

PAPER PIECING

By Dottie Holman

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

- Add a quarter ruler (comes in 6", 12" and 24")
- Add Enough ruler
- Rotary cutter
- Iron
- Cutting mat
- Clear "B" foot or foot that allows you to see the sewing line
- Glue stick
- A 70/10 needle is recommended
- 50 weight cotton thread (I prefer grey)

TIPS OF THE TRADE

- Pressing is the most important part of paper piecing. Needs to be done after every piece is sewn.
- Use a dry iron if possible.
- Do not tear off the paper until all sides have been stabilized.
- Set your sewing machine at a 2 or below in stitch length.
- If you need to rip and the paper tears use scotch paper to mend the tear and sew over the tape.
- Always take 2-3 stitches before and after the sewing "run" line so that the threads lock.
- If copying a pattern, insure that the copy from the printer matches to the copy in the book/pattern/magazine. Printers can shrink a pattern. Not all printers are created equal so make your copies on the same printer.
- Remember that all paper piecing patterns are reversed (like applique) so don't let that confuse you.