

# PVQA Block of the Month— September 2024: Go Fly a Kite!

## A Foundation Paper-Pieced Block



### Supplies

- Foundation pattern – provided
- Fabric scraps larger than the 4 sections of the kite (background fabric Northcott Naturescapes Basics Light Blue Clouds #25490-42 provided)
- Colored pens or pencils
- Add-a-Quarter or regular ruler
- Postcard or thin cardboard straight-edge
- Glue stick (optional) or pins
- Embroidery floss or yarn (optional)

### Notes

1. In foundation paper-piecing, the right side of your block is on the **back** of the paper pattern. The printed image is the back side of the block, and corresponds to the *wrong side* of your fabric.
2. Set your machine's stitch length to 18–20 stitches per inch, which is 1.8 or 1.5 on most machines. A shorter than normal stitch length makes it easier to remove the paper later.
3. The lines between the numbered sections are the sewing lines: you will stitch the pieces together along those lines, through two pieces of fabric and the paper foundation. The thin outer line on the pattern is the ¼" seam allowance; it is best to measure and just use that line as a guide.
4. An Add-a-Quarter ruler has a groove on it that sits on the edge against the paper and the fabric, allowing you to cut a ¼" seam accurately each time. If you don't have one, you can use a regular ruler with a ¼" marking; just take care that it doesn't slip.
5. A postcard or cardboard straight-edge is really handy for folding back the paper accurately.
6. A glue stick allows you to lightly stick the first piece of fabric to the paper pattern without creating bulk. This is optional: you can use a pin to secure your first piece in place. If you use a pin, choose one with a flat or small head so that everything lies as flat as possible.
7. There is some fabric waste with foundation paper-piecing. As you become more proficient, there will be less waste. Save the scraps for other projects.

## Instructions

### Step One:

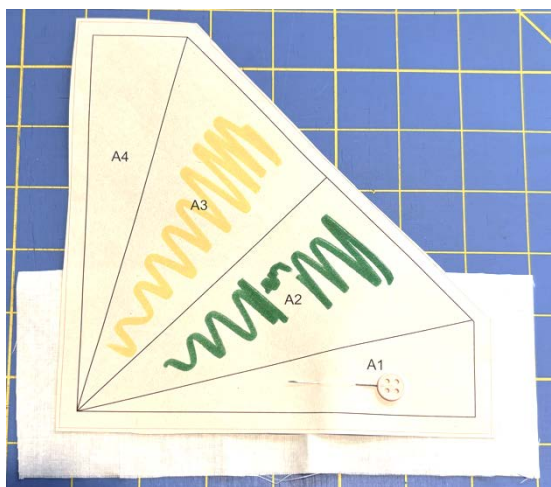
The kite pattern has 4 sections: **A**, **B**, **C**, and **D**. Sections A and B are foundation paper-pieced; sections C and D are fabric to be cut to size and sewn onto the kite.

Cut around the outside edge of each section of the paper pattern, just outside the ¼" seam allowance (thin) line. There is a bit of overlap between section A and section B so cut in-between the lines there. Start with the **A** section (labeled A1, A2, A3, and A4), then the **B** section (labeled B1 and B2). You are going to piece section A first, in the order the pieces are numbered: A1 to A2, then A2 to A3, etc.

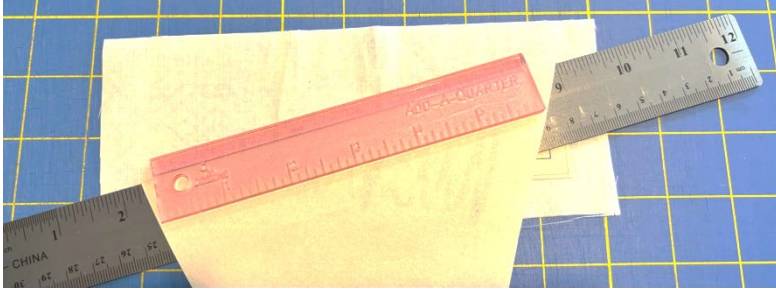
Lay out the paper pattern in the order that it's going to appear and roughly color each section with the color of your fabric for that section. This makes it much easier when it comes to piecing, as you can instantly select the right fabric for the each section. Sections A1 and A2 are background.



Starting with section **A1**, take a piece of background fabric that is at least ½" larger all around than this section. Place a small dot of glue on the **back** side of the pattern paper in the middle of section A1 and stick (or pin) the fabric **right side up** to the back of the paper. The *wrong side* of the fabric should be against the *back side* of the paper. Make sure the fabric **completely** covers the section of the pattern—use a light box or hold it up to a window to be certain.



Next, use your ruler or straight-edge to fold the paper on the line between section **A1** and section **A2**, folding A2 on top of A1.



Trim the excess fabric for section A1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the fold using either an Add-a-Quarter or regular ruler.



**Step Two:**

Flip the paper and section A1 fabric over so the back of the paper is facing up with the fabric on top. Cut a piece of fabric for section **A2** that is larger than that section of the pattern. Line up the fabric for section A2 on top of the fabric for section A1 along the edge you just trimmed, with the right sides of the fabric facing each other (the back of the A2 fabric will be facing up). Add a pin if you like.





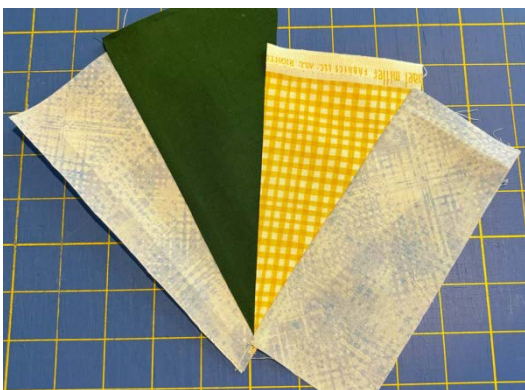
Turn the pattern and both pieces of fabric pattern side up, taking care not to let anything shift, and stitch on the line between sections A1 and A2. Remember to use a short stitch-length. Start sewing a few stitches before the beginning of the line and continue a few stitches past the end. Go slowly so you can keep your needle right *on* the line.



Flip the paper over, flip the section A2 fabric open, and press section A2 into position. Your first two sections are done!



Now repeat the same steps for sections A3 and A4, until you have completed all of section A, which is the bottom of the kite: flip to the pattern side, fold the paper on the line between sections A2 and A3, trim the excess fabric for section A2 leaving a ¼" seam, place the fabric for section A3 along the trimmed edge, flip over to the pattern side and sew on the line, press...



**Step Three:**

Repeat the same process for section **B**.

**Step Four:**

Once sections A and B are completed, it's time to trim the sections into shape. Flip your section **A** unit over to the pattern side. Using a ruler and rotary cutter, cut through the paper and layers of fabric, measuring  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the **solid** line on the each of the outside edges. Repeat for section **B**.



Your finished sections A and B should look something like this.



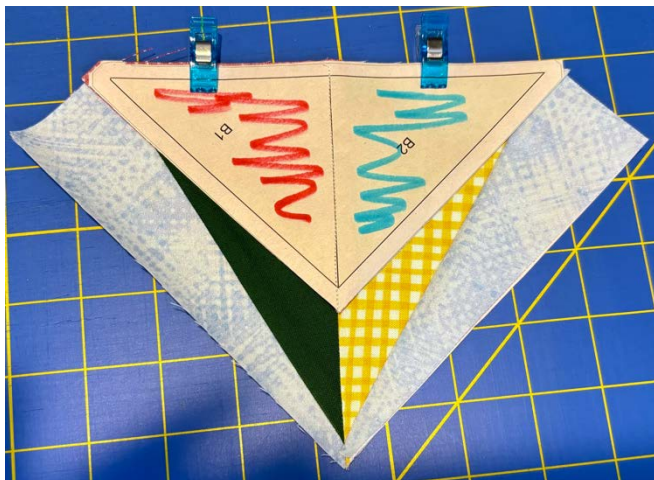
**Step Five:**

Cut background fabric for section **C** at  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and for section **D** at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".

**Step Six:**

Next, you'll join the sections together as you would normally sew pieces together: with right sides together and using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. You can use a regular stitch length for this. Leaving the paper attached at this stage helps maintain the stability of the blocks.

Sew sections **A** and **B** together, matching the center seams. Then carefully remove the paper by tearing it away. You can use a pair of tweezers to remove any little pieces that don't come out easily. Press.



Then sew section **C** to the side of the kite and section **D** to the bottom of the kite, pressing after each addition.



Square up your block so that it measures 9½". Embellish the kite by adding some tails with a bit of hand embroidery or yarn if you wish.

### Additional Resources

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c0958af1aef1d7be40b8fd4/t/659c41cc10466e5f57b3a44a/1704739276477/How+to+Foundation+Paper+Piece.pdf>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYWmb\\_55tKs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYWmb_55tKs)

Thank you to Sarah Ashford for the kite pattern, and Melissa Mortenson of PolkaDotChair.com for the foundation paper-piecing tutorial (<https://www.polkadotchair.com/foundation-paper-piecing-tutorial-free-kite-paper-piecing-pattern/>)