

FREEZER PAPER (FP) PIECING

No papers to remove

One template can do many units I completed the whole 'Not at QE mystery 2019' with 1 template – 52 units!

Must have an iron a mini iron is really good for fiddly FPP but not needed for simple blocks like this one

A non-stick ironing sheet or baking paper on your ironing board to keep it clean

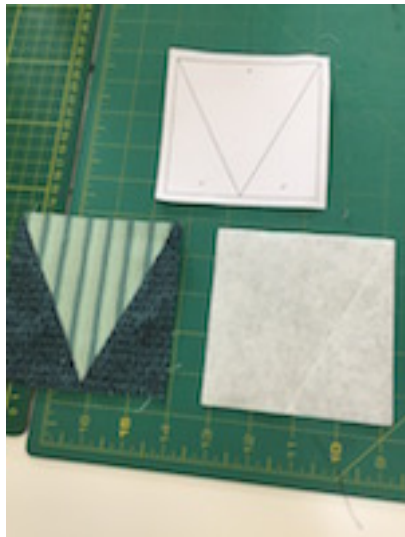
Ruler with a ¼" markings

Rotary cutter & board

INSTRUCTIONS

Paper template, Perforated freezer Paper (FP) (steps 1-4)

Completed Unit (ready for next step)



*Please note all the photos – except the red triangles – made a 4" finished unit when sewn into the quilt, however:

These instructions explain the method and will work for any size of template so follow Chris's instructions re size & cutting of fabric

For the Casa Felix Mystery the unit shown in the photo will be 2" x 4" after it is pieced into the quilt

The actual measurement of the units in the red triangle photo when you have finished using this method will be 2 ½" x 4 ½" ready for the next step

This is where we are going >



1. Print your pattern, make sure to print at 100%

If you can't print, draw up using graph paper

You could print directly onto the freezer paper if you are familiar with your printer capabilities

2. Trace the unit carefully onto the dull side of a piece of FP a little larger than needed

This particular unit has no issues with being reversed so you don't have to worry about making it back to front

Use a light box or tape the printout to the window

3. Take the FP tracing to the sewing machine; remove the THREAD from the machine

I don't usually remove the bobbin thread, see how you go

***TIP** Place another piece of FP underneath the tracing & make 2 templates at the same time.

This will be handy so you can work 2 blocks at a time & then stitch together the pair

4. Sew carefully on all the lines with a regular stitch length & NO THREAD

No need to stitch the outline of the block, the excess FP will be trimmed away

You will produce perforated lines. My new Bernina does not like to sew without thread. It does a few stitches and then stops. I use an older machine. If you only have new, just persist & do a little at a time until all done. One small unit won't blunt your needle. You could perforate with a needle & a ruler (if you are desperate....)

Advanced: If you make even more, perforated units (by stacking) they can be handy for chain piecing but don't try that yet, just do one unit (or two) & see how you go, then get efficient later if you want to! Speed is not the aim with FPP - it's accuracy that you want. If you don't have FP, you can perforate multiple regular papers (use an old needle) & follow this method with pins but it's fiddly. Perforated papers are also good for the traditional sewn-in method as they are easier to remove.

I perforate all the lines including the seam allowance, except for the outer edge of the unit. It's not strictly necessary to do the seam allowance for this unit because when the FP is removed you can sew the units together in the normal way using ¼" seam. However, it's a good habit with this method, because with a more complex unit/design you can fold back the seam allowance when joining the pieces to be really accurate. When you are assembling your completed units, if you are not comfortable with seam allowance, you can always re-press the FP into position as a guide. Don't worry it will make sense later!

4. Trim the FP to the basic square unit template

This will now be a 2 ½" FP square with the seam allowance & and the two inside lines perforated (2 pieces if you used the ***TIP**)

5. Place FP shiny side down onto the back of your number one fabric square & press

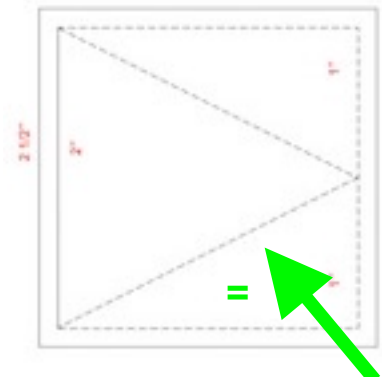
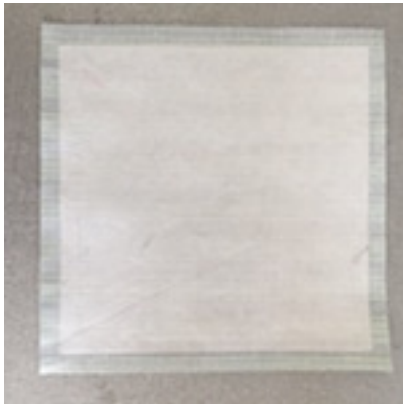
'Number one' fabric is what will be the centre large triangle

Think about direction or motif, easy to see what I did with the stripe fabric

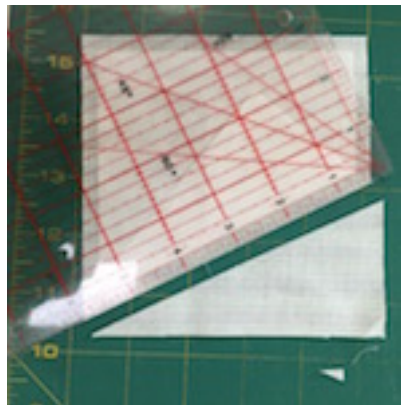
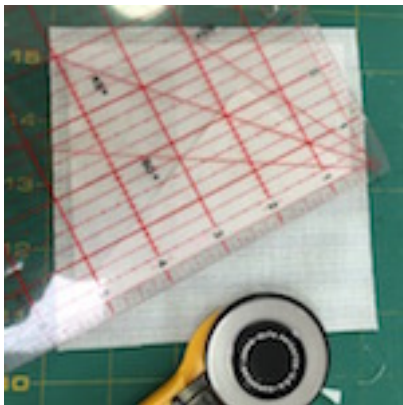
No steam in my mini iron, probably wise

Advanced: Practice first with the full square but once you understand the method, if you want to work with scraps & don't have a full square to use, if your fabric overlaps the centre triangle with enough for a seam you can use it. However, take care when you press, FP will pick up anything else underneath it. Use a non-stick ironing sheet or baking paper, or another piece of fabric that you can peel away.

6. On the perforation, lift & turn back the FP, flatten the fold with your finger



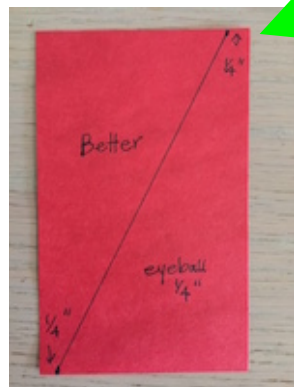
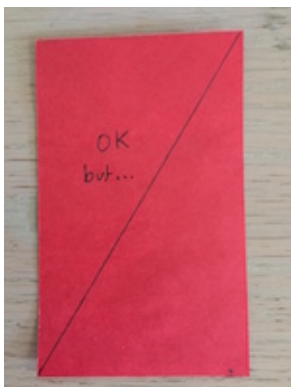
7. Place ruler along folded edge and then slide over to add 1/4 inch for seam, then cut



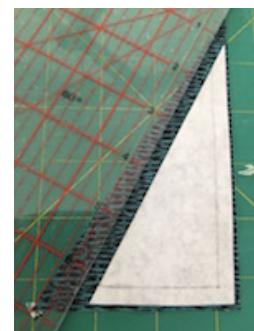
8. Discard the corner & replace with a side triangle

Preparing the side triangles:

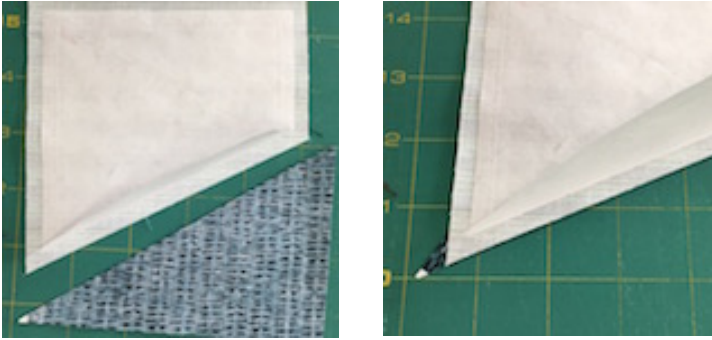
****TIP** When dividing a pre cut rectangle into 2 triangles, don't cut point to point across, slide your ruler to the left 1/4" at the top & to the right 1/4" at the bottom - look carefully at the photo's - then there will be no need to trim. This is very necessary if you are using directional fabric & anything where you can see the grain.



...to avoid this...



9. Position the fabric & then place underneath, right sides together



10. Time to sew. Use a small stitch, just like regular piecing - number 2 on a Bernina

The ¼ inch seam was set when you trimmed so just stitch carefully along as close to the FP as possible, using it as a guide but not sewing through it.



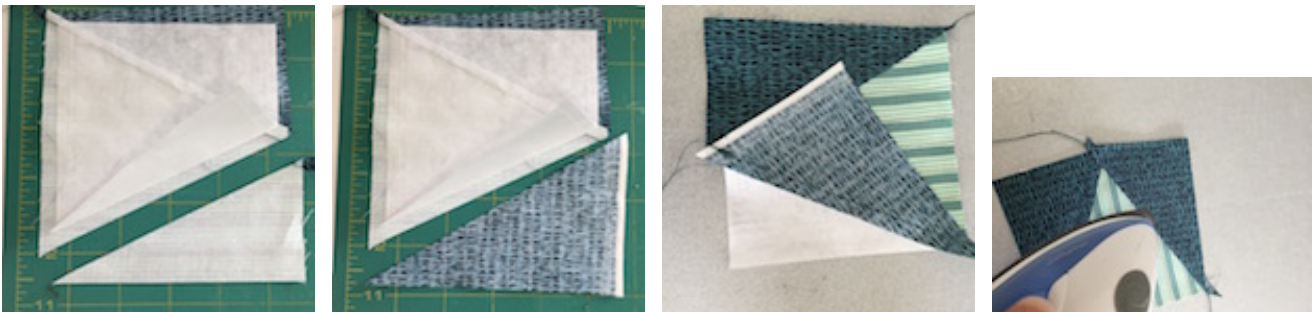
11. Fold the FP back out to a square, turn the top fabric & press onto the FP

Well done, breathe 😊

Time to repeat for the other side.

12. Peel & fold back the FP on the other side of the unit, trim as before with the ruler adding ¼ " seam. Discard the cut corner. Position the new fabric. Sew. Press.

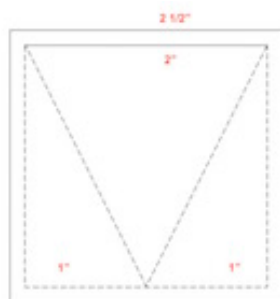
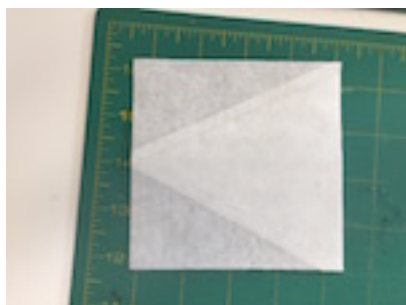
*Look carefully at the photos to see the FP folded out of the way



13. Your unit should look like this – Trim the edges, take care not to cut into your FP



14. Peel the freezer paper off & you are ready to start your next unit 😊



15. Do a measurement check. Casa Felix unit should be 2 1/2 " at this stage

At the top of the centre triangle where the points meet there should be 1/4" that will disappear into the seam allowance when the units are joined. At the sides the point should be at or very close to the corner. In the left photo the bottom left unit looks spot on. The top left unit is a little bit off at the bottom left corner, but all the units went together easily at the end. If your unit is not 2 1/2" go back to your template to work out why things went wrong. You need to be able to stitch where the lines would have been. The line itself gets taken up in the fold, so stitching next to the fold should give you the accuracy you need.

16. Sew units into pairs of 2 so they look like the red triangle photo

You can do this by placing a pair together & sew a regular 1/4" seam (check the final measurement) OR leave FP on the last unit you made, fold back the 1/4" perforation & then sew along next to the fold. Either way the unit will now be 2 1/2" x 4 1/2"



- Remember the units on the left are 4 1/2" & Chris' photo on the right shows 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" units - if you are looking carefully you will see that her seam allowances at the top look bigger – that's because they are proportional – clear as mud right 😊
- When the seam allowances are used up & set into the rest of the quilt these little units will end up showing as 2" x 4"