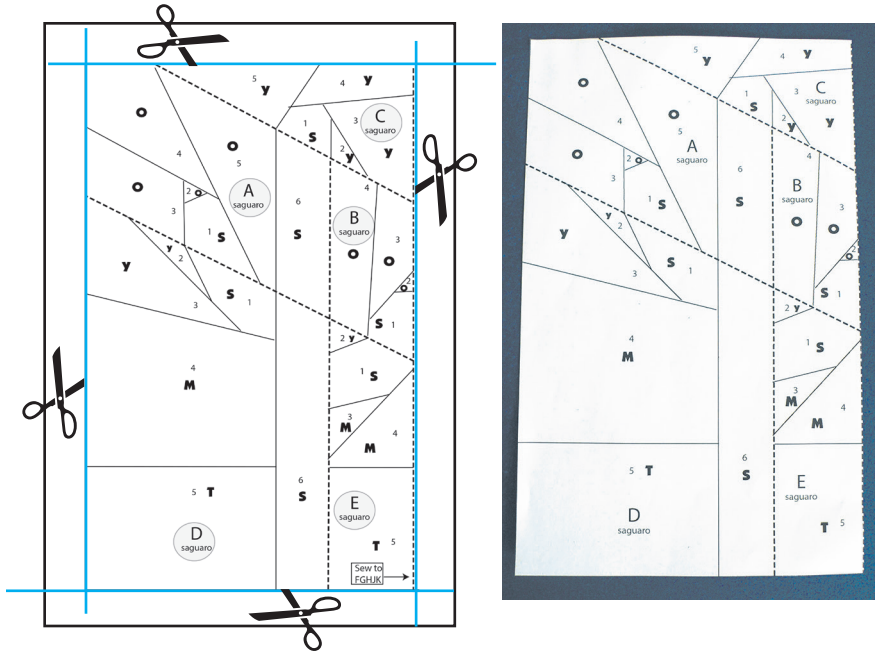
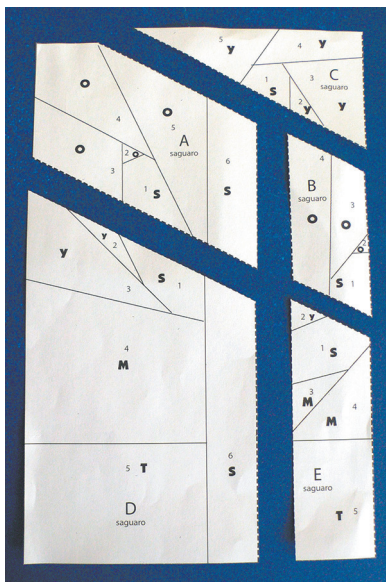


Let's Get Started!



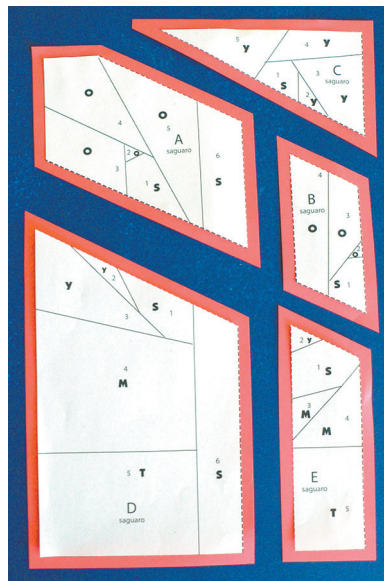
Trim excess paper from pattern pieces along outer pattern lines.



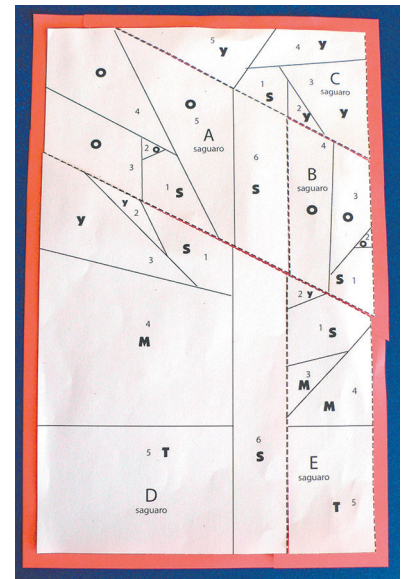
Separate the sections along the dashed line.

Work on one unit at a time, separating the sections when you start a unit.

See page 4 for definitions



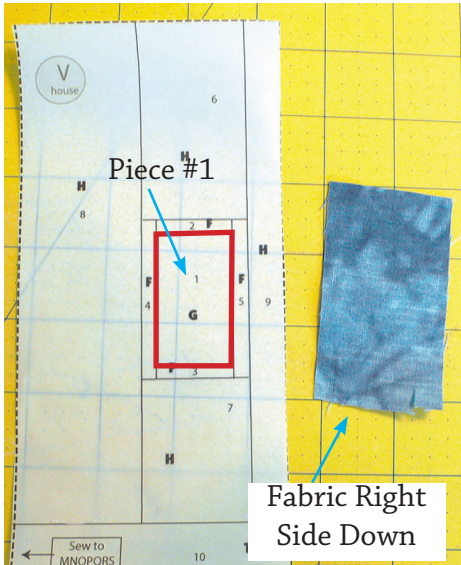
After piecing each section, add $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to each section when trimming (shown in red above). The unit will have a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance around the outer edges when completed.



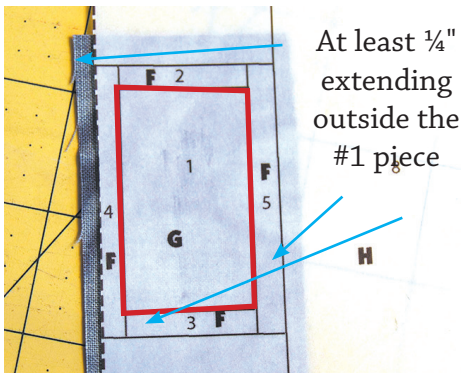
You will be working from the backside of the pattern, so it may seem backward if you are new to paper piecing. Your finished block will be opposite from the printed side of the paper.

Basic Paper Piecing

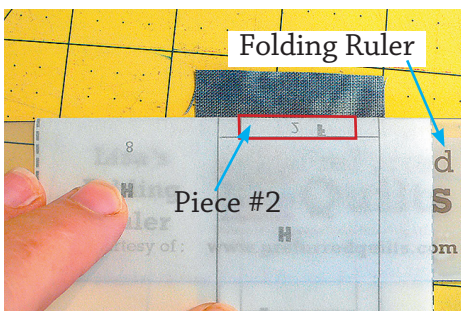
These instructions are for non-directional fabrics. Repeat the steps for each section.



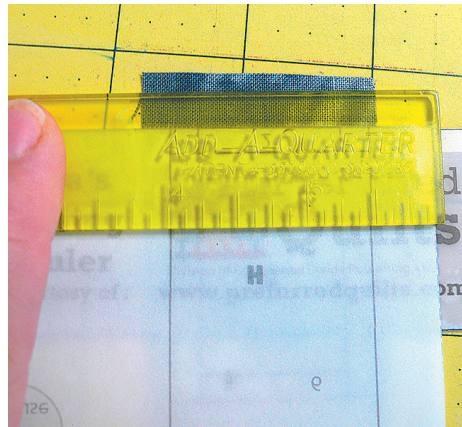
1. Place the fabric corresponding to #1 on the pattern RIGHT SIDE DOWN on the cutting mat.



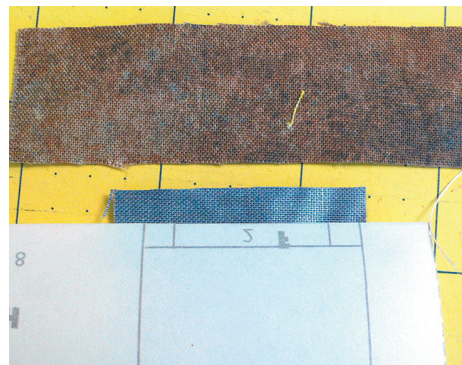
2. Put a small dab of washable glue on the BACK of the pattern (non-printed side). Position the pattern on top of the fabric with at least 1/4" of fabric showing on all sides of #1.



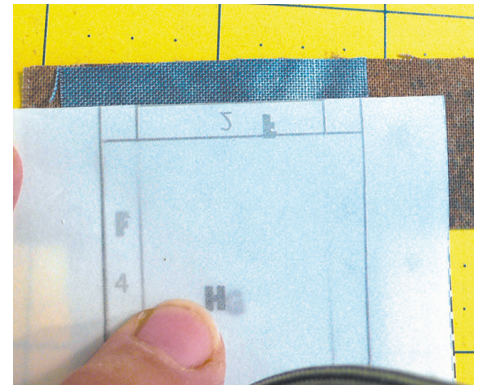
3. Using the folding ruler, card stock or a credit card, fold #2 over #1.



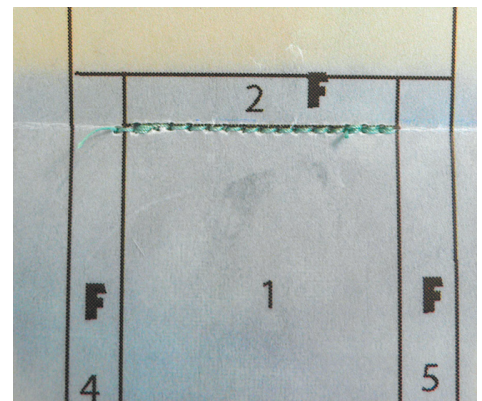
4. Snug the Add-a-Quarter ruler against the fold and trim a 1/4" seam allowance. (The larger piece number always folds over the smaller piece number.)



5. Place the fabric corresponding to #2 on the pattern RIGHT SIDE UP on the cutting mat. All fabrics after the first piece go RIGHT SIDE UP for the rest of the section.



6. Keep #2 folded over and align the edges of the fabrics. Make sure that there is at least 1/4" showing around piece #2 on all sides. (Pin to keep fabric from slipping).



7. Unfold the pattern and stitch along the line between piece #1 and piece #2. Use a short stitch and tack at both ends. Press #2 open on the back side.

Repeat these steps for the rest of the pieces in the section in numeric order. The higher numbered piece always folds over the lower numbered piece.

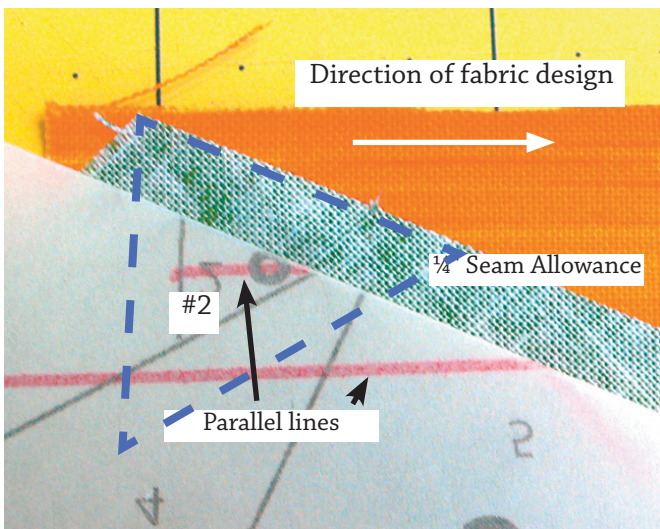
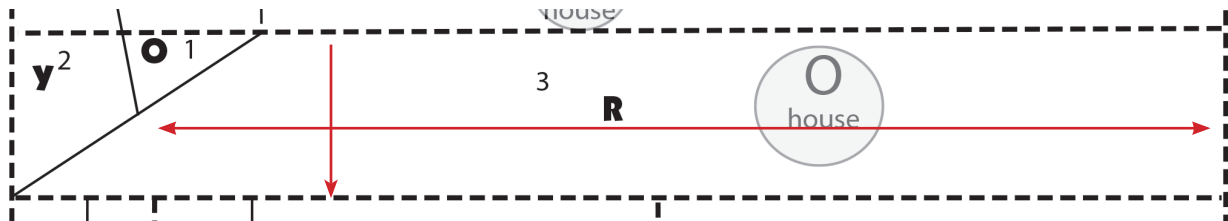
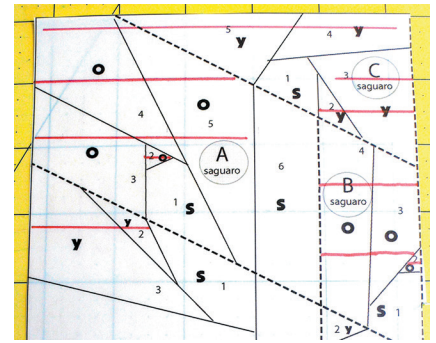
You'll be able to tell if the fabric you are adding is large enough if there is at least 1/4" of the fabric visible around all sides of the folded pattern number.

For instructions for directional fabrics go to the next page.

Paper-Piecing with Directional Fabrics

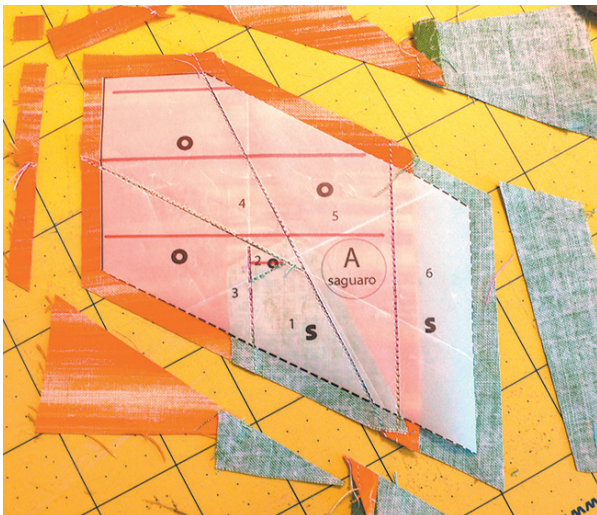
Directional fabrics are fabrics that have a design that you want to go a specific direction. Some are horizontal, some are vertical and some are both. If it matters which way the design appears on your finished block this will help you get it right. Draw several parallel lines on the specific paper pieces showing the direction you want the fabric to go (as shown at right).

If there is an up and down as well as left and right, indicate both (as shown below). These will help you to keep the direction consistent.



The orange fabric is directional, so I want it to go the same direction on all of the pattern pieces.

Place orange fabric right side up (RS) on the table for piece #2 on this pattern. Position the pattern over the directional fabric. Using the parallel lines (shown in red) you've drawn on the pattern as a guide to show the direction of the fabric design. The fabric should be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger on all sides than the pattern piece 2 (shown as the blue dashed line). You may trim the extra fabric along the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance before you stitch. Open up the folded paper and pin the fabric in place. Sew along the seam line between pieces 1 & 2. Use a short stitch and tack at the ends of the stitching. Trim to $\frac{1}{4}$ " along seam and press.



When you're done with the section, trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance around section on all sides. Repeat with all sections.

Leave the paper in place until the entire block is sewn together.

Steps for Paper Piecing

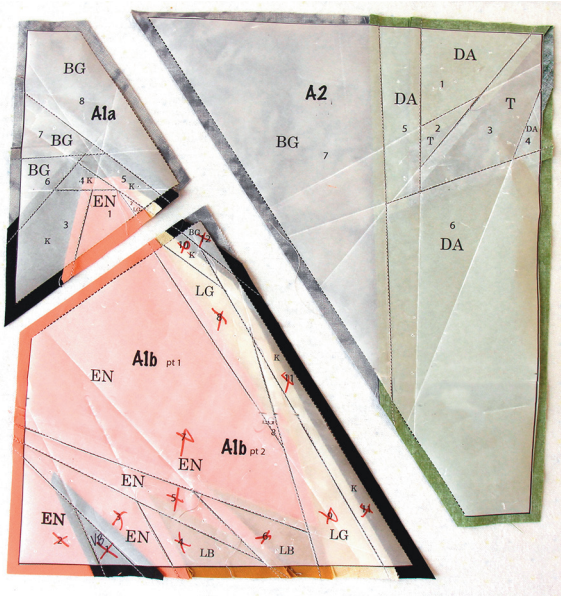
Start: Glue #1 fabric to back of pattern (right side of fabric facing the cutting board).

- 1. Fold along seam (Use Folding ruler)**
 - 2. Trim seam allowance (Add-a-quarter ruler)**
 - 3. Align #2 fabric (all subsequent fabric right side up)**
 - 4. Open the pattern**
 - 5. Pin**
 - 6. Sew**
 - 7. Press seam (press open on fabric side)**
- Repeat**

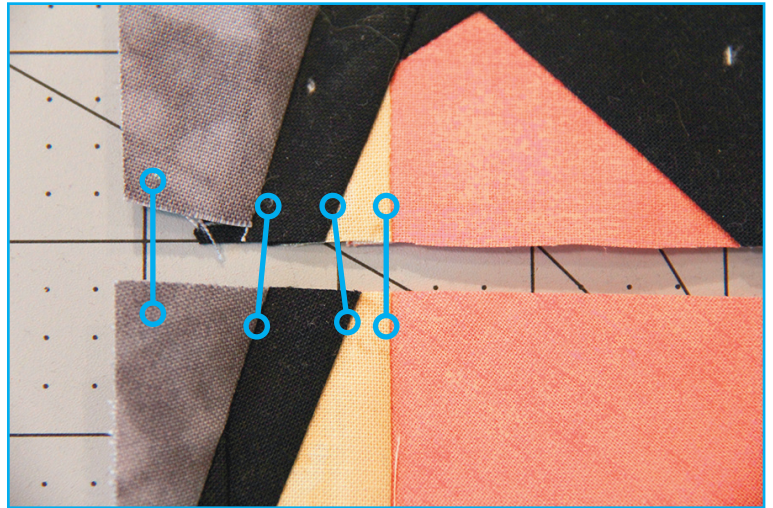
Joining the Subsections and Sections

To join the completed subsections together. Using the layout diagram as a guide, make sure you are joining the correct pieces together.

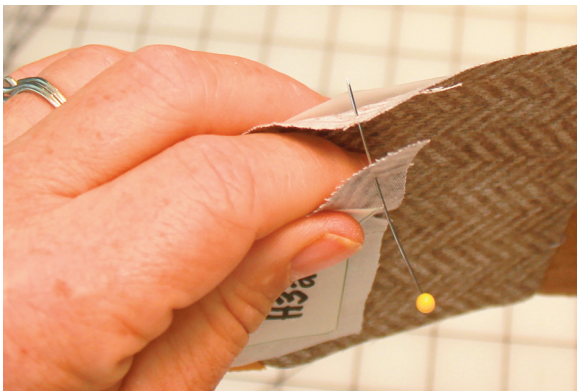
1. Align the ends of the seam by pushing a pin through both subsections at the corners. Align any places where the seams will match along the stitching line using the same method. Secure the pins and stitch next to the edge of the paper, but not through the paper.



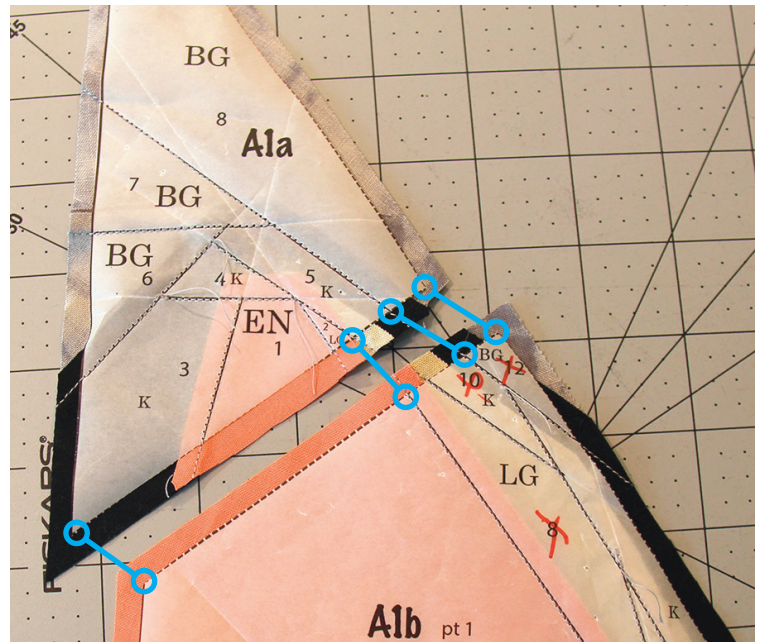
Sew A1a to A1b then to A2



Match the seams at the seam line.



Match the endpoint on both pattern pieces at the seam line with a pin.



Definitions:

Sections—Largest unit of the pattern notated as A1, A2... separated from other sections by heavy dashed line.

Subsections—Part of a section notated as A1a, A1b...separated within the section by light dashed line. Sew all A1s together, all A2s together...then sew completed A1 to completed A2...

Right side of fabric—(RS) Printed side of fabric

Back of paper pattern—Non-printed side of the paper

TIPS, HINTS AND REVIEW FOR PAPER PIECING

In paper-piecing you sew on the back side of your finished block. The printed side of the pattern will look backward from your finished block.

PAPER-PIECING SUPPLIES

Folding ruler (strip of template plastic 2" x 6-12"), thin cardboard, or credit card

Add-A-Quarter Ruler

Rotary Cutter

Cutting Mat

Glue stick (school glue, it's washable)

Seam ripper

Iron

Scotch Tape (great for fixing tears in your patterns from "unsewing")

HELPFUL HINTS

- Keep one copy of the pattern uncut as a reference.
- Photocopy or print all section of the patterns and the borders on the same copier or the same printer on the same day. Printers often print slightly different proportions from one another and weather conditions affect paper.
- Special papers are available for paper-piecing. Try to use the lightest weight paper you can find. Tablets of blank newsprint and translucent vellum can be purchased at office supply or art stores. You may need to cut these to the size your printer can handle. Regular copy paper is okay to use, but is a bit harder to remove at the end. You can spritz it lightly with water if the ink you use won't get on your finished block.
- Use highlighter markers or color pencils in different colors to indicate your fabric colors.
- I use strips of various widths to paper-piece. To find the correct size fabric strip to cut, measure the width of the largest pattern piece for the color you want on the section you are sewing and add 1". Cut a fabric strip that wide. For ease of paper-piecing, do this with each of the colors in each section. Because the strip you cut will work for the widest piece of the color in the section, you'll be able to use it for the smaller pieces. If you're making multiple blocks of the same design, write the size of each strip on one of the blocks for future reference.
- I like to use Coats & Clarks Paper-piecing thread in a neutral color. It's fine polyester wrapped polyester and it's very strong. It makes the paper easy to remove when you're done.
- Use a short stitch length (about 15 stitches/inch). This will also make it easier to remove the paper.

Before beginning, cut the paper pattern apart along the outside edge and along the dashed lines for each section. This may differ from pattern designer to designer. My pattern sections are labeled A, B, C. If there are subsections within each section they are labeled A1, A1a, A2, B1, B1a... Separate only the main sections, not the subsections until you are ready to work on them.

1. Glue Piece #1 (P1) wrong side to the non-printed side (back) of the pattern . Fabric should be AT LEAST $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the pattern piece on all sides.

2. Lay the folding ruler along the line separating P1 and P2. Fold the pattern back along this line toward P1.

3. Lay the Add-A-Quarter ruler against the fold and trim P1 fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the fold. Don't unfold it yet.

4. Lay the next piece of fabric right side up (face/front) on your cutting table. (Make sure you are using the correct color.) The remainder of the pieces on each section of the pattern will follow this "rule."

5. Lay the section over the fabric for P2 and line up the $\frac{1}{4}$ " edge with a straight edge of the P2 fabric. Since the paper is folded back you will be able to see where P2 fits on the new fabric. Make sure there is at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " of Fabric 2 showing outside P2 (more doesn't hurt). Unfold the pattern and pin in place.

6. Either start sewing about $\frac{1}{4}$ " before the stitching line and extend $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the end of the line or make a couple of tack stitches at both ends of the line. I always sew at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the outer edges of the section into the seam allowance. If you sew beyond the end of the stitching line, it won't show on your finished block. You will need to "pop" the stitches out (tear the paper a bit) to release the paper when you fold the next pattern piece back.

7. Repeat steps 2-6 to complete the section.

8. Trim to $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances on all sides of the section. (Seam allowances must be added outside the section piece on all sides; they are not included on the pattern piece.)

Refer to the original uncut pattern when sewing the sections together. Match the sections at the seam end points and where interior seams match by sticking a pin through one section at the match point on the stitching line to the match point along the other seam line.