

Class Plan for Blended Hexagons

From *Rainbow Quilts for Scrap Lovers*

By Judy Gauthier

Make a beautiful hexagon quilt from simple squares. This quilt starts out as squares but quickly turns into hexagons with the clever cutting techniques that can be easily taught.

Class Description:

This class teaches a clever cutting technique using the 3½", 4½", and 5½" block template system. It covers the use of scraps in this system and gentle, set-in seams for the beginning and intermediate quilter. It also teaches various methods of appliqué.

The class will emphasize a monochromatic color scheme to get the students familiar with large-scale prints of one or two colors and blending them with smaller prints and prints that are often difficult to pair.

Class Supplies:

Day 1:

- Cutting mat
- Rotary cutter
- Long ruler for cutting
- Sewing machine with thread to match project
- Marking pen or pencil
- Pins, seam ripper (basic sewing supplies)
- fast2cut Simple Square Templates
- Required Text: *Rainbow Quilts for Scrap Lovers*

Fabric: Bins of scraps or fat quarters that are of one color background. It is also acceptable to bring scraps from the color next to the main color on the color wheel, or a shade or tint of the same color. For example, if someone chooses to use red, then they can also bring pink scraps or red and orange scraps. If someone chooses

blue, then they can bring blue and green scraps. Scraps must be large enough to cut 3 squares that are 5½" × 5½". Scraps should be of a variety of print scales.

Day 2:

- Basic sewing supplies
- Sewing machine
- Hand-stitching needles

Fabric: Contrast fabric for centers of hexagons. For felted wool centers, ½ yard of felted wool is needed. For contrasting cotton centers, ½ yard of contrasting solid cotton will be needed. For contrasting cotton centers, ½ yard of tricot interfacing is needed.

Classroom Preparation:

Instructor must provide required number of irons and ironing boards depending on class size.

Class Agenda:

Day 1:

General Information:

1. Discuss color wheel and the science of color placement. Use *Quilts for Scrap Lovers* or *Rainbow Quilts for Scrap Lovers* for reference. Have color wheels available for customers to use and purchase if needed.

2. Discuss ways to protect against stretch if bias edges present themselves. Because scraps are being used in this class, it is sometimes necessary to cut something that has a bias edge in order to make the best use of the fabric. Both *Quilts for Scrap Lovers* and *Rainbow Quilts for Scrap Lovers* have information about this. Here are some ways in which bias edges are treated:

- Use your iron with a pressing motion, as opposed to a rolling pin motion, to avoid stretch.

- Use Tear-Perfect Maker Tape along the bias edge. Tear a strip that is the length of your piece and ¼" wide and place it along the bias edge.
- Use stay stitching along the edge of the piece.
- Use Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvay adhesive along the edge. This dissolves in water when washed and has an adhesive that does not require ironing.
- Use spray starch and an iron to keep bias edge from stretching.

3. Discuss the importance of ironing the seams open on this quilt. While most seam allowances are ironed toward the dark side, with this quilt we press seams open.

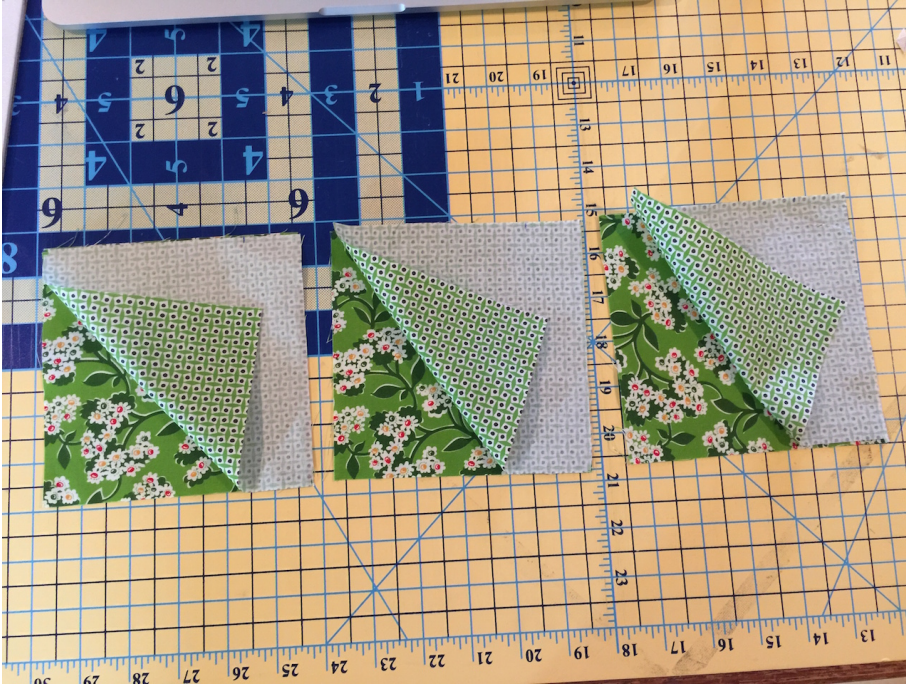
4. Discuss the use of products to keep templates from sliding, such as Tear-Perfect Maker Tape or sandpaper grips.

Cutting:

1. Pair scraps together in ways that are pleasing. It is best to pair a large print with a smaller-scale print. Avoid using two pieces that have an identical shade or tint. The pairs should have enough contrast to see that they are pairs of different fabrics.

2. Cut 3 squares 5½" × 5½" from each scrap of the pair.

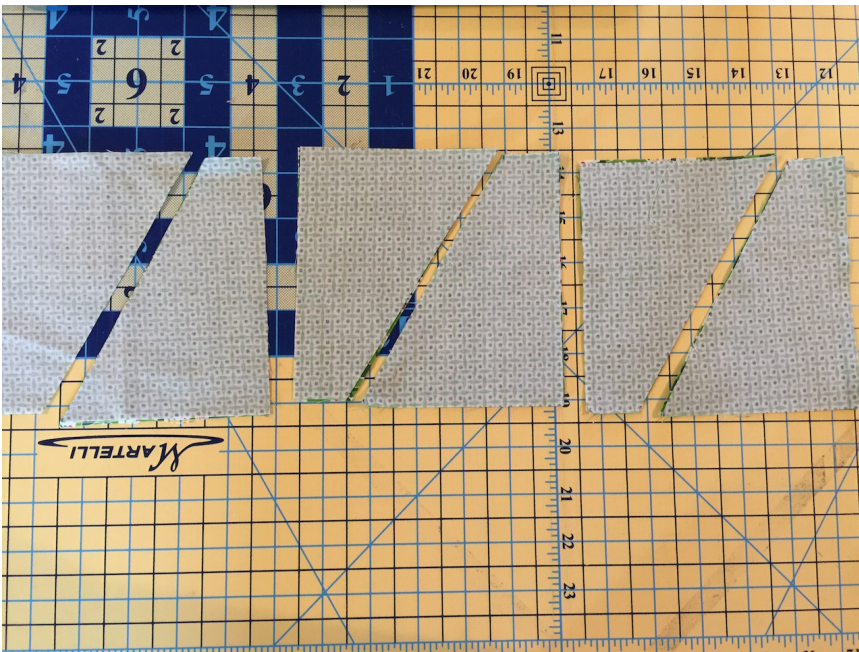
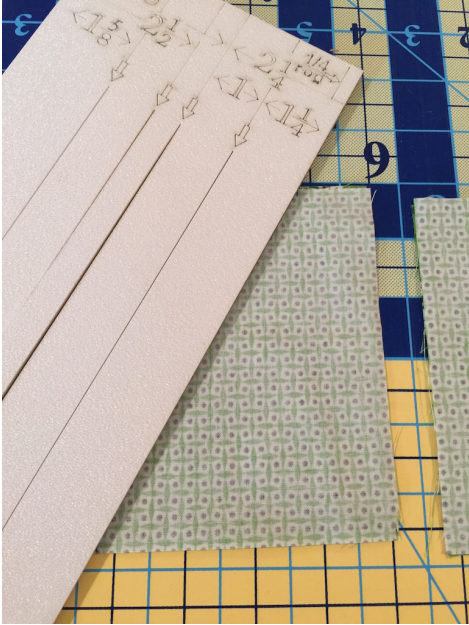
Note: Do not have the students cut all of their squares at once. Rather, cut the squares for the first hexagon and sew them together. In this way, the students that have more experience can work ahead after they are shown the concept, and you will be available to help those that need it.



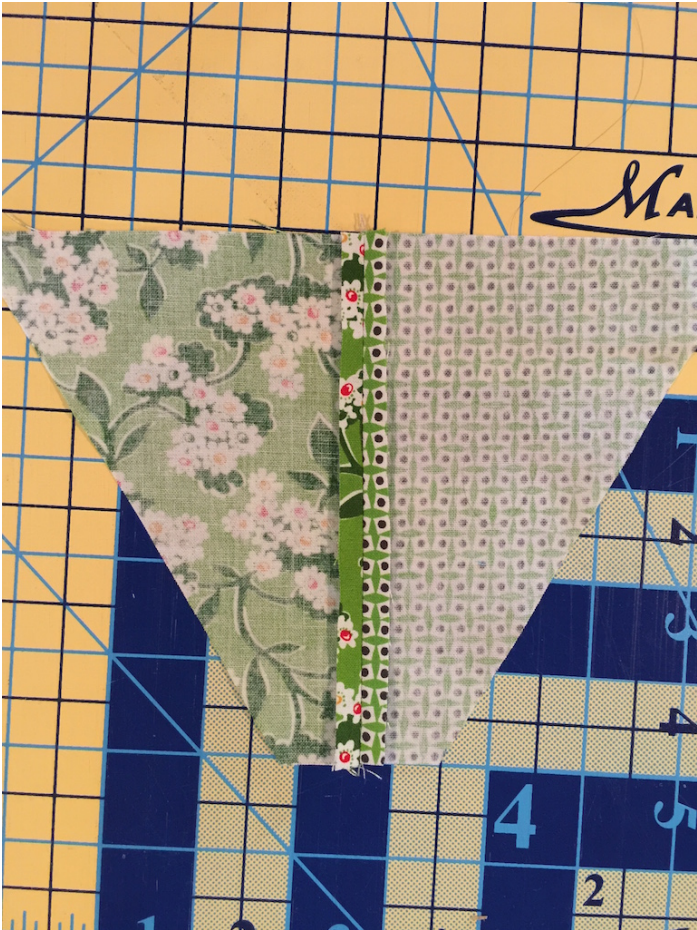
3. Mark the upper right corner and the lower left corner as shown in the instructions in *Rainbow Quilts for Scrap Lovers*.



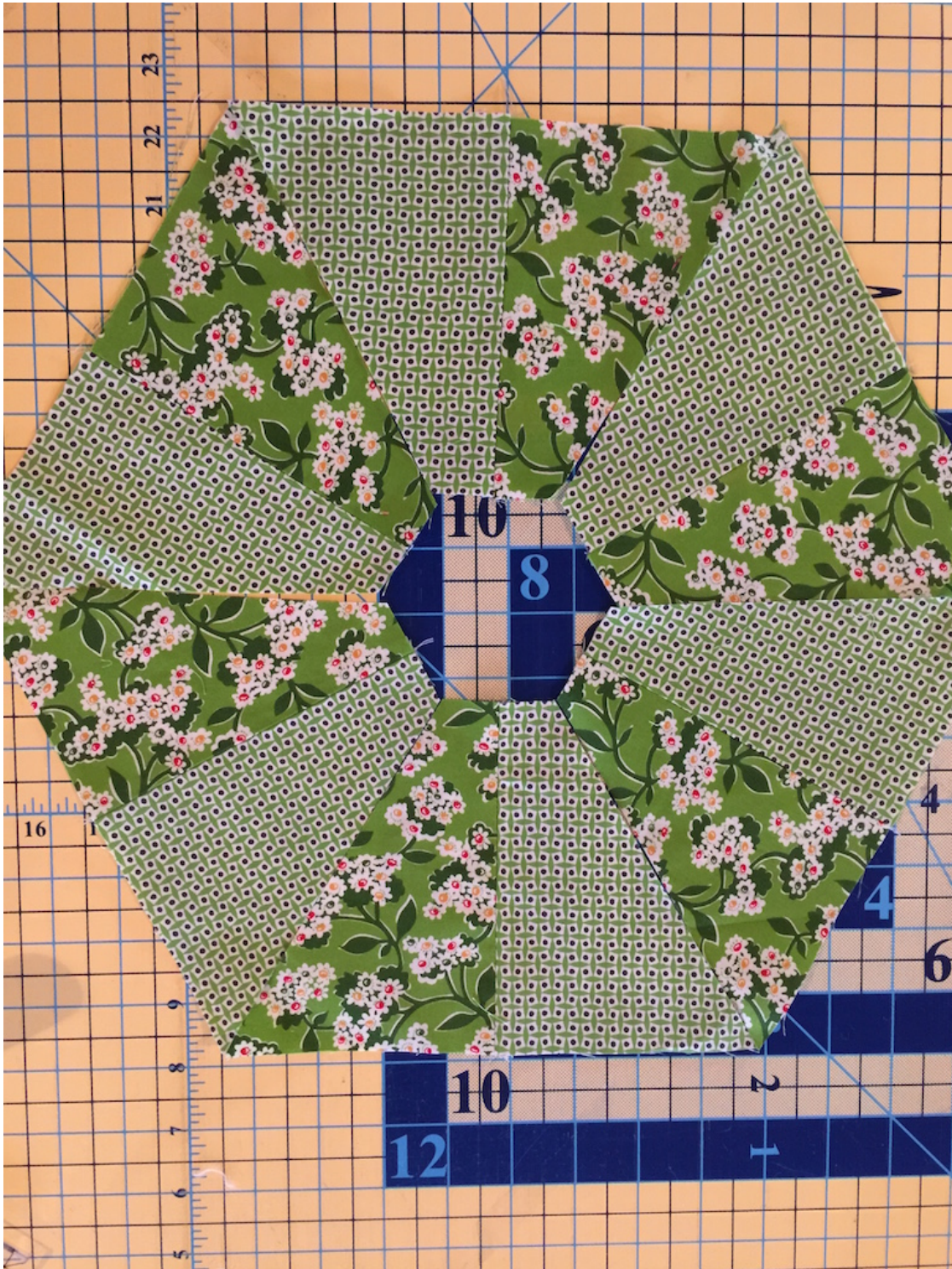
4. Align ruler with the two marks and cut across the paired fabric squares as shown in the book.



5. Stitch down the straight edge of each of the trapezoids using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press the seam open.



6. Make 6 of these units. Join the 6 units in a ring. There will be an open hexagon in the center.



7. This is where you will use the appliqué circle or hexagon for the center. There are instructions in the book for how to measure for this and the various appliqué methods.

Day 2:

1. Students will need to finish their hexagons at home and bring them to class ready to put the hexagons in rows.

2. The instructions in the book for row assembly will show how to do the set-in seams. It will become apparent why the seams on the hexagons need to be pressed open.

Finishing:

The quilt will have 2 edges that are not straight. There will be corners on these edges. *Rainbow Quilts for Scrap Lovers* has instructions on how to create bindings on edges that are not straight. Students can also choose to remove half of the hexagons on the edges so that the edges are straight. This will make the quilt slightly smaller.