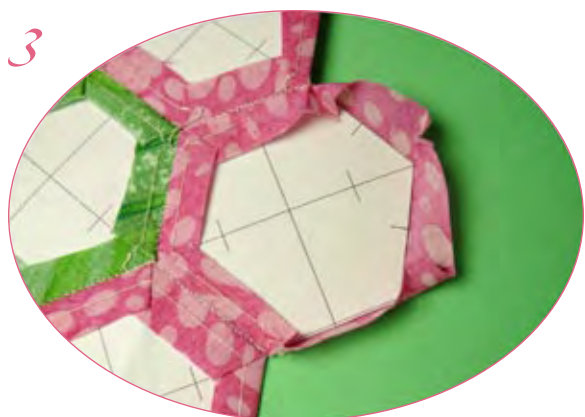
If the seam allowances on the EPP flower are uneven, you can trim them with a ruler and a rotary cutter.



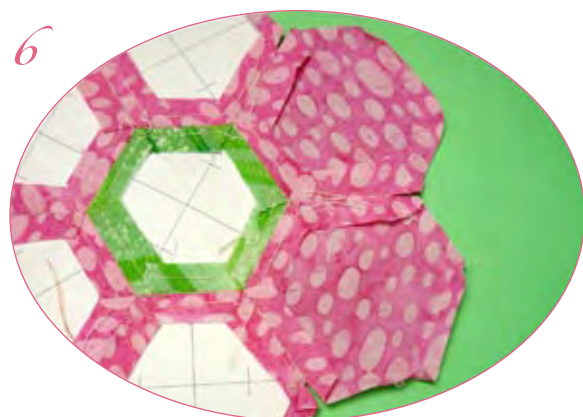
Flowers sewn with EPP fit with Inklingo flowers, so you can switch to Inklingo, and finish faster. This method allows you to add Inklingo to any EPP edge.



Trimming like this is optional, but it is nice when all of the raw edges are even.



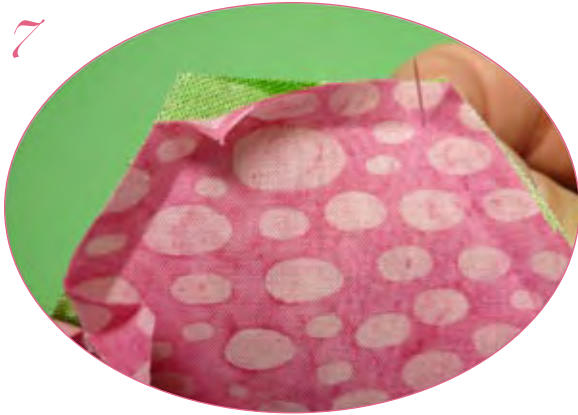
Undo enough basting on an EPP flower to allow you to open the seam allowances.



After trimming, remove the FP templates. The creases where the seam allowance was folded indicate the stitching lines.*

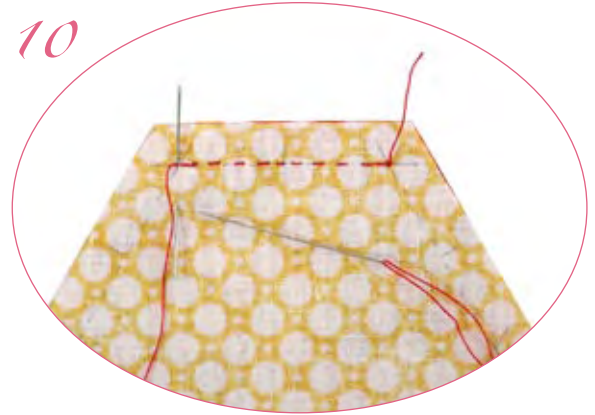
**You may add a pencil line if the crease is difficult to see, but if the raw edges are even and if you stitch with the printed hexagon facing you (next step), you will not need this line very much.*

7



The creases help me pin the seam to add a printed Inklingo hexagon to this EPP edge. I sew with the other side up (below), using the printed Inklingo lines.

10



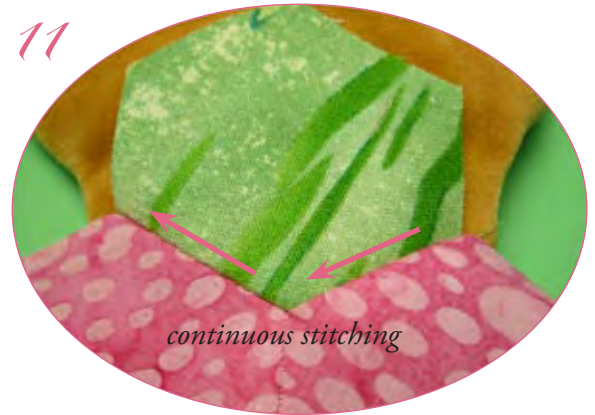
The Inklingo Handbook includes detailed, illustrated instructions for hand piecing with a running stitch, including inset seams and pressing.

8



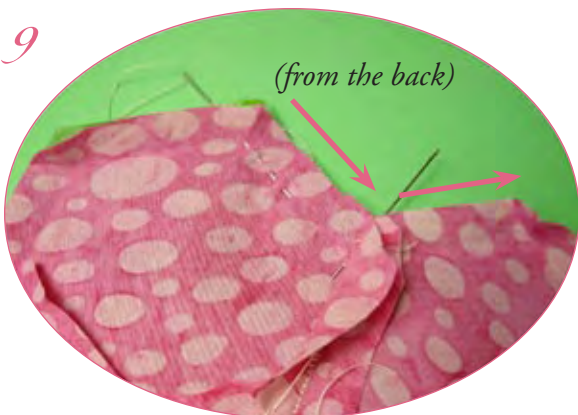
It only takes two loads of the needle with an ordinary running stitch to complete a one-inch seam, and the next seam can be sewn continuously.

11



This method works with all sizes of Inklingo hexagons, diamonds, octagons, etc., and the stitches do not show on the front.

9



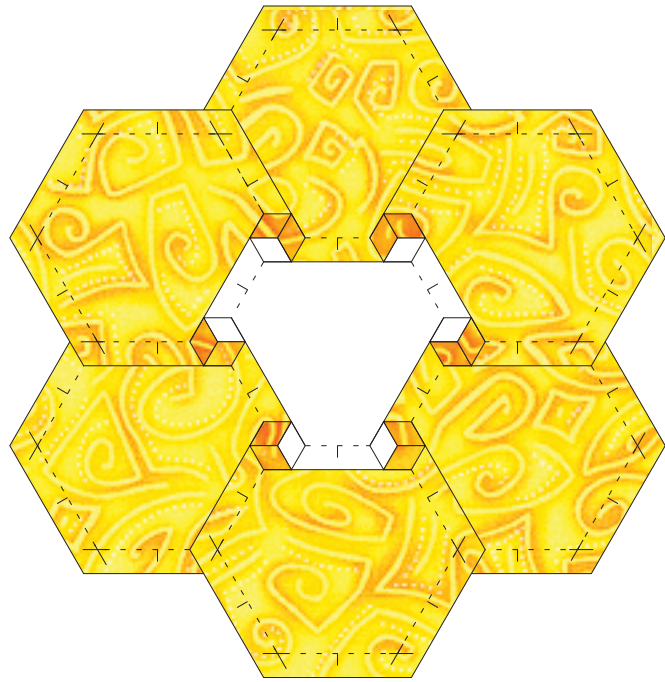
As usual, sew from crosshair to crosshair. When I get to the end of a seam, I can turn a corner and keep on going. Inset seams are an opportunity for continuous stitching.

12



Inklingo also makes it possible to combine hand and machine piecing in your quilt—a hybrid, as described in *The Inklingo Handbook*.

pressing



Grandmother's Flower Garden (GFG) presses beautifully because the seams are stitched from crosshair to crosshair. All of the seam allowances can be pressed around the intersections (above), which reduces the bulk and enhances the appearance from the front of the quilt.

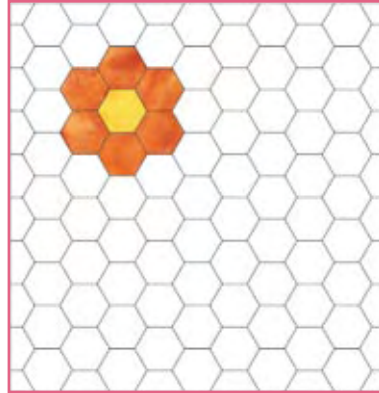
inklingo PRESSING NOTES

1. Use a hot, dry iron on cotton setting, without steam. Try different irons in different sizes. A small iron is handy for ironing freezer paper onto small pieces of fabric, too.
2. Press by lifting and lowering. Do not slide the iron. Be careful to avoid stretching seams inappropriately. Use the side of the iron, rather than the point, and lift and lower to avoid distortion.
3. Pressing GFG seams open (instead of to the side, above) is a last resort. The stitches should be closer together to strengthen the seam and reduce the possibility that the batting will migrate out between the stitches. The seam is not as strong as one with the seam allowances pressed to one side. The stitches are more likely to show, so use an appropriate thread color.

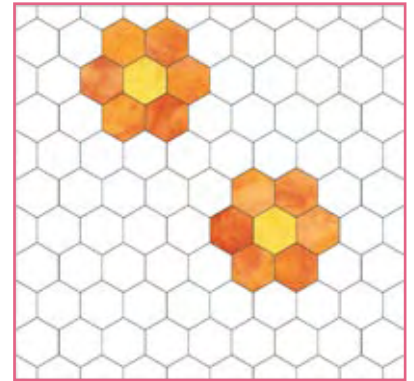
There is a great chapter on pressing in *The Inklingo Handbook*.



about hexagons



SITTING FLAT



SITTING ON POINT

Notice that some hexagon quilt designs have the hexagons sitting on a flat side, and some are on point, as shown above. Inklingo collections include worksheets both ways.

1.0 INCH HEXAGON

Each side is 1.0 inch, finished

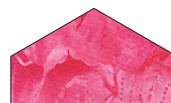
Inklingo follows tradition by naming hexagons by the length of the finished side. Hexagons are always described this way because the width is not the same as the height. A hexagon does not fit a square.

A 1 inch hexagon has six sides, each 1 inch long. It is 2 inches across from point to point and 1.75 inches (1.73 precisely) from flat side to flat side.

CONFUSED? I am often asked for 4 inch hexagons. A hexagon with 4 inch sides would be 8 inches across, from point to point, which is a very large hexagon! In every case so far, this request really meant that the quilter was looking for 2 inch hexagons, which are 4 inches from point to point, not 4 inches on each side.

Each angle is 60 degrees, so hexagons fit well with 60 degree diamonds, 60 degree triangles, and other 60 degree shapes.

A hexagon can be divided in half from point to point or from side to side. These shapes are included in Inklingo shape collections to print on fabric.



house half



other half

requirements



REQUIREMENTS

- color Inkjet printer or all-in-one (any kind)
- freezer paper (FP, for short)
- cotton fabric, washed
- rotary cutter, two rulers, and a mat (or scissors)
- needles & thread for hand piecing, or sewing machine
- scissors
- iron and ironing surface

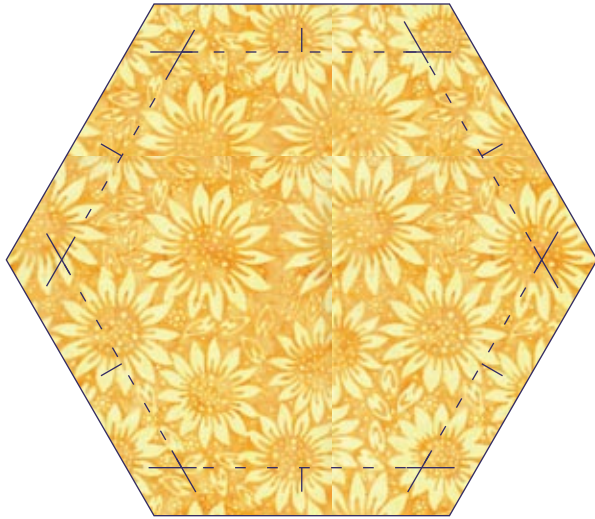


PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

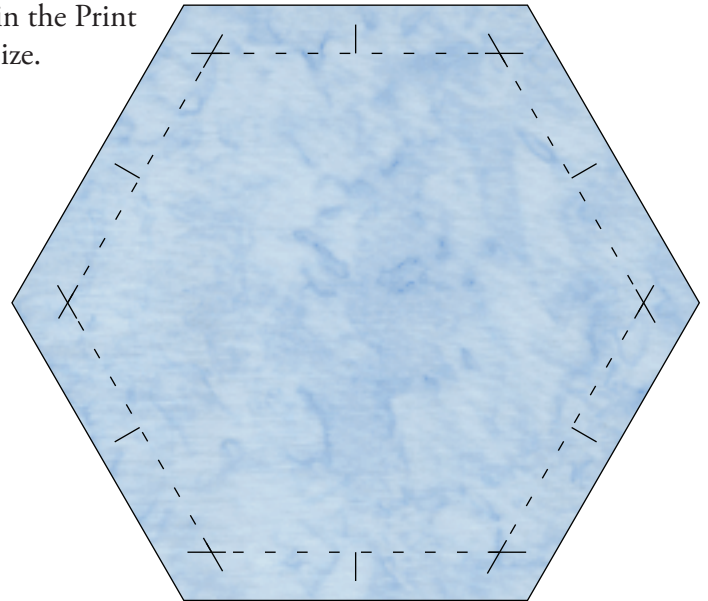
Refer to Chapter 1 of *THE INKLINGO HANDBOOK* for printing instructions.

If you don't have *THE INKLINGO HANDBOOK* (yet), but you have the free shape collection, you have Chapter 1 already. Chapter 1 is free from www.inklingo.com

Set Page Scaling to "none" in the Print Dialog box to print actual size.



1.25 INCH



1.5 INCH

SIZES OF HEXAGONS

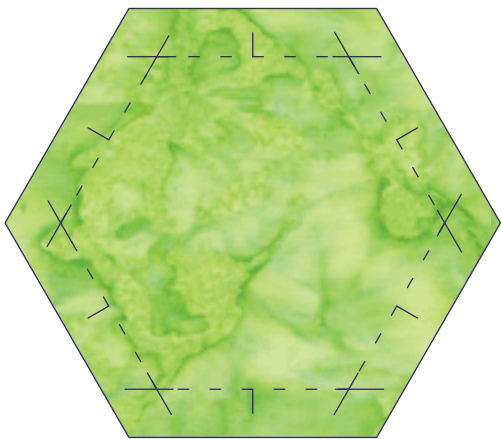
Inklingo follows tradition by naming hexagons by the length of the finished side.

The measurement from point to point is 2 x the length of the side.

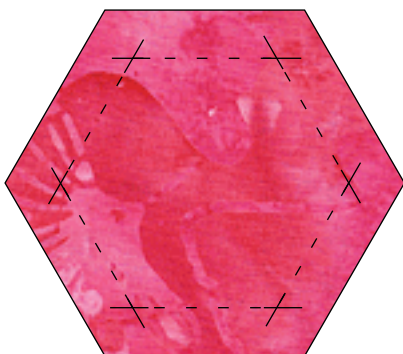
The measurement from flat side to flat side is 1.73 x the length of the side.

Many sizes of hexagons are available from inklingo.com See the Index of Shapes under the Support tab in the top menu bar. It is updated every time new shapes are added. If your size is not shown here, please ask! We are taking requests.

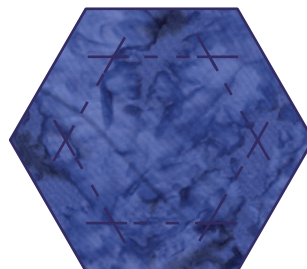
There is more information about hexagons on the web site under Support, under Hand Piecing, and under Shop.



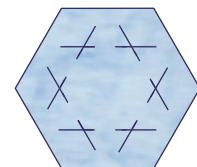
1.0 INCH



0.75 INCH

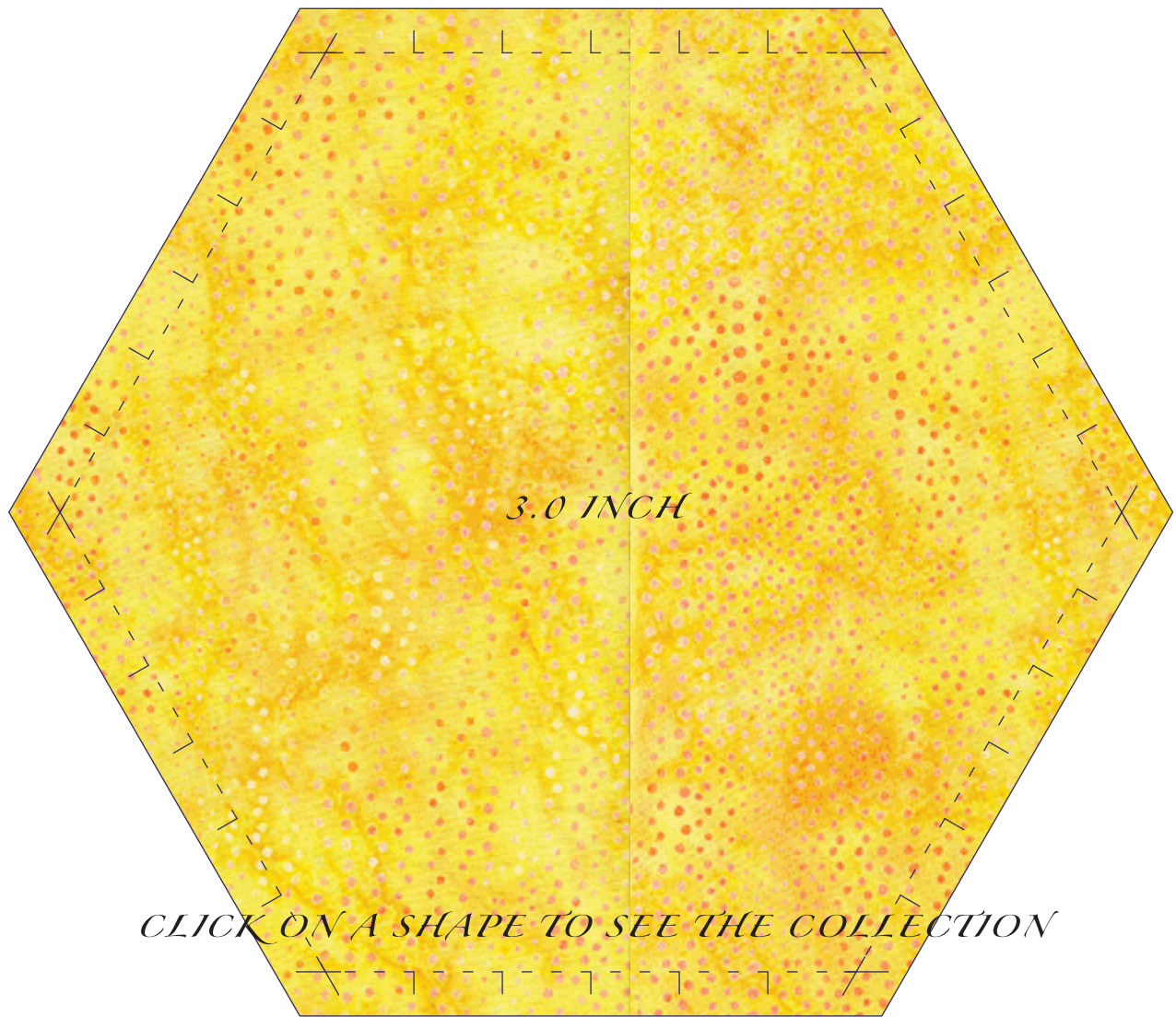


0.5 INCH



0.25 INCH

CLICK ON A SHAPE TO SEE THE COLLECTION

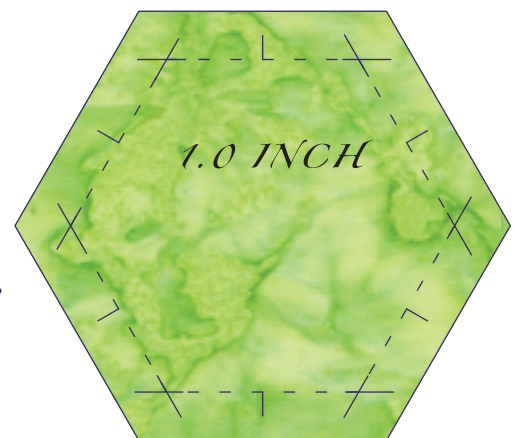


CLICK ON A SHAPE TO SEE THE COLLECTION

Set Page Scaling to "none" in the Print Dialog box to print actual size.



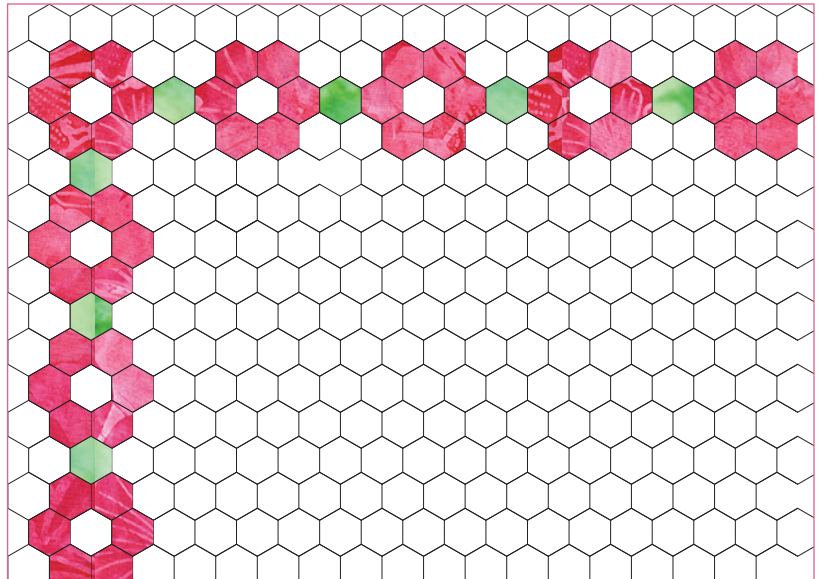
2.0 INCH



1.0 INCH

*NO TEMPLATES
NO MEASURING
CUT ON A LINE*

Worksheets



There are worksheets to help you plan your quilts in most Inklingo shape collections.

You have several choices for printing the worksheets:

- Choose “tile large pages” in the print dialog box to print a worksheet on several pages, and tape them together.
- Choose “shrink to fit” in the print dialog box to print the 13 x 19 page on a letter-size page (8.5 x 11).
- Print several pages and tape them together for larger quilts.

MEASURING

There are tips for determining the size of hexagon quilt layouts in *The Inklingo Handbook*.

$$\frac{\text{NUMBER REQUIRED}}{\text{NUMBER PER YARD}} = \text{YARDAGE REQUIRED}$$

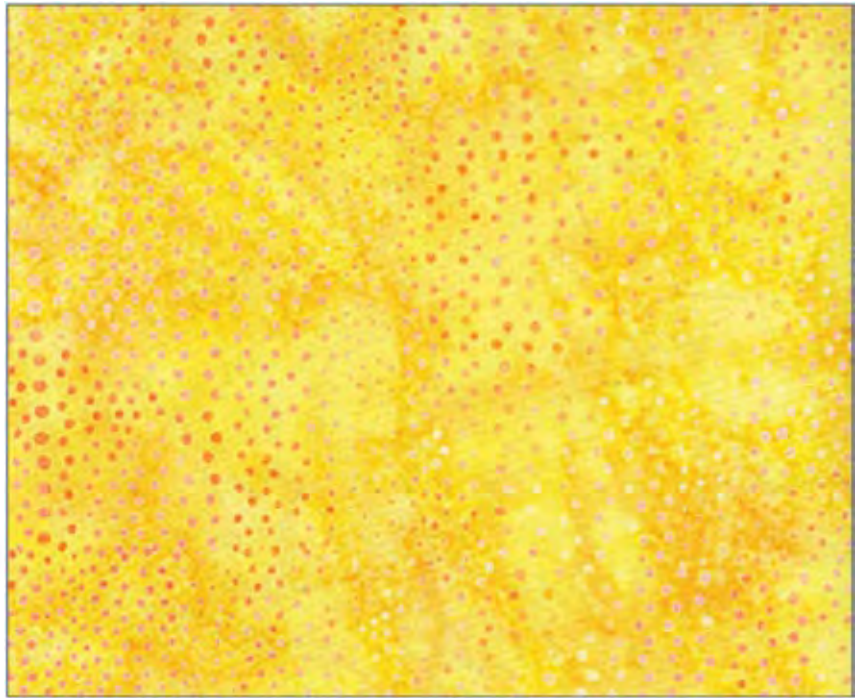
Once you know how many shapes you need, you can calculate yardage using the suggested cutting layouts in the *Catalogue of Shapes*.

If the layout in the *Catalogue of Shapes* shows 225 shapes/yard,

- for 600 shapes
 $\frac{600}{225} = 2.66$ yards (round to 2.75 yards, at least)
- for 150 shapes
 $\frac{150}{225} = 0.66$ yards (round to 0.75 yard, at least)

No matter how carefully you calculate the exact amount, it is a good idea to buy a little extra to allow for shrinkage and for printing/cutting mistakes.

Yardage



YARD 36 x 44 inches



HALF YARD 18 x 44 inches



STRIPS 2.5 x 44 inches (Jelly Rolls)

Remember that a yard of fabric usually measures less than 36 x 44 inches after washing.



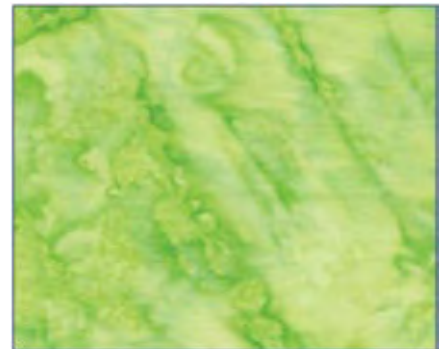
NICKEL
5 x 5



FAT SIXTEENTH
9 x 11 inches (S = scrap)

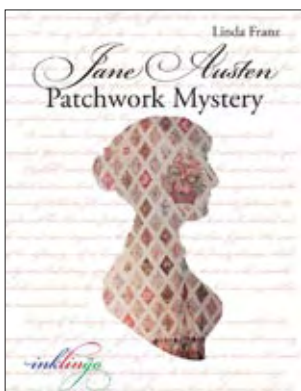
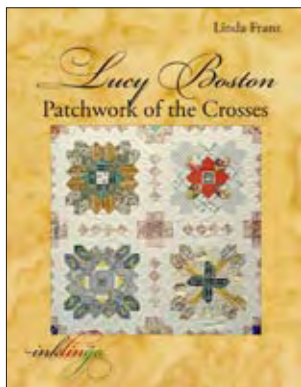


FAT EIGHTH
18 x 11 inches



FAT QUARTER
18 x 22 inches

*NEW BOOKS
IN QUILT SHOPS!*



Inklingo is as easy as printing an e-mail, and there are resources that make it precise, simple, fast, and fun.

THIS SHAPE COLLECTION E-BOOK contains a Test Page, Catalogue of Shapes, and pages of shapes to print directly onto fabric.

THE CATALOGUE OF SHAPES is the heart of each collection. For each shape, there are two or more pages to provide a description, the page numbers for each ink color, tips for using each shape, and suggested sizes for custom pages.

WWW.INKLINGO.COM

Updates, patterns, books, and a free demo video

THE INKLINGO HANDBOOK
(128 pages, 5 chapters)

*1. PRINTING WITH INKLINGO****

General info and great tips for printing on fabric

2. PIECING

All of our best tips! 1. by hand 2. by machine 3. hybrid

3. APPLIQUÉ

Inklingo makes appliqué better than ever before.

Back-basting, needleturn, FP appliqué, and more


4. PRESSING AND TRIMMING

Great strategies for pressing and trimming for hand and machine pieced seams

5. USING PATTERNS WITH INKLINGO

Inklingo is compatible with any pattern that uses the same shapes and sizes. There is helpful information about shapes, dimensions, yardage calculations—complete with examples.

FREE

 ****PRINTING WITH INKLINGO* (Chapter 1) is *ESSENTIAL* to your enjoyment of Inklingo, so it is available FREE on the web site. Please tell your friends about the free shape collection, so they can start enjoying Inklingo today. (Of course, we think Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the handbook are essential too.)