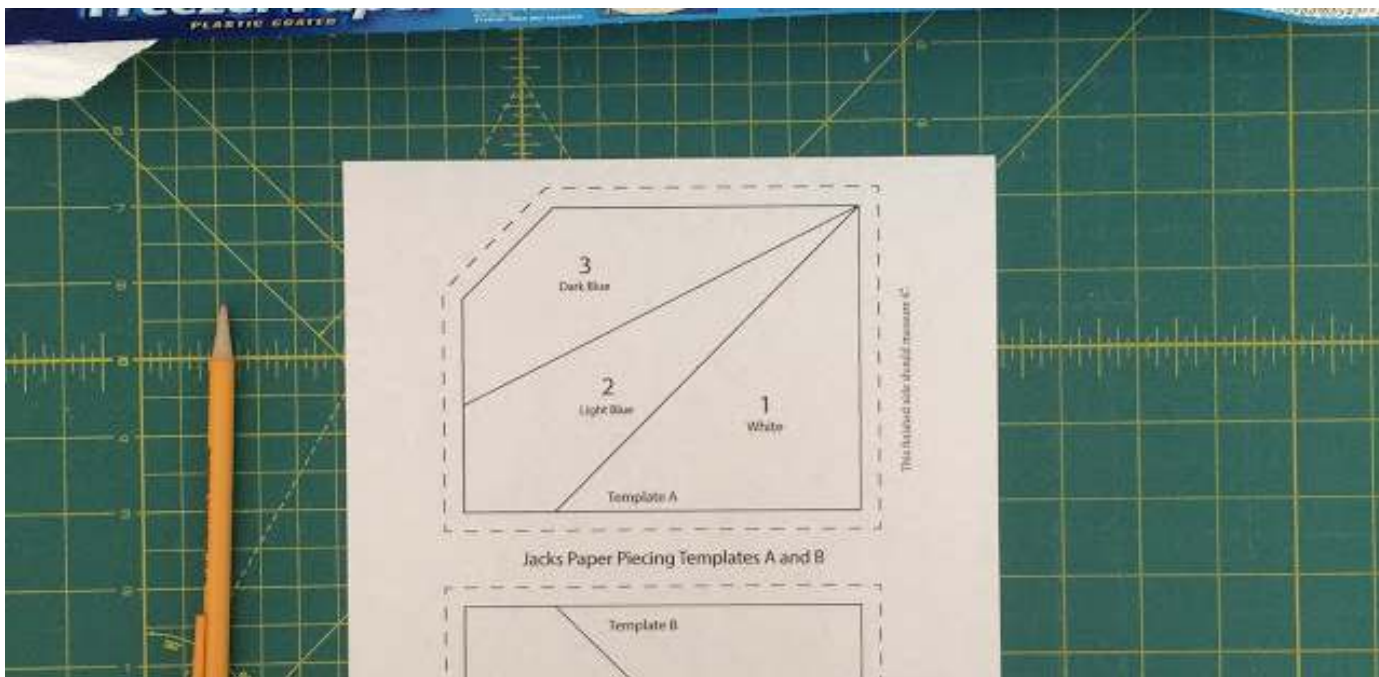


PAPERLESS PAPER PIECING {TUTORIAL}

by Rebecca Bryan of [Bryan House Quilts](#)



Raise your hand if you love paper piecing but HATE taking the papers out of the blocks.

raises hand

Recently I learned how to do paperless paper piecing and it is SO great that I have to share it with you all.

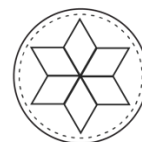
Paperless Paper Piecing is similar to paper piecing in technique. But the main and most important difference is you can reuse the templates and you don't have to rip out any paper.

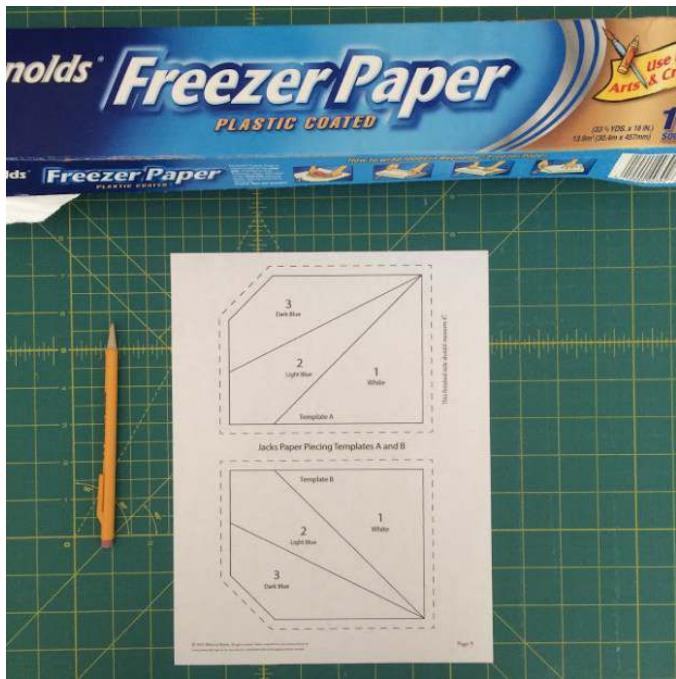
Instead of making 1,000 copies of your template (number maybe slightly exaggerated, but only slightly), you trace a copy on freezer paper. (Hm, maybe this is better called Freezer Paper Piecing?) You may want to make a few copies so that you can work in batches. I made 4 of each template so I could work in batches of fours.



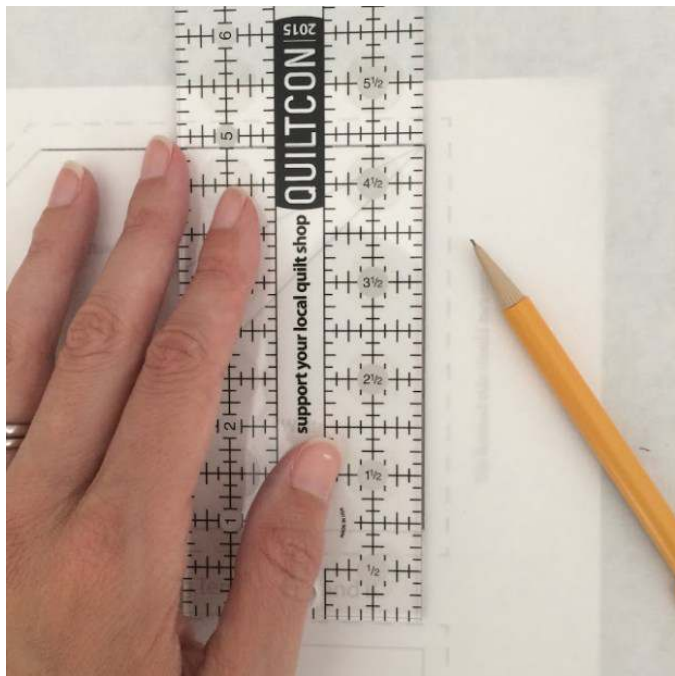
BRYAN HOUSE QUILTS

modern designs • classic inspiration • everyday living

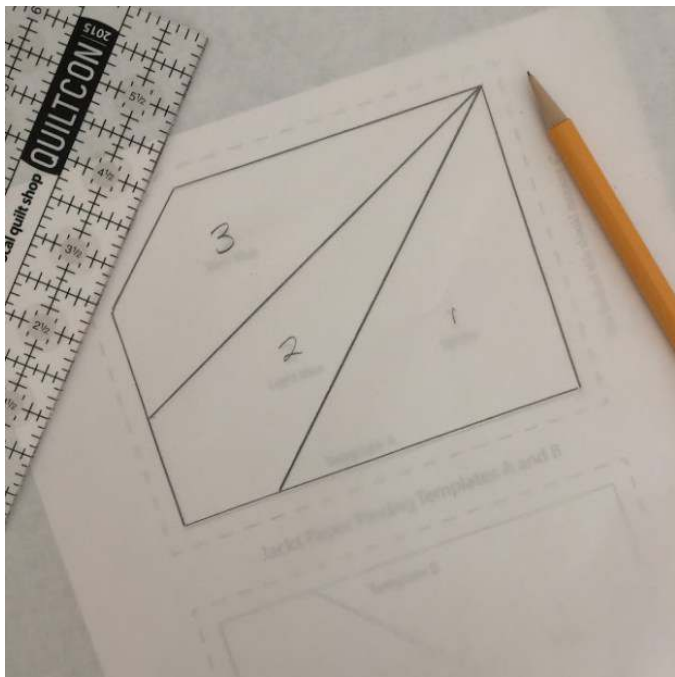




You will need: a copy of your template(s), a pen or pencil, freezer paper and (not pictured) a ruler and paper cutting scissors.



Using the ruler as a straight edge, **trace** the template onto the paper side of the freezer paper.



Don't forget the numbers and any other information on the template, especially if you are going to reuse the template at a later date.

You can trace the 1/4" seam allowance now or add it when you trim the blocks during the last step.

Cut out the traced template with paper scissors. Then fold or score the seam lines. You will be folding them during the sewing, so this step will make it easier to fold during the subsequent steps.



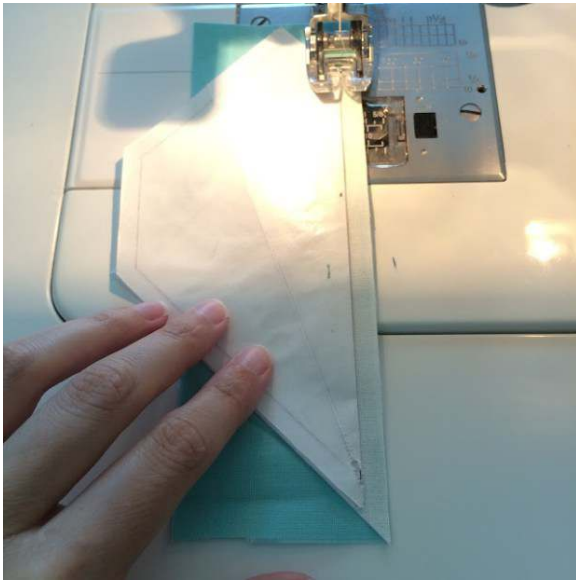
Instead of pinning or glue basting the first fabric piece to the template like you would in paper piecing, you will iron the freezer paper to Fabric 1 (my Fabric 1 is white).

Make sure the paper side of the freezer paper is facing up and the wrong side of the fabric is facing the sticky part of the freezer paper.

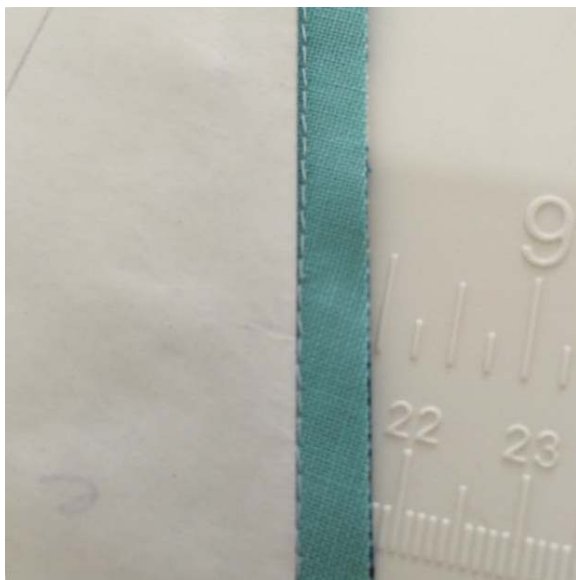
So **line up** Fabric 1 to the template and iron the freezer paper template to the fabric.



Next, line up your second fabric (my Fabric 2 is aqua) just as you would in paper piecing. When you go to sew along the line, fold the freezer paper out of the way of the seam line.



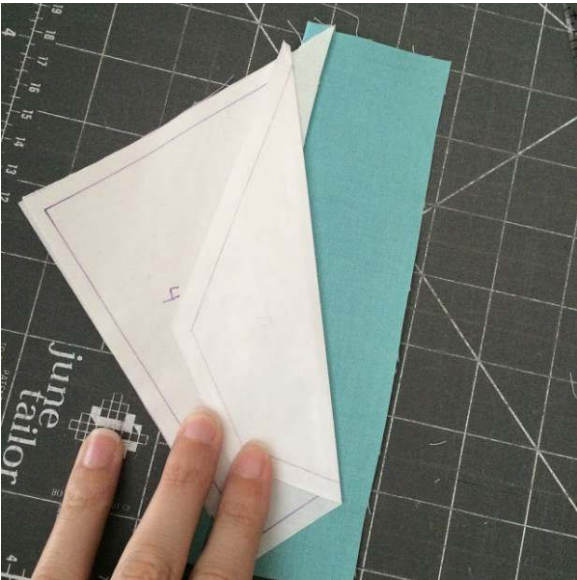
Stitch right next to the fold but not through the paper.



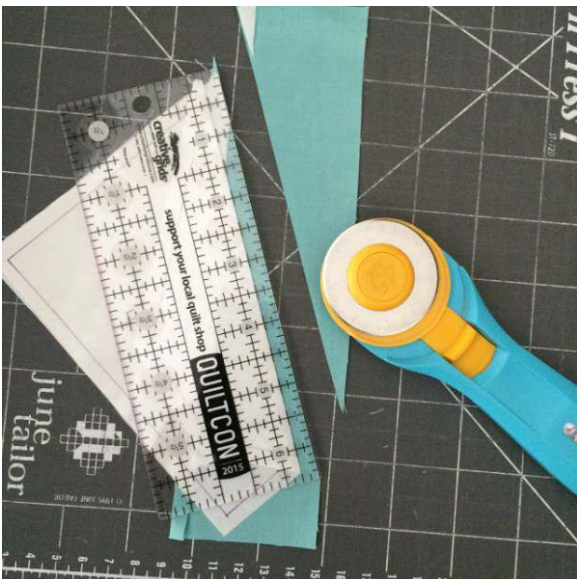
See how my seam line is right next to the fold, but not through the paper?



Now press the seam with the fabric right side up. This will also make the freezer paper stick to Fabric 2. Be sure to not iron the sticky side of the freezer paper that is facing up – you don't want to get that on your iron plate.



Put the unit fabric side down on a cutting board. Fold the freezer paper template back to expose the seam.

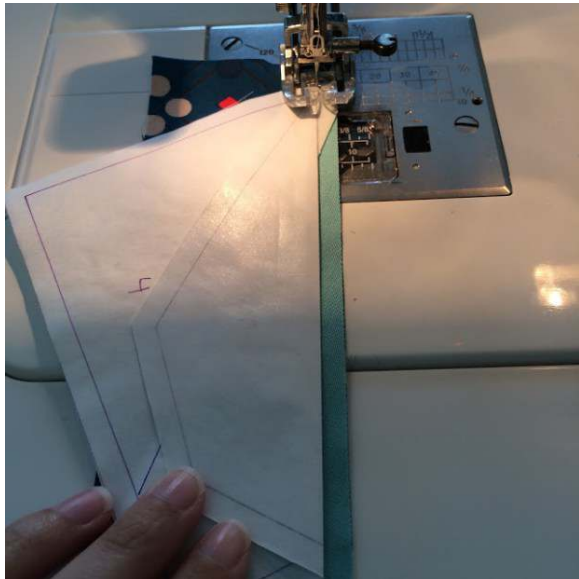


And trim the seam to 1/4".

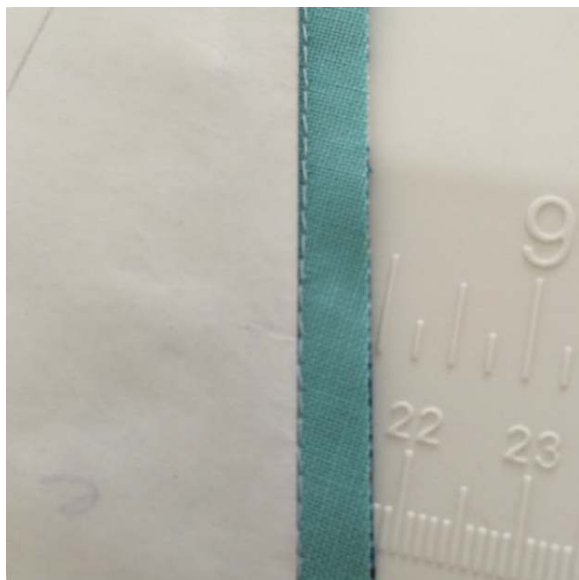


Repeat the process to finish piecing your template.

This is me lining up my Fabric 3 (dark blue) with Fabric 2 (aqua). Can you see how the dark blue fabric is 1/4" past the seam? Just as with paper piecing you will want to make sure the fabric is large or long enough to cover the entire shape.



With the freezer paper template folded back, stitch right along side the fold.



The stitches are right next to the fold but I haven't stitched through the paper.



Press the unit with the fabric side up.



The final step is to trim the excess fabric from the edges.

Be sure you keep the 1/4" seam allowance all the way around as you trim off the excess. Then peel the fabric unit from the freezer paper template. Voila! No picking out paper from your seams and you can reuse that freezer paper template. YAH!!!

So what do you think? I found this process to be such a time and paper saver!

[Email me with questions.](#)

Special thanks to Marsha Bray of the [Quilted Fox](#) for talking me through the process and allowing me to share this tutorial with you all!