



Hexagon Sew Along, January 2022



-Kathleen Tracy



Welcome to the 2022 Hexagon Sew Along! We'll be using the English Paper Piecing technique to make a small quilt from these little shapes. Please read the previous file I uploaded to the Group Files (on English Paper Piecing Hexagons) for instructions on making the hexagons.

This will be a casual sew along. Some of you have been making hexagons for a long time. Others are new to this. As a group, we'll be taking this a little slowly at first to allow those who are new to English paper piecing a chance to familiarize themselves with the technique. Make one of the two quilts from my books or just make some hexies and put them together into your own design. Because my patterns are in published books and under copyright, I cannot give the instructions here. But you can see they're fairly simple quilts and I think most of you can figure out how to applique hexagons onto background squares and get the same look without the pattern.

One thing I like to do when I begin working on a new project is to buy a project case (or find a nice box) and store my fabrics, paper pieces, supplies and any notes or instructions in it. It helps to keep everything in one place so you can pick it up whenever you have a few minutes.

Here are the two projects from my books. You can make one or both of these OR choose your own design.



Hexagon Garden from *Small & Scrappy* book



Hexagon flowers from *The Civil War Sewing Circle* book

The instructions for making these quilts are in the books. (There's a list of my books in the group files.) The other file on EPP shows you how to make the hexagons and hexagon flowers. If you're planning to make your hexagons a little larger for the quilt on right, adjust the pattern and cut your background squares larger too. Then leave about 1/2 " all around.

I've found that it's always so much fun to sew along in a group. Quilters encourage each other and become inspired by seeing what others have made and the fabrics they've used. The rule in my other sew alongs was - please do not post pictures of your finished quilts the first week. This is a **Sew Along** where we are sewing **together**. Please give everyone a chance to get started before you post your finished quilts. I've found that if you post finished quilts right off the bat, it discourages some people and makes them feel like they're behind before they even start. If everyone posts pics of their previously finished quilts then it feels like the sew along is over right when we begin. So let's try to post **progress** pics for awhile and let everyone get started. Seeing what others are also making can be a real motivator. Then, after a little while, you can post your finished quilts. I don't have a strict schedule for this sew along so take as long as you need and ask questions if you get stuck. Some have already gotten a head start, working on their pieces early but, if you have not, take the time this week to play around and learn how to make the hexagons. Experiment with fabric, pull out some favorite scraps. Our experienced members will pitch in and help with questions.

To begin, here are the supplies you'll need -

1. Fabric scraps (2" squares will work if you're making then the same size I am - 5/8" inch on one side. If your hexies are larger, then you will need larger scraps.)
2. Paper hexagon pieces (5/8" measured on one side is the size I am using and the size for the ones in the books.)
3. Pins if you're punching a hole in the middle of your papers. (I like to use short applique pins.)
4. All purpose thread for basting and a finer thread for sewing the hexies together. (A glue stick if you're glue basting.)
5. Sharp or Milliners needle
6. Scissors - paper scissors, fabric scissors and smaller embroidery scissors for clipping threads
7. Optional: Glue stick, clear or opaque plastic template for fussy cutting, hole punch



You may purchase your paper shapes or download the .pdf from the incompetech.com link in the file in the group and print them out on a cardstock sheet. OR, if you're going "old school" you can cut the hexagon shapes individually by tracing the pattern shape that is in my books onto any stiff paper. There is a hexagon shape in *The Civil War Sewing Circle* (page 58) and another in *Small & Scrappy* (page 27). Both measure 5/8" (or .60 inch) and this is the size hexagon you'll need if you're making either one of those hexagon flower quilts. If you prefer to work with larger hexagons, that's fine too. Simply adjust the pattern to your preference. Because the two hexagon quilts in my books are published patterns, they're under copyright so I would appreciate it if you did not include the directions if you post a photo or ask a question.

If you don't wish to make one of my quilts, that's fine - just be creative and sew the hexagons into your own design. Please do not use a pattern by another designer. I do not want to be responsible for the instructions or have to answer questions about the work of other designers and possibly be liable for any copyright infringements that may occur.

As far as techniques go, you may thread baste your hexies or glue baste your hexies. I learned by using the thread-basting method and that's how I sew mine but please do whatever is most comfortable for you. Many quilters love glue basting because it's fairly quick. Both will give you the same result.

If you're just starting to learn English Paper Piecing (EPP), your goal for the first week is to sew 7 hexagons together to make a flower. (Follow the instructions for making a hexagon flower in the file English Paper Piecing Hexagons in the group files and watch the videos I've linked to.)



Let's get started! Take the time to relax and enjoy the "sewing by hand" part once you get the hang of it. These can be addictive!

♥ Kathy