

How to Use Your KONGRA Paper Piecing Templates

Turn printed paper shapes into a hand-sewn quilt — step by step.

Print this at 100% (actual size) and keep it beside you as you work.

What you'll need

- Your printed KONGRA template PDF (print at 100%, then check the 1-inch square with a ruler).
- Card stock or sturdy paper for the paper pieces.
- Quilting fabric of your choice.
- One pair of scissors for paper and one for fabric.
- Needle and thread, or a fabric glue pen, for basting.
- An iron.

Step by step

1. Check the print size first.

Print the template PDF at 100% (actual size), not “fit to page.” Measure the 1-inch check square on your printout with a ruler. If it measures exactly 1 inch, your pieces are the right size. If not, reprint with any scaling turned off.

2. Cut your paper pieces.

Each template has two lines: the solid inner line is the finished shape (your paper piece), and the dashed outer line is the fabric cutting line with the quarter-inch seam allowance already added. Cut the paper pieces along the SOLID line — as many as your project needs.

3. Cut your fabric.

Lay a paper piece on the back (wrong side) of your fabric and cut the fabric along the DASHED line — about a quarter inch larger all around. Once you're comfortable, you can cut a few at a time.

4. Wrap the fabric over the paper.

Center the paper on the wrong side of the fabric. Fold the extra fabric over each edge and hold it down — either with a few basting stitches through the paper, or a small dab from a fabric glue pen. Crease each corner neatly so the fabric hugs the shape.

5. Sew two pieces together.

Hold two wrapped pieces with their right sides facing, edges lined up. Using a small whipstitch, catch just the folded fabric edges (try not to sew through the paper) with tiny stitches along the seam. Open them out — you've joined your first two pieces.

6. Build your design.

Keep adding pieces the same way, following your quilt layout — rows of hexagons, diamonds forming stars, and so on. Press each seam flat with a warm iron as you go.

7. Remove the papers.

Once a piece is fully surrounded by stitched neighbors, the paper has done its job. Gently undo the basting and slide the paper out. Save the papers — they can be reused.

8. Finish your quilt.

When the quilt top is the size you want, press it well. Then layer it with batting and a backing, quilt or tie the layers together, and bind the edges. Your hand-pieced quilt is done!

Helpful tips

- Always double-check the 1-inch square before cutting a whole project.
- A glue pen is faster than thread basting and easier on the hands.
- Press often — flat seams make everything fit together better.
- Start small (a few hexagons into a coaster or pillow) to build confidence.
- Keep your cut papers — they're reusable for the next project.