

Southern Comforters
Block of the Month
December 2008
A Piece of My Heart



This miniature paper-pieced heart can be used as an accent in a larger block, or as the basis for a miniature quilt. Make the heart PINK, RED, or PURPLE. Use a single fabric or make it scrappy. The background should be WHITE on WHITE. The finished block is 2 1/2" square.

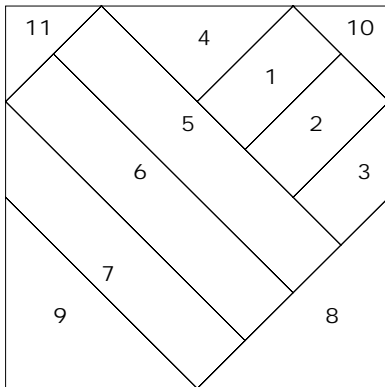
You can use a number of paper-piecing techniques, but the one described below is my favorite. **Remember:** December blocks are due at the first and only meeting in December. **HINT:** You can enlarge this pattern and use it when the guild announces a chance to show you care by sending a 6" heart to a fellow guild member who needs our support.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS**

WHITE on WHITE Background:
 two 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangles (8 & 9)
 two 1" x 2" rectangles (10 & 11)
 one 1 1/2" square (4)

PINK, RED or PURPLE scraps:
 three 1" x 1 1/2" rectangles (1, 2, & 3)
 three 1" x 2 1/2" rectangles (5, 6, & 7)
***pieces can be larger – no need to cut scraps down!*

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS



- A) As with most paper-piecing, the pattern is reversed from the final block. Trace all lines of the heart pattern on the non-shiny side of a piece of freezer paper. Number each piece as shown on the pattern. Add a 1/4" seam allowance around the outside edge of your freezer paper pattern with dotted lines.
- B) Sew together two PINK, RED, or PURPLE 1" x 1 1/2" rectangles along the long side; press the seam to one side. Place the pattern shiny side toward the wrong side of the fabric, lining up the seam along the line drawn between pieces 1 and 2. Hold it up to the light and make sure fabric extends 1/4" around each drawn piece. Press on the pattern side of the freezer paper, so that the fabric pieces are secured to the freezer paper.
- C) Fold the paper back on itself on the line between pieces 2 and 3 (don't worry about creases in the middle of pieces 5, 6, 7, and 9); gently separating the part of the fabric that is pressed behind piece 3 from the freezer paper. Trim piece 2 leaving a seam allowance of 1/4".

- D) Place the third 1" x 1 1/2" rectangle right sides together with piece 2 so that the edges align. Make sure the edges of piece 3 extend at least 1/4" beyond the edges of all seam lines. Sew the seam (starting and ending two stitches beyond the pattern line) with the needle right next to the folded edge of the freezer paper. You may need to place a piece of tissue paper on the shiny side of the freezer paper to prevent your presser foot from sticking.
- E) Flip the new piece open and finger press. Unfold the freezer paper again. Press piece 3 to the freezer paper, making sure that the new seam is flat.
- F) Repeat steps C-E with the remaining pieces adding them in order and matching the longest sides with the previous piece. Make sure the new piece added is centered on the seam line you are about to sew. Leave the outside edges untrimmed until you are completely finished with the entire block. Trim your block to 2 1/2". Remove the freezer paper – you can reuse it for another block!



G) Sign it, please.