

Asian Elegance Fan Block for Tri Guild Luncheon 2010

Block designed by Jan Andrews

Tutorial by Linda Hooper

This tutorial is designed to be a step-by-step guide for anyone who is new to paper piecing or unsure how to make this block. This particular method uses more fabric than other methods of paper piecing, however, for this block I find it easier to lay out the design by cutting the fabric pieces first. Of course, if you have another method that works better for you then use it.



Fabric Needed:

Solid black background fabric, Kona or Pima cotton works well.

Gold tone on tone fabric for base of fan, non-metallic.

¼ yard Asian print. (More than you will need)

Feel free to mix and match your fabrics or use just one print. Look at the sample blocks at the top of the page. For the sake of this tutorial, I will use just one print as pictured.

Preparing the Fabric:

Black – Cut six rectangles 3” x 2 ¼” and one 3 ¾” x 2 ¼” for tips of fan blades

Cut two strips 8 ½” x 1 ½” and one 1 ½” square

Gold – Cut one 2 7/8” square and one 1 ½” square

Asian Print – Cut six 8” x 2 ¼” strips and one 3 ¾” x 9 ¼” for fan blades, the largest strip is the center blade.



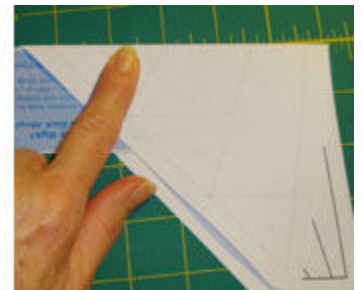
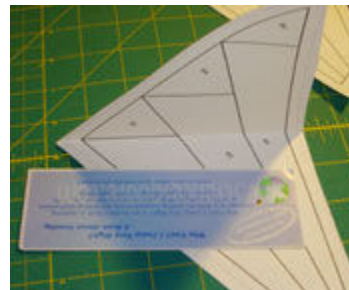
Preparing the Paper

Cut out Parts AB& C just outside the dotted lines.



Folding the paper:

Fold and crease the paper on the lines in the order they will be sewn. A bookmark works well to get nice straight creases. Starting with Part B, fold the paper on the line between B1 and B2 creasing all the way across the paper. Open up the paper. Fold again on line between B2 and B3. Continue in this manner until all sewing lines are creased.



Repeat this process for Parts C and A. Please note that on Part C, sewing lines A1 and A2 are on the right side of the paper. This will be very important when you begin sewing to do it in the right order.

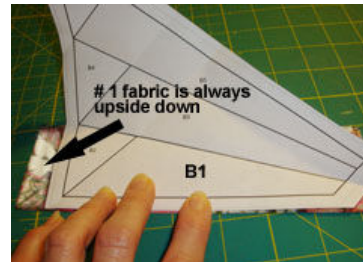
Sewing the fan:

Stitch length is important. You want to set your machine for a small or short stitch, (I use 1.5 on my machine). This helps to perforate the paper for clean and easy Removal later. Also, I use a large needle for the same reason, size 80 or 90.

Lay out your fan blade pieces out in a manner that is pleasing to you with the large blade in the center.

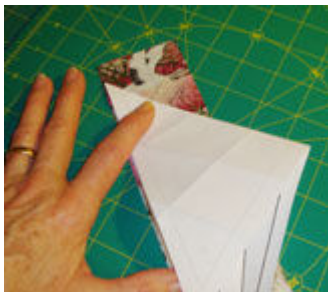


Take the strip on the far right of your fan blades and lay face down. (My #1 Paper piecing rule, fabric #1, in this case it will be B1, always goes face down. The rest will go right side up.)

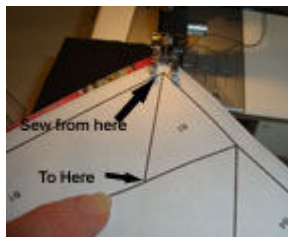


Starting with Part B, Place the B1 section of the paper on the wrong side of the fabric.

Fold the paper down on the B1- B2 line and trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the fold. Line up the edge of the black $3 \times 2 \frac{1}{4}$ rectangle right side up under the fan blade, (remember, all pieces for the rest of this Part will go right side up)



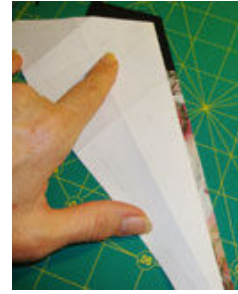
Carefully take to your machine and while holding the fabric and paper in place, open up the paper and begin sewing from the outside of the paper and stop where the line intersects, make one stitch backward to secure. Cut threads.



Turn piece over, fold up black rectangle and press in place.



Turn the paper right side up and fold over on the B2-B3 line. Trim fabric 1/4" away from fold.



Lay another fan blade piece on your work surface right side up and lay the paper with the edge you just trimmed on top of it lining up the edges of the fabric with the length of the fan blade making sure the bottom fabric goes all the way to the base of the fan.

Take to the machine, carefully open the paper and begin sewing from top of the B2-B3 line all the way to the end of the paper.

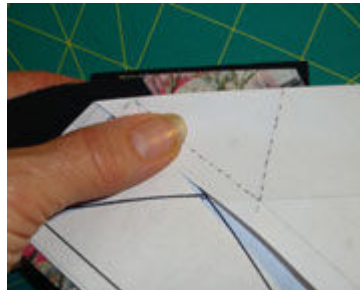
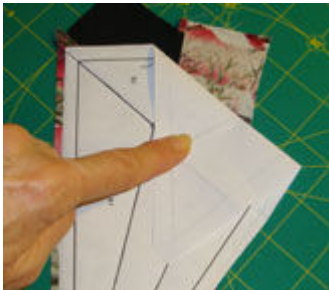


Turn over paper, fold out fabric and press.

Turn over paper and trim.

Line up black rectangle under fabric. Sew on B3-B4 line

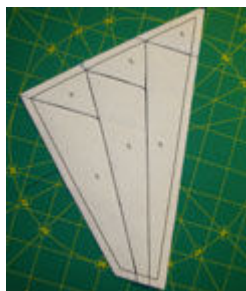
Fold out fabric and press.



Continue in this manner until Part B is complete.

Turn over and trim Part B on dotted lines.

This is what Part B should like below.

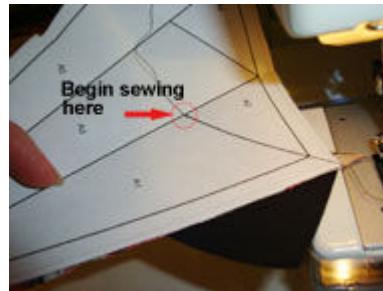


Sewing Part A

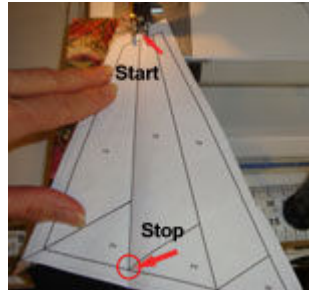
Part A will be sewn in the same manner as Part B. Please note that the A1-A2 line is on the right. (Things might seem a little backwards until you get going.) Start by placing the fan blade upside down, on your work surface,. (remember #1 Rule) Lay paper Part A on top.



Fold paper over on the A1-A2 line and trim fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from fold. Place black rectangle right side up under fabric lining up edges, open paper and sew on A1-A2 line beginning where line intersects with A2-A3 line as shown below. Turn paper over, fold out black rectangle and press.



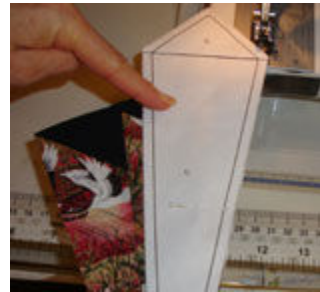
Fold paper over on line A2-A3 and trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from fold. Lay another fan blade right side up. Line up edges making sure the fabric goes to the base of the fan. Carefully take to machine and begin sewing starting from the base of the base and stopping where the line intersects at the top as circled in picture below. Continue sewing rest of Part A in this manner. Trim Part A on dotted lines. Parts A and B should be complete as shown.



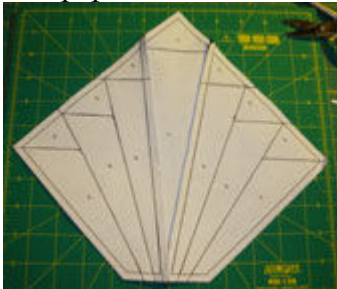
Part C is easy, as there is only one sewing line. Position paper on wrong side, (#1 rule) of center fan blade with black $3\frac{3}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{4}$ " rectangle face up underneath. Sew across paper on C1-C2 lines. Fold out black rectangle and press. Trim on dotted lines.



Sew Part A and Part C together by aligning the pieces at the base. A little trick to make sure the pieces are lined up properly is to stick a pin in the into the bottom of Part C where the two seam lines connect and have the pin come out at the same place on Part A. Once the pieces are lined up, pin in place and sew. Repeat with other side.



Your fan should line up evenly at the bottom. Remove the paper by gently pulling back along the perforated line until all paper is removed. Press seams toward center.



Now that you are done with the paper-piecing portion, return your stitch length back to normal.

Take your 2 7/8" gold square and cut in half diagonally. With right sides together place the fan in the center of gold diagonal cut. You should see two gold ears sticking out evenly on each side. Sew together. Fold out gold and press.



Sew the black and gold 1 1/2" rectangle squares together diagonally. Trim 1/4" away from seam. Open up half square triangle and press seams out.

Sew the black and gold half square triangle to the end of one of the black 8 1/2" strips as shown. Press seam towards strip.



Sew the other strip to the right side of the fan with right sides together. Press seam out. Sew strip with the gold and black square onto the other side to complete the Asian Elegance Fan Block.

