

Laid-Back Paper Piecing

Mary E. Flynn

Supply list

1. Sewing machine in good working order. If you think you'll need it, bring the manual. Don't forget your foot pedal and power cord! Bring spare needles and extra bobbins, because, you know, Murphy's Law.
2. Whatever you like to have handy when you're sewing. For me, that's a stiletto, thread snips, small or medium sharp-to-the-point scissors (not shears), and a seam ripper. You'll probably want all these things; additional items up to you.
3. Paper scissors
4. Bone folder or similar device to impress folds into paper pattern.
5. White glue with a micro-tip applicator. I fill a small bottle fitted with a micro-dot applicator (and cap!) with Elmer's. I'll have some little glue bottles available in class for \$3 if you don't have/can't find a micro-tip applicator for your glue bottle.
6. Thread for piecing
7. Clips such as Clover Wonder clips (\$\$\$) or the generic type found on Amazon. Pins if you dislike/don't have clips. Between us, clips are better for this technique.
8. Add-a-Quarter ruler*. This is not strictly necessary, though I always use one. If you don't already have one and are resistant to the idea of buying a new ruler, I have a hack that will allow you to re-purpose an existing ruler in your collection to this purpose. To do this, bring a small ruler and some painter's tape or artist's tape.
9. Rotary cutter, ruler and mat. Bring both the size ruler you like for cutting fabric pieces and a smaller ruler for trimming the blocks as you sew. Have a turntable for trimming? Bring it.
10. Fabric: What kind/color will depend on the pattern you choose. For Interlaced you'll need ¼ yard each of 3 ring colors and a ½ yard of background. For Isometric you'll need ¼ yard each of a dark, a medium, and a light, and a background. The values in the most successful isometric designs will be very distinct. While I often use charcoal, medium gray, and pale gray, colors are also a great option. Take care to have three distinct values that relate to each other as light, medium, and dark. These can be solids, prints, or a combination.

* It could be yellow, it could be pink, it could be wide, it could be narrow, it could be 6", it could be 12", but it can't be green, because if it were green it would be an Add-an-Eighth ruler and that won't work well for us.