

I have scheduled a Cutting Class at Material Girl in Grand Island, NE for June 25th at 10:00 am. There will not be a charge for this class, and it is not a requirement for the Quilt Nebraska Class. I have provided this class because if you are not sure about the selection of your fabrics and would like some help in getting everything cut out and ready for class in July, I wanted to make sure that you had that option.

Please make sure to read through the pattern instructions, and the instructions that I have provided. I have made just a few alterations to some of the paper and fabric cutting requirements that I have found work better for me.

1. Refer to page #3 in the instruction booklet and back page #12, for the fabric requirements for the Tea Time Placemat pattern. Contrast is an important factor when choosing your fabrics. I have enclosed a page of photo's that can help you with your fabric selections.
2. I do allow just a little more fabric than what the pattern requires. I increase the requirement to just a few more inches, such as an 1/8 of yard more. One of the reasons I do this is because if the pattern requires ½ yard of fabric, and you are cutting two 9 inch X 42 inch strips from that fabric, after straightening the yardage before cutting your strips you may not have enough for the full 9 inches. One other thing that I tend to do is, when the instructions tell me to cut my strips of fabric at 9 inches, I cut them to 9 ¼ inch. I always would rather allow a little extra than not have enough fabric. When you lay your Paper Templates on the fabric strips I just center them and leave the extra fabric to the outside of the paper. I do not trim off the extra fabric. The Paper Templates are drafted to allow for extra fabric so if you choose not to do this the Paper Templates fabric measurement on the pattern instructions will work just as well.
3. On page #2 you will find the instructions for the paper templates and paper foundations. Each quilter will be required to have the paper templates and paper foundations cut out and put into bags as stated in the right hand column. I use a rotary cutter and a 3" X 18" ruler to cut out the templates and I free hand the curve edges of the leaf paper foundations. **Please make sure to only leave the 1/8 inch and not more than a ¼ inch beyond the outside line BOTH on the PAPER TEMPLATES and PAPER FOUNDATIONS. I realize the pattern instructions tell you that the Layout sheet are to be cut exactly on the solid outside line, however I prefer that you leave the 1/8 inch beyond that outside line.** The paper templates ARE NOT cut apart until they are place on top of the rectangles of fabric that are cut to fit them. Clip the paper templates to the stacks of fabric, stacked right side up, along the edge with the plastic covered large paper clips. This keeps the sections clipped together to allow you to stack in order for paper piecing. Make sure to place paper clips between the cut lines on the paper templates.

4. Please have your fabric cut out and placed in bags, as per instructions before class, so that we can utilize all of the time you have to piece your pattern. Refer to the right hand column of page #3, page #4, and left column of page #5 for the cutting instructions. As I stated above, I cut the fabrics $\frac{1}{4}$ inch larger, in width and length, than the instructions call for to give a little extra fabric to work with. This is not a requirement, but I have found it useful. (Make sure to check before you cut that this will not short you on fabric.)
5. It will be useful to have a pressing & medium size cutting matt station beside your sewing machine. I use a small folding table 19 X 30 that I bought at Menards for my cutting and pressing station. I have an Omnigrid 12" X 18" Fold-Away Cutting and Pressing Station Board that I find useful for my paper piecing that just fits the top of the folding table. These are just tools that I have found useful and are not a requirement for the class.
6. **Trace the DASH seam allowance lines** on the back of all of your paper foundation piecing patterns. Use a light box or place your patterns on a window and trace. This will be a useful tool when paper piecing your foundations. The dotted seam allowance lines can be traced as solid lines on the back of the pattern. This is a very important step, especially with this pattern because of the angle the fabric is placed with the paper foundations.

If you have any questions, please call me and I will help you through the instructions. Connie Lange (402) 371-8281; email cjlange@cablone.net