

Special Hints

Adjusting Tension, Stitch Length, and Needle Size: The tension and stitch length on your machine should be adjusted according to the weight of the paper on which you are sewing. For this project I would suggest a stitch length between 1.5 and 1.8. This would vary between the different types of machines. Sew a couple practice seams through a few scraps of paper and fabric. Check the tension for even, tight stitches. If the paper is hard to pull away from the fabric, tighten the stitch a bit. If the paper falls apart during the sewing process, loosen the stitch a bit.

Needles: For lightweight paper like newsprint, use size 70 needles. Change your needles often. The needles become dull very fast when sewing through, paper which may cause your machine to miss stitches.

Pressing: Most ink used for printing is not permanent if it gets pressed into your fabric, but it can cause a big mess. The ink will wash out of most fabrics but try to avoid this problem by following these guidelines.

1. *Always press on the backside of the paper, avoiding the black lines. This will keep the ink off the bottom of the iron. Protect your ironing board by placing a strip of muslin over your board while working on foundation paper.*
2. *Don't stack the foundation papers on top of each other when pressing the seams. If you do, you may press ink marks into the fabric directly under the piece you are pressing. The best way to avoid this is to press one piece, set it to the side, and then press the next piece. Steam may cause the ink to come off easily and may also shrink the paper a little, so don't use too much steam. A little steam is okay. Just be careful! If the paper curls in the pressing process, turn the temperature down on the iron just a bit and adjust the steam.*

Foundation Papers: Printed on each foundation paper you will find the unit name, the section numbers and sewing lines. The sewing lines are the solid lines numbered Line 1, 2, 3, etc. The numbers are there for you to follow. The fabric pieces are sewn onto the foundation papers starting with Line 1, ending with the highest number on each unit.

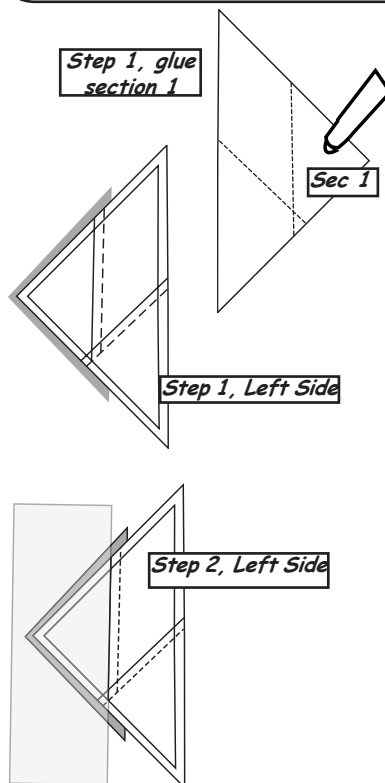
Foundation Piecing: With foundation paper piecing the fabrics are sewn onto the backside of the foundation paper. The paper piecing technique that I teach requires you to glue the first piece of fabric under Sec. 1 on the backside of the foundation paper. The paper is folded back on line 1 and the Add-A-Quarter ruler is placed lip-side down against the folded edge. The excess fabric is trim away, leaving you with a quarter-inch seam. The second piece of fabric is positioned under fabric #1 and both fabrics are then sewn to the foundation paper. This process is repeated for each piece of fabric until all the sections are covered on the foundation paper.

If you find a piece does not cover the section it was intended to cover, it means you have done something wrong. It could be one of several things.

1. *The fabric piece may have been positioned incorrectly before sewing it onto the foundation paper.*
2. *You may have cut and trimmed the fabric strip incorrectly by folding and trimming next to the dotted line instead of the solid line.*
3. *You may be using the wrong piece.*

Whatever the reason, remember, mistakes can be corrected, don't stress, just pick it out and reassess how to position the fabric.

Foundation Paper Piecing Instructions: Large and Small Star Units, Bags #1 to Bag #4



Left Star Foundation Unit

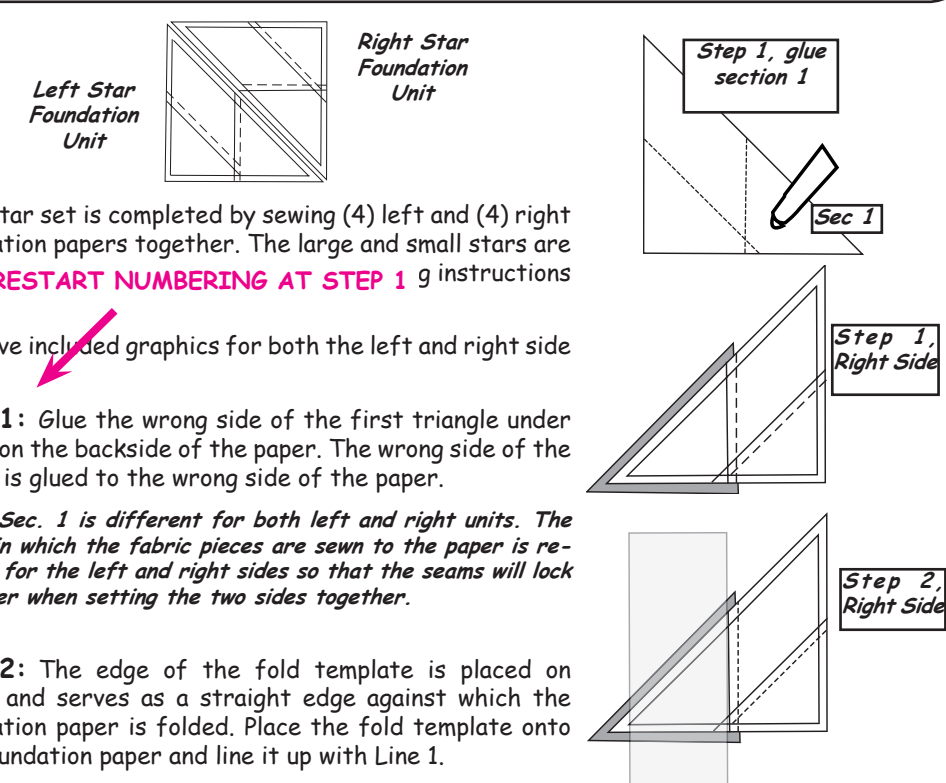
Each star set is completed by sewing (4) left and (4) right foundation papers together. The large and small stars are sewn **RESTART NUMBERING AT STEP 1** g instructions apply

We have included graphics for both the left and right side units.

Step 1: Glue the wrong side of the first triangle under Sec. 1 on the backside of the paper. The wrong side of the fabric is glued to the wrong side of the paper.

Note: Sec. 1 is different for both left and right units. The order in which the fabric pieces are sewn to the paper is reversed for the left and right sides so that the seams will lock together when setting the two sides together.

Step 2: The edge of the fold template is placed on Line 1 and serves as a straight edge against which the foundation paper is folded. Place the fold template onto the foundation paper and line it up with Line 1.



Right Star Foundation Unit