

Little Hexagon Purse

made by Brigitte Giblin

Finished Size: approx. 6" (15cm) high x 9" (23cm) wide



www.brittegiblinquilts.com

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REQUIREMENTS:

- "S64" purse frame – size 7 x 15cms **
- .25m (1/3rd yard) osnaberg or heavy linen for outer shell
- .25m (1/3rd yard) fabric for lining
- .25m (1/3rd yard) iron-on pellon
- Small print scraps for hexagons
- Scrap of cardboard or template plastic for base and hexagon template
- 67 – 1/4inch hexagon papers ** (order 1 pack)
- Hand sewing tools
- Sewing machine
- Strong thread for stitching purse fabric to frame

** these items are available from:

www.brittegiblinquilts.com

Step 1: Cut out the paper patterns for sides and base of purse. Pin the patterns onto fabrics and cut the shapes for the outer fabric, the lining and the pellon.

Step 2: Make a hexagon template with 3/16th inch seam allowance for fussy cutting the hexagon fabrics. Cover the papers (see paper piecing instructions) and whip stitch the hexagons together to make up the shapes for the 2 sides. Do not remove the papers – they will help to stiffen the purse.

Step 3: Appliqué the hexagon shapes to the 2 sides of bag, and then iron the pellon to the wrong side of the outer shell.

Step 4: Make gathers where indicated at the bottom of the sides. Pin corresponding A, B and C sections for the base and sides, and then sew the pieces together for the outer shell and for the lining – making sure you leave the opening in the base of the lining fabric.

Step 5: with right sides of fabrics facing, sew the lining to the outer shell between the top dots. Turn to the right side through the opening in the lining.

Step 6: Cut a base from cardboard or template plastic – without the ¼ inch seam allowance. Insert the cardboard/plastic base through the opening, and then stitch closed by hand. Secure the base in place by sewing a few stitches on all 4 sides, taking care not to stitch through to the outside layer of the purse.

Step 7: push the top edge of purse into the slot on the frame and backstitch through the holes with strong thread. You can glue a thin ribbon or braid on the inside to hide your stitches.

VARIATION: HALF INCH HEXAGON PURSE

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REQUIREMENTS:

- Requirements are the same as for "Little Hexagon Purse" – excluding the ¼-inch hexagons
- 206 - ½ inch hexagon papers ** (order 2 packs)
- An assortment of print scraps for the hexagons

** these items can be ordered from:

www.brittegiblinquilts.com

Step 1: Cut out the paper patterns for the sides and base of purse. Pin the pattern onto the fabrics and cut out the shapes for the outer fabric, the lining and the pellon.

Step 2: Make a clear plastic hexagon template with ¼ inch seam allowance for cutting the hexagon fabrics. Cover the papers (see paper piecing instructions) and whip stitch the hexagons together to make up both sides and the base of bag – see hexagon graph. Remove the papers from the sides only. The base hexagon papers can be left in place to help stiffen the purse.

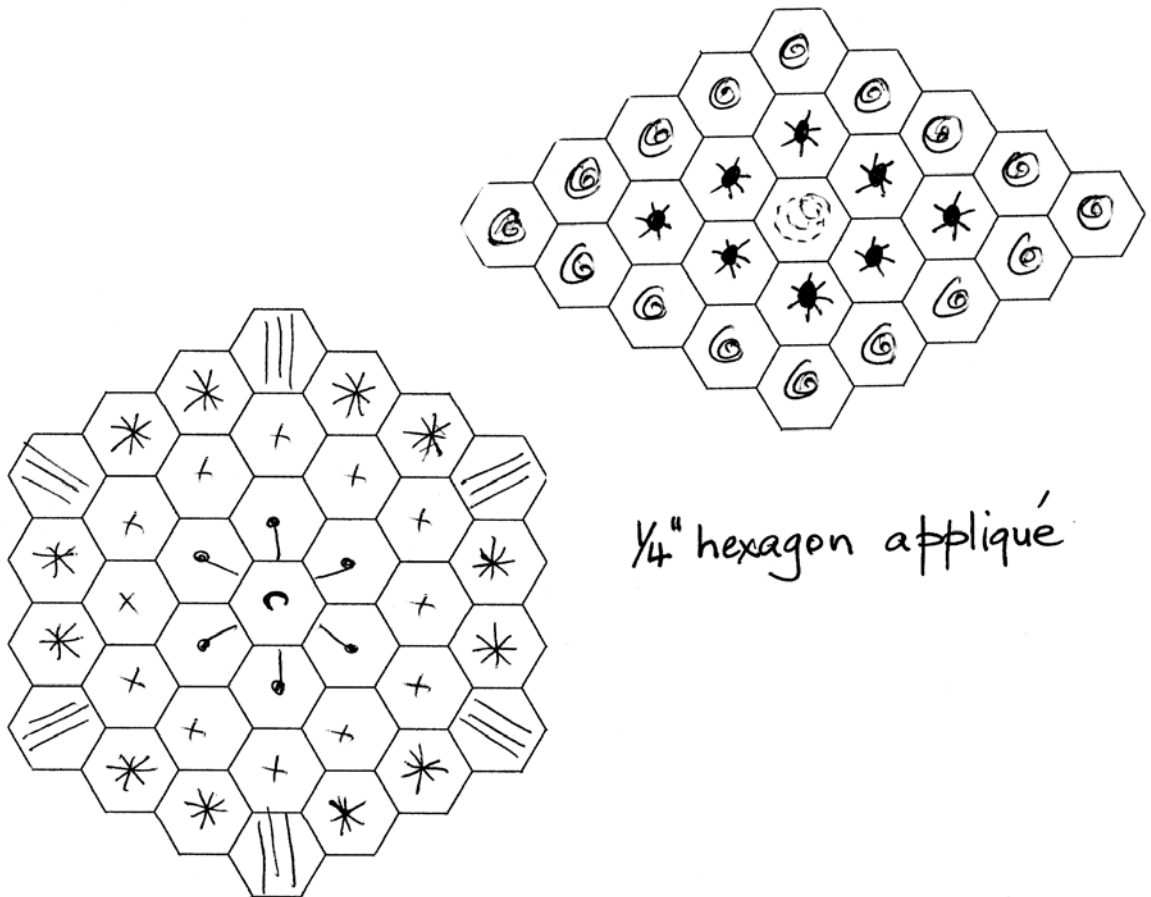
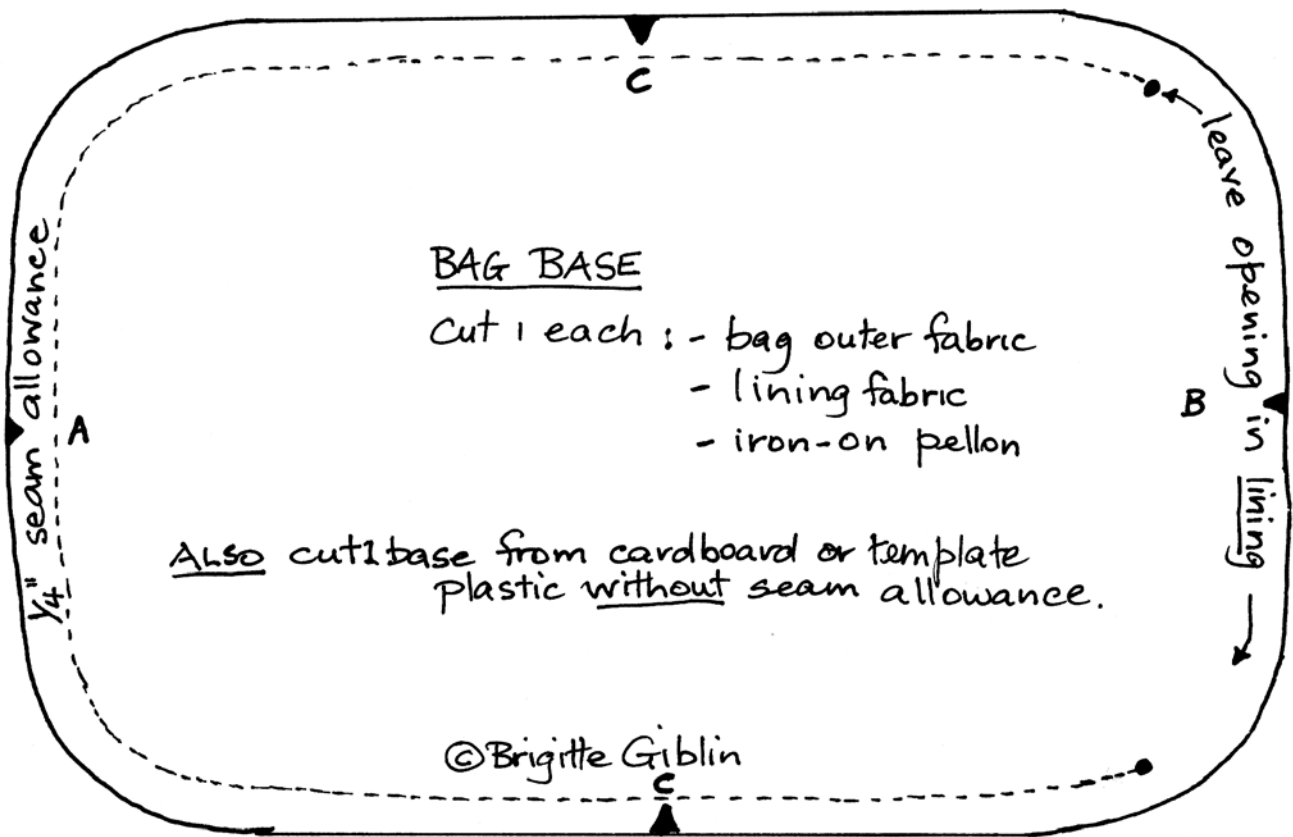
Step 3: Pin and then appliqué the base hexagon panel to the base fabric. Pin and then appliqué the side hexagon panels to the side fabrics along the top, bottom, and elsewhere, where the backing fabric exceeds the hexagon panel by more than ¼ inch.

Steps 4 to 7: as per "Little Hexagon Purse"

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Appliqué the 1/2" hexagons to the outer fabric panels.





PURSE STRAP

HOW TO MAKE

Make a strap using 2 small “swivel lobster clasps” (available from bead shops).

Cut a length of braid double the desired length of the strap and a single length of rik-rak.

Thread the 2 clasps onto the braid and bring the 2 ends together into the centre and pin.

Now sandwich the rik-rak between the braid layers and baste in place.

Machine stitch close to the edges on both sides of the braid and across the ends near the clasps.

Whip-stitch 2 hexagons (with papers) together on either side of the strap to hide the centre join.



Purse straps made from braid, rik-rak and swivel lobster clasps



Short purse strap variation

Paper Piecing Instructions

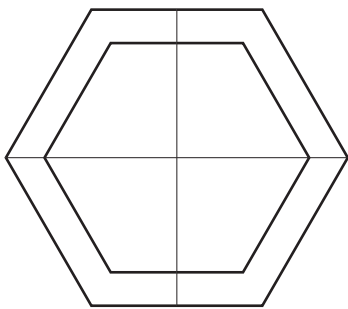
Paper Piecing – The English Method

WORKING WITH HEXAGONS – BRIGITTE GIBLIN

The larger the hexagon, the more seam allowance you will need. e.g.:

- for a 1/2 inch hexagon – allow 1/4 inch seam allowance
- for a 3/4 inch hexagon – allow a scant 3/8th inch seam allowance
- for a 1 inch hexagon – allow 3/8th inch seam allowance
- for 1 1/2 inch hexagon and over – allow 1/2 inch seam allowance

NOTE: A hexagon is measured along the edge, which is equal to the radius.



Make accurate cutting templates in clear plastic, including the seam allowance.

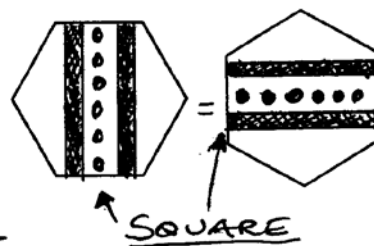
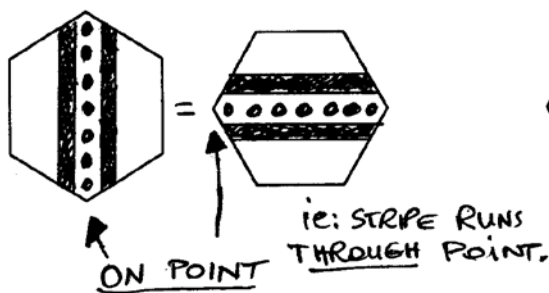
Mark the original hexagon shape in the centre, and lines on point and square for fussy cutting fabrics.

Try not to pin, but if you need to, use a short appliqué pin on the fabric side so that your thread will not get caught as you sew.

Baste the fabric over the papers without stitching through the paper. This way the papers can be removed without removing the basting. The basting secures the folded edges and prevents them bunching when the work is washed.

Centre the paper piece on the wrong side of the fabric. Fold the fabric over one side of the paper and hold it in place while you fold the adjacent side over, neatly pleating the fabric at the corner. Take two small stitches across this folded corner, fold over the next side and make one stitch across the corner. Continue in this manner until the last fold and finish with 2 stitches across the corner.

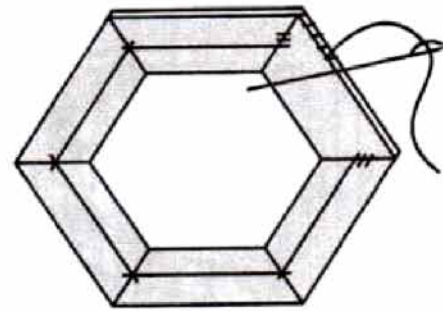
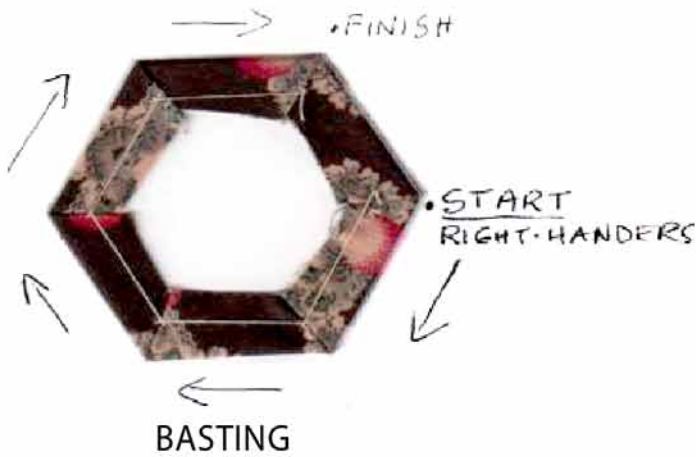
How you fussy-cut your fabrics will have a dramatic effect on the look of your paper piecing. Using stripes and geometric prints on the outer edge of diamond shapes will act as a frame around fussy-cut motifs for the centre and surrounding 8 hexagons. Consider whether you need to fussy-cut with the featured motif or stripe placed “on point” or “square” to achieve the desired effect. See example below



Centre: cut 1
 Inner diamond: cut 6 square; 2 on point/ends
 Outer diamond: cut 12 square;
 2 on point/ends; 2 on point/sides



(NOTE: STRIPE RUNS DOWN ONE HALF OF HEXAGON) ON POINT



WHIP STITCHING

WHIP STITCHING

Hold 2 hexagons together, right sides facing. Knot your thread and insert under a corner so that the needle comes out on the point. Sew straight across, catching only one or two threads and spacing stitches 1/16th inch apart, so that you have 12 stitches plus one to finish on a 1-inch hexagon – 13 stitches in all. If you have difficulty inserting your needle, your fabric is basted too tightly over the papers.

Note: *always leave papers in outer edge of work until the next round is sewn on. Internal papers can be removed as needed and reused.*

Needle size is also very important for hand stitching. Try using a number 9 or 10 milliner or straw needle. This is a fine, long needle, making it ideal for all hand work.

It is easy to hold and will not get “lost” in your fingers. It is the only needle I use for appliqué, hand piecing, whip stitching and quilting. I prefer number 10 for appliqué and slightly thicker number 9 for quilting.

OTHER SHAPES AND SIZES

It’s a good idea to always make clear plastic templates including seam allowance, and lines through centre for fussy cutting.

All paper pieced shapes can be basted without stitching through the papers up to 2” sides.

Shapes with sides longer than 2 inches should be basted through the paper.

Any shape with sides longer than 1 ½ inches will have a constant ½ inch seam allowance when cutting fabrics.

For large shapes, a bull dog clip or paper clip will help to hold the fabric and paper shape together while basting.

DID YOU KNOW?

You will rarely see quilting on an antique paper-pieced quilt. Old English and French paper pieced quilts were simply backed and edged without batting or quilting. They were used as decorative coverlets on beds or furniture or as bed and curtain hangings.

Papers were sometimes left inside quilts made for charity – this added an extra layer of warmth – there is a reference to the “rustling of the quilt” in *Oliver Twist*.

Most of the effect of paper pieced quilts is in the fussy cutting of fabrics to achieve dramatic impact. It takes a little longer to cover papers and whipstitch them together, so don’t feel bad about not quilting your finished project. Back it, edge it with a fringe, pompoms or rick rack and enjoy!

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