

# Spiky Coasters

By Alissa Haight Carlton

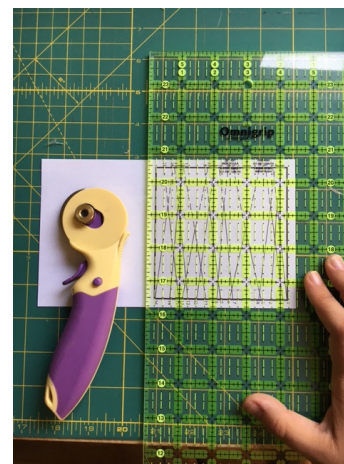
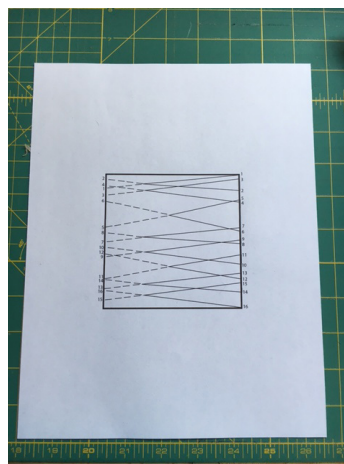
Sew up these easy paper pieced coasters to add a bright modern pop of color to your living room coffee table!

## Supplies:

- Background fabric: (8) 6" x 2" scraps (All must be the same color for it to read as the background.)
- Spike fabric: (8) 4" x 2" scraps (These are perfect for using up all of the different sorts of scraps. Feel free to mix and match colors in each coaster. Alissa likes a minimalist modern feel, so she used one solid fabric but there is certainly no requirement for you to do the same.)
- Backing fabric: (1) 6" x 6" square of fabric per coaster
- Batting: (1) 6" x 6" square of batting per coaster.
- 1 print out of the template per coaster.



\*Print out the template at the end of the instructions at 100% size (4" square) and trim it down to a 4 1/2" square, keeping an extra 1/4" of paper outside of the line.



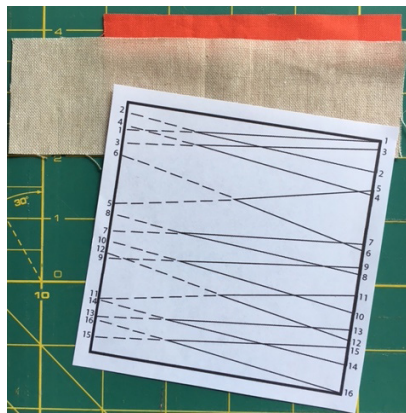
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## Piecing:

Paper piecing can take a minute to wrap your brain around, but once you do it is a great way to ensure accuracy in your piecing. The idea is that you are using the template lines to follow on each seam, guaranteeing that your piecing will be exactly the size and shape intended. After sewing each seam, the piece of fabric that you are sewing on folds down to cover a specific portion of the template.

If this is your first time paper piecing, print an extra template or two and cut a few extra scraps to practice and get your head around it. At first, it can be easy to make mistakes. Sewing the scrap on so that it folds in the wrong direction or sewing on a piece of fabric that is just a bit too small to cover the intended portion of the template are both things Alissa mentions she has done many times. Once you understand the concept of paper piecing and how it works, it will come to you easily.

1. Take one scrap of the background fabric and one scrap of the spike fabric and layer it so that they will cover line 1 with a large enough seam allowance (1/4" or larger), as pictured below:



2. Sew along line 1. Alissa suggests shortening your stitch length so that the needle perforates the paper more. This will make it easier to remove the paper when you are done. It is annoying when you have to rip out a seam, but in the big picture it is worth it for the paper removing benefits later.

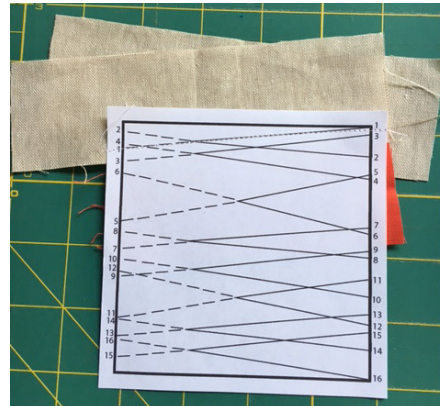


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3. Flip over the whole template and fold down the fabric to double check that it completely covers the portion of the template that it is supposed to (the portion within the solid lines). You will note that with the scrap size Alissa suggested, they are more than big enough.



4. Take another scrap of the background fabric and arrange on the template so that you sew along line 2. Take care to leave a large enough seam allowance.



5. Sew along line 2 and make sure the fabric folds down to cover the correct portion of the template.



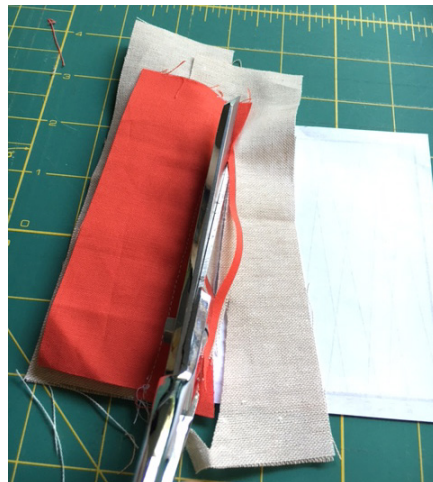
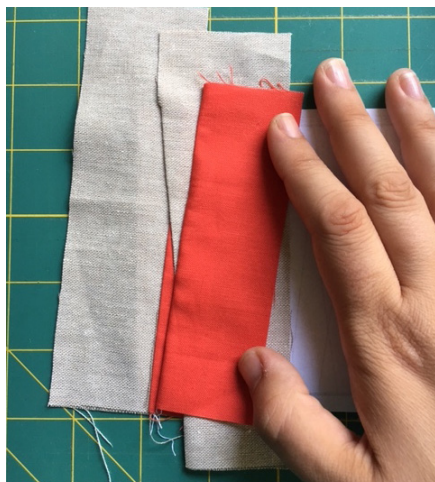
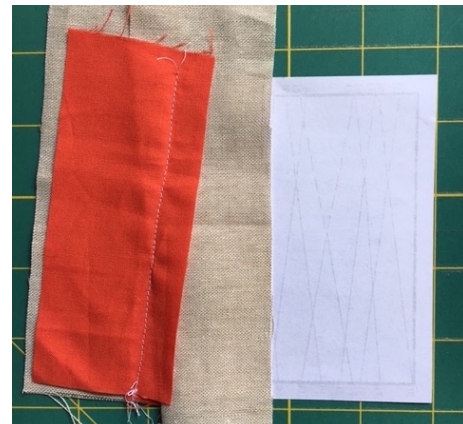
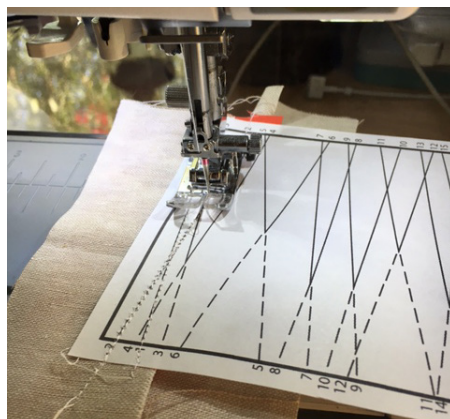
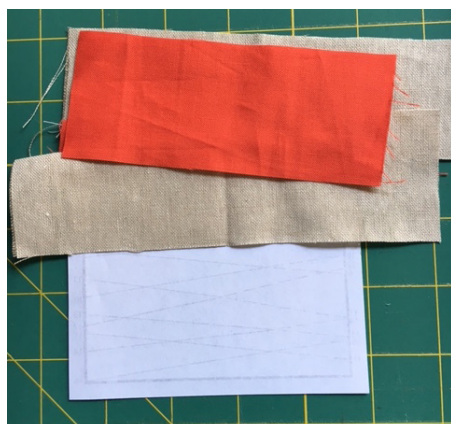


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6. Now trim down any excess fabric in the seam allowance.

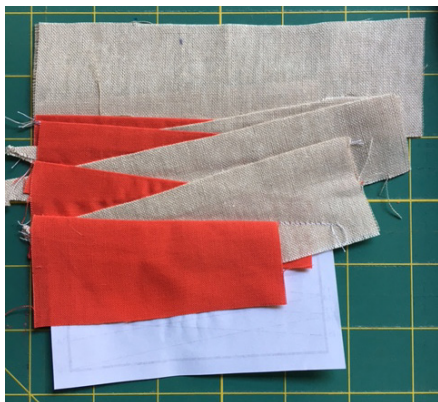


7. Repeat this process for line 3 using a scrap of the spike fabric. You will alternate between adding background and spike fabrics.



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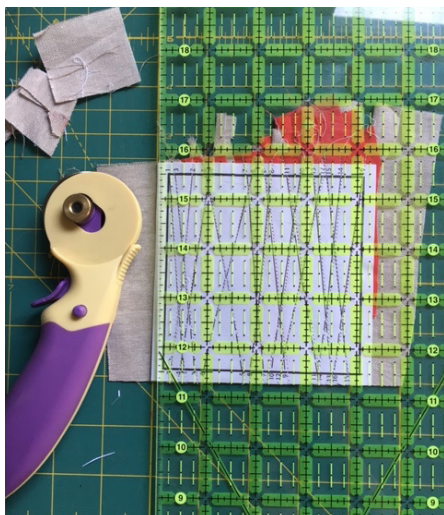
8. Continue adding scraps, alternating between the background and spike fabrics and sewing along the template lines in numerical order.



9. Once you have added all of the scraps and sewed along all of the lines (16 of them), your piecing will look like this.



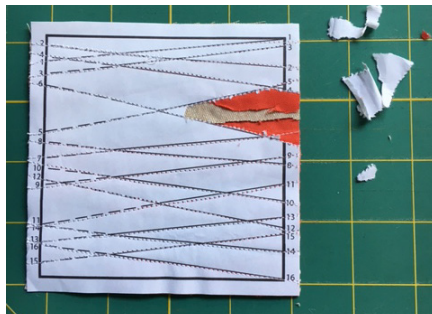
10. Flip over the piecing and using the edge of the template, square it up.





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11. Flip over your piecing again and tear out the paper. This can be time consuming and tedious.



12. Repeat this process for as many coasters as you would like to make. Alissa decided to make a set of four.

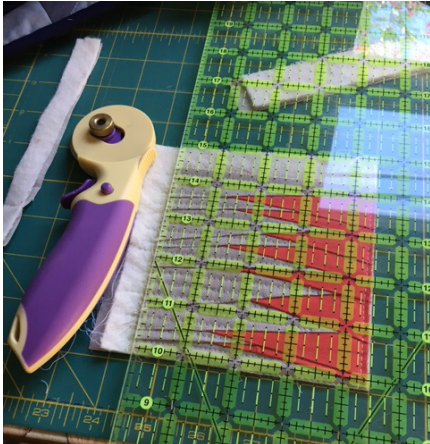


13. Layer with the backing fabric and batting and quilt as desired. Alissa tried a few different ideas and her favorite was the simple straight line quilting in the background fabric of the design.



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14. Square up and bind. You then have a finished coaster!



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