

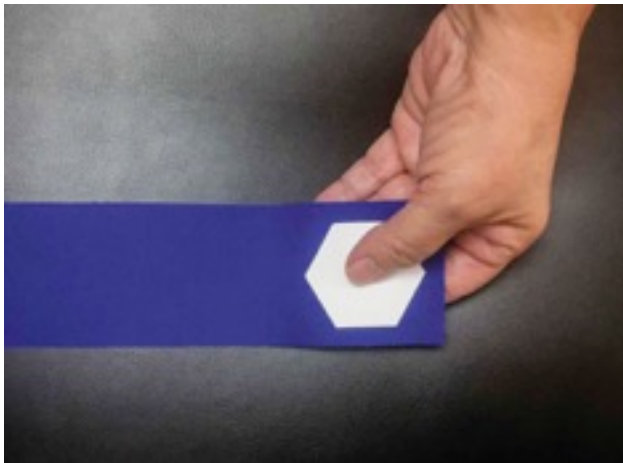


How to Hexie

by Annie Smith

This is my favorite way to make hexie flowers. I love to add them to quilts. My no-fuss method is one that I've been using since 1999 when I was teaching hand-piecing at my local quilt shop. I think you'll love it!

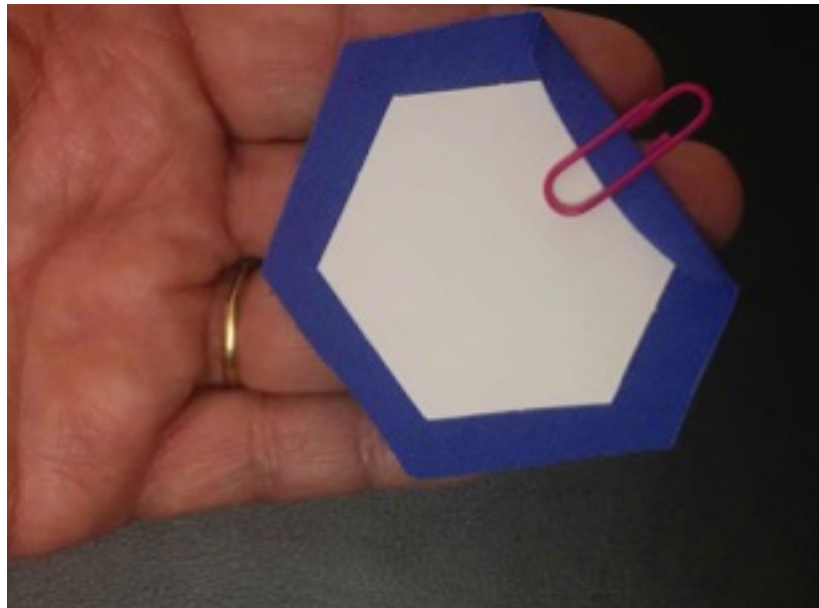
Step 1: Place the hexagon paper on the wrong side of the fabric.



Step 2: Trim a 1/4" seam allowance around all six sides.

Step 3: With the paper in the center, fold down the top seam allowance and use a paperclip to hold it in place.

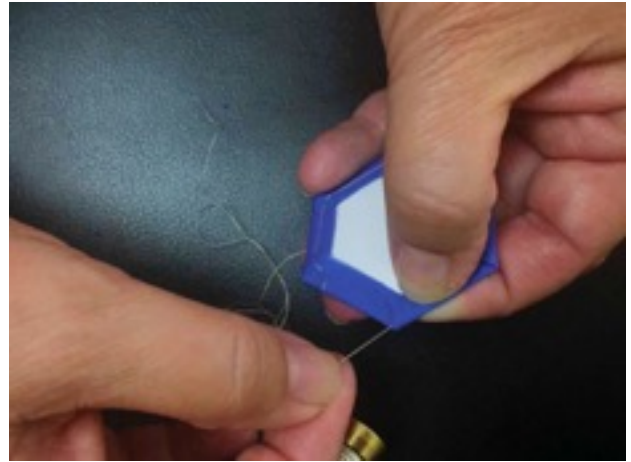
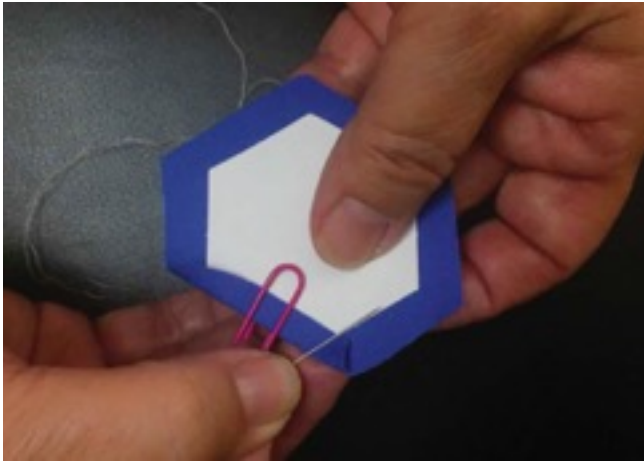
Note: Only one paperclip is necessary for each hexie. It keeps the paper centered & prevents it from shifting during basting. Be careful not to push the paperclip all the way on to help prevent snags along the raw edge of the fabric upon removal.



Step 4: Thread the needle with a single strand of contrasting thread. Knot the long end. The contrasting thread color gives visibility to the small tacking stitches.

Tip: Run the thread through Thread Heaven to keep it from knotting while you work.

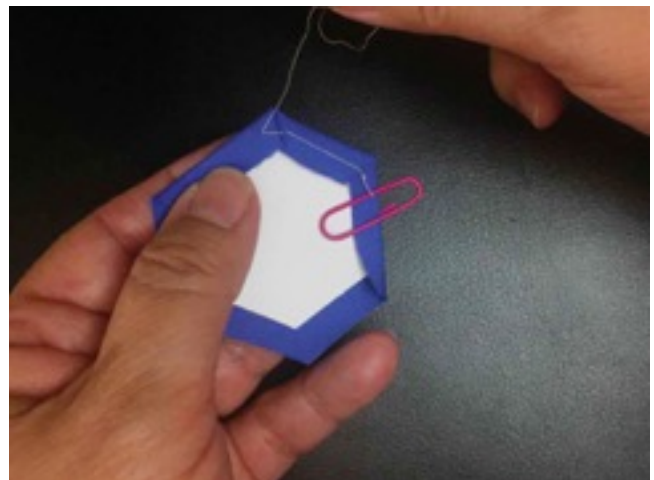
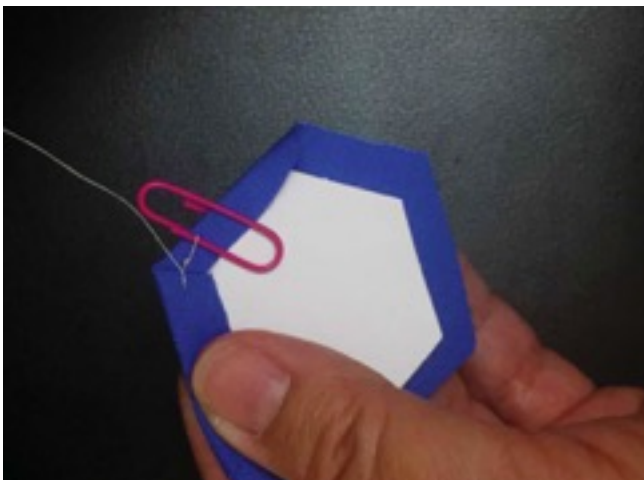
Beginning with the corner to the left of the paperclip, fold the fabric over the edge of the paper. Use the needle along the edge of the paper to get a nice crisp fold as shown in the next two photos. Secure the fabric with your thumbnail while stitching. Secure the fabric with your thumbnail while stitching.



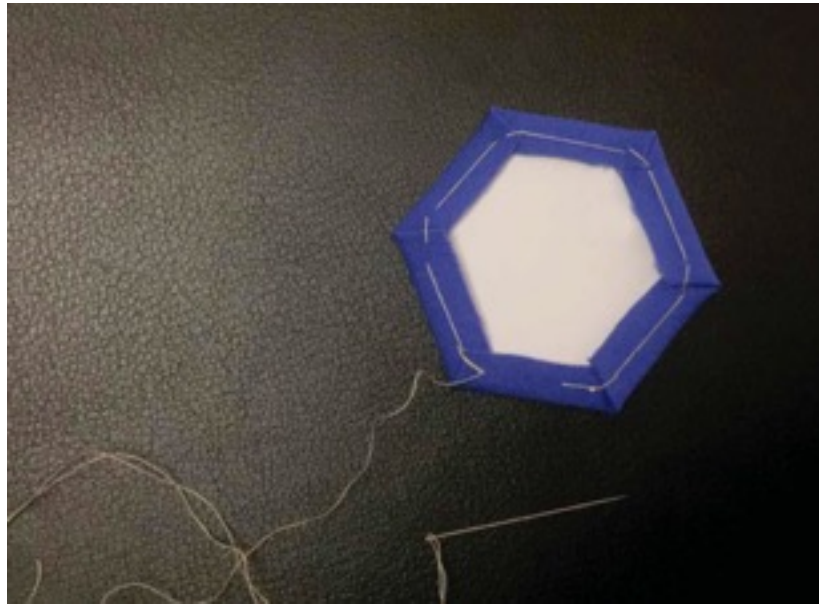
Continue with this process on all edges of the hexie.

Step 5: Take two tacking stitches across the fold being careful to NOT stitch through the paper.

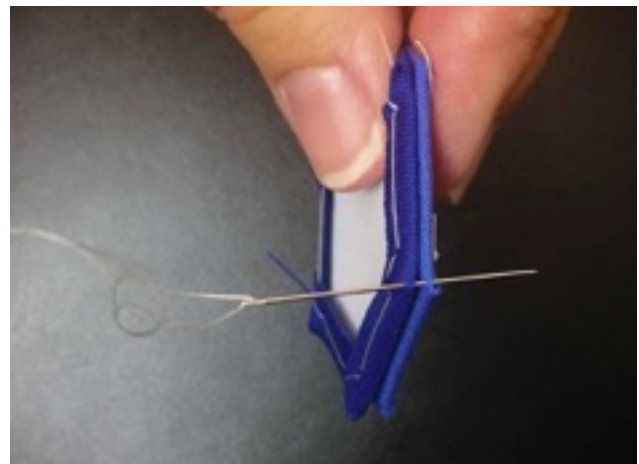
Turn the hexie clockwise and repeat the process.



Step 6: At the last fold, remove the paperclip and fold the last remaining edge of fabric over the paper. All of the folds should be going in the same direction. Take a couple more tacking stitches in the last fold and cut the thread.

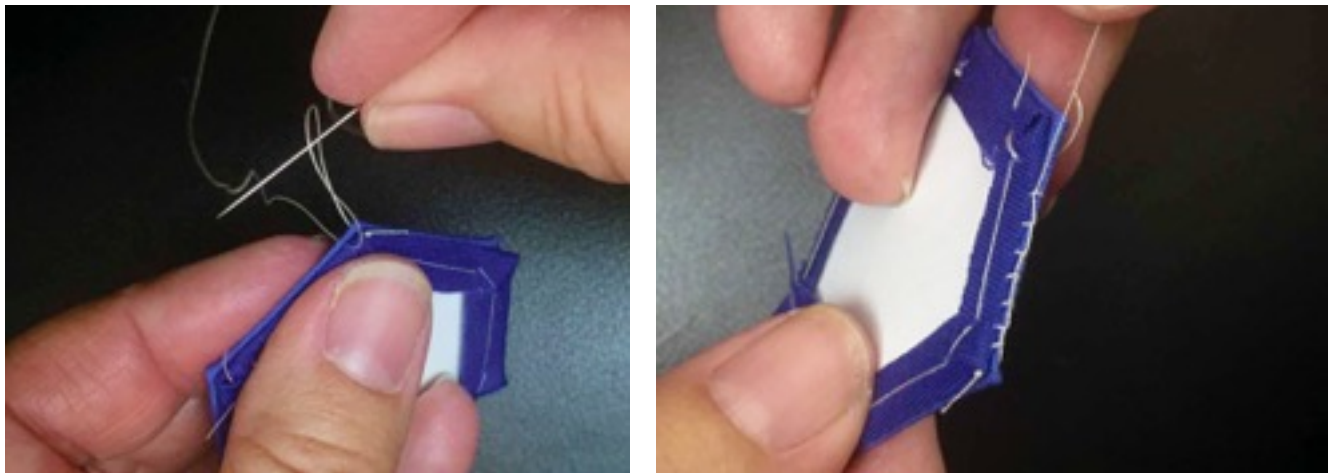


Step 7: Place two hexies right sides together, matching the edges together with one of the petals. Prepare a needle with one strand of Aurifil 50wt in a coordinating color, knotted on the long end. Stitch from right to left.



Step 8: When beginning to stitch, insert the needle through both hexies, beginning with the one closest to you. Make sure NOT to stitch through the paper. Pull the thread through.

Step 9: Take another stitch, 1/8" away from the first stitch. Insert the needle in the thread loop from right to left. Pull the thread all the way through to create a knotted whip stitch.



This is my preferred stitch for hexies. The knot keeps the thread pulled to the back, preventing it from showing on the front. The stitches will 'ride' on the back of the hexies and be hidden -- as shown below. Perfect!

Step 10: Remove the paper from the fabric hexies by inserting your nail under the seam allowance to free the paper. It helps to remove the paper on the edge of a hexie that is sewn to another hexie, rather than on an outside edge. There is more leverage there to remove the paper.

Tip: Don't throw the papers away! They can be pressed flat with a dry iron and saved for future use.