

PROJECT: Sew Write

Form hexagons for a journal cover by carefully stitching rows of matching half hexies. Then construct a coordinating pencil pouch to complete the set.



sew

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PHOTOGRAPHER **JAY WILDE**

Write

MATERIALS

FOR JOURNAL COVER

18—5" squares assorted prints in red, gray, green, and blue (exterior)

18×21" piece (fat quarter) blue plaid (flaps)

18×21" piece (fat quarter) lining fabric (lining)

14×20" fusible fleece

7½×9¾" composition book (available at office supply stores)

FINISHED JOURNAL COVER: 7½×9¾"

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width. Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order.

The Half Hexagon Pattern is on *page 7*. To make a template of the pattern, see "What Are Templates?" on *page 8*.

To save cutting time, designer Sherri McConnell used the Hexie Half 5" ruler by Lori Holt to cut the half hexagons for the cover.

From assorted prints, cut:

- 36 of Half Hexagon Pattern (15 sets of two matching half hexagons and 6 assorted half hexagons)

From blue plaid, cut:

- 2—5½×10¼" rectangles

From lining fabric, cut:

- 1—10¼×16¾" rectangle

ASSEMBLE JOURNAL COVER EXTERIOR

- 1) Referring to **Diagram 1**, lay out assorted print half hexagons in six horizontal rows, matching fabrics in adjacent rows to make hexagons.



DIAGRAM 1

- 2) Referring to **Diagram 2**, layer first two half hexagons in top row, aligning short edges. Join pieces; press seam in one direction.

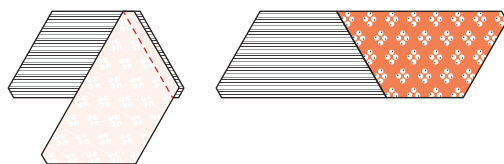


DIAGRAM 2

- 3) Continue in the same manner, adding four more half hexagons to make a horizontal row.
- 4) Repeat steps 2 and 3 to make six horizontal rows total, pressing seams in one direction and alternating direction with each row.
- 5) Join rows to make journal cover exterior. Press seams in one direction.

FINISH JOURNAL COVER

- 1) Layer journal cover exterior atop 14×20" fusible fleece with fusible side up; fuse according to manufacturer's instructions.
- 2) Quilt as desired. Sherri machine-quilted $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each vertical seam line (**Diagram 3**).

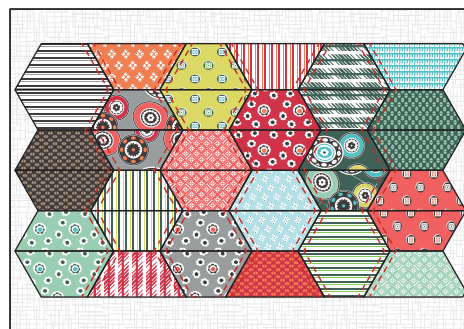


DIAGRAM 3

- 3) Center and trim quilted journal cover exterior to $10\frac{1}{4}$ × $16\frac{3}{4}$ " including seam allowances (**Diagram 4**).

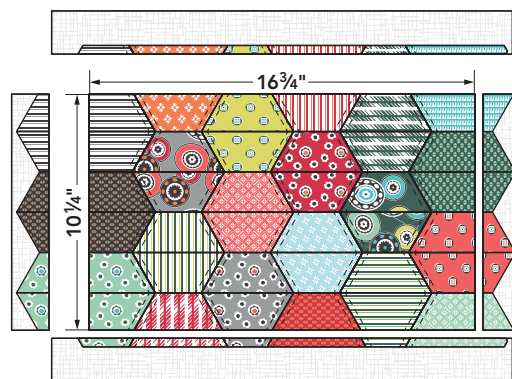


DIAGRAM 4

- 4) Turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ " along one long edge of a blue plaid $5\frac{1}{2}$ × $10\frac{1}{4}$ " rectangle; press. Turn under same long edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " again and stitch along fold to make a flap. Repeat to make a second flap.
- 5) Lay $10\frac{1}{4}$ × $16\frac{3}{4}$ " lining rectangle right side up on a flat surface.
- 6) Align raw edges of flaps, right sides up, with short edges of lining fabric; baste raw edges in place to make journal cover exterior (**Diagram 5**).

Stumped on what fabrics go together?
Select prints from a single collection or designer. Sherri chose fabrics from the Florence collection by Denyse Schmidt for Free Spirit Fabric (freespiritfabric.com). The mix of prints, plaids, and stripes is perfectly coordinated.

PRODUCT WE LOVE

The Hexie Half 5" ruler by Lori Holt of Bee in My Bonnet (beeinmybonnetco.blogspot.com) for Riley Blake Designs (rileyblakedesigns.com) is a great tool to save time cutting the half hexagon pieces. Designed to be used with 5" squares, the ruler has blunted corners on the long edge to make matching pieces a breeze.

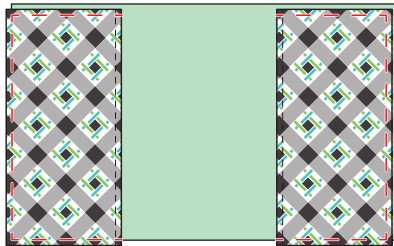


DIAGRAM 5

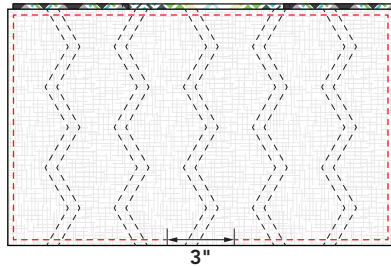


DIAGRAM 6

- 7) With right sides together, lay quilted journal cover exterior atop journal cover interior, aligning raw edges (**Diagram 6**); pin in place.
- 8) Referring to **Diagram 6**, sew together through all layers, leaving a 3" opening along one long edge. Trim corners to reduce bulk.
- 9) Turn right side out through opening; press. Hand-stitch opening closed to complete journal cover. Position front and back covers inside interior flaps.

MATERIALS FOR PENCIL POUCH

16— $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares
assorted prints in aqua,
green, coral, gray, and
red (body units)
4" square aqua plaid
(zipper tabs)
9×21" piece (fat eighth)
lining fabric (pouch lining)
6×20" batting
9"-long zipper: cream

FINISHED PENCIL POUCH: $3\frac{1}{2}$ × $1\times 7\frac{3}{4}$ "

Yardages and cutting
instructions are based on
42" of usable fabric width.
Measurements include
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances
unless otherwise
indicated. Sew with right
sides together unless
otherwise stated.

CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order.

From aqua plaid, cut:

- 2— $1\frac{3}{4}$ ×3" rectangles

From lining fabric, cut:

- 2— $4\frac{1}{2}$ × $8\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles

From batting, cut:

- 2—6×10" rectangles

ASSEMBLE BODY UNITS

- Referring to **Diagram 1**, sew together four assorted print $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares to make a row. Press seams in one direction. The row should be $2\frac{1}{2}$ × $8\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances. Repeat to make four rows total, alternating pressing direction with each row.



DIAGRAM 1

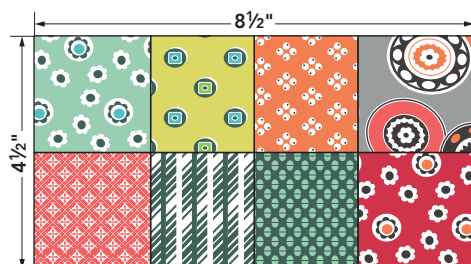


DIAGRAM 2

- Center a pieced section atop a 6×10" batting rectangle; pin. Quilt as desired. Designer Sherri McConnell machine-quilted $\frac{1}{4}$ " on both sides of each vertical and horizontal seam. Trim quilted rectangle to $4\frac{1}{2}$ × $8\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances to make body unit. Repeat to make a second body unit.

FINISH POUCH

- Referring to **Diagram 3**, fold an aqua plaid $1\frac{3}{4}$ ×3" rectangle in half crosswise; finger-press crease and open. Fold short ends toward center crease; fold again. Finger-press to make a zipper tab. The zipper tab should be $1\frac{3}{4}$ × $\frac{3}{4}$ " including seam allowances. Repeat to make a second zipper tab.

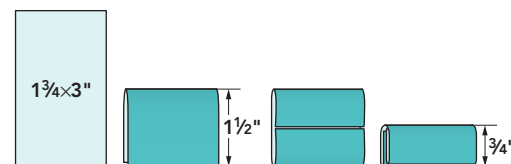


DIAGRAM 3

- Place zipper on a cutting mat. Unzip so zipper pull is in center. Using a rotary cutter and an acrylic ruler, trim each end of zipper so zipper is $7\frac{1}{2}$ " long. Do not move zipper pull.
- Insert each zipper end into a zipper tab (**Diagram 4**). Sew along folded edges of zipper tabs through all layers to secure zipper.

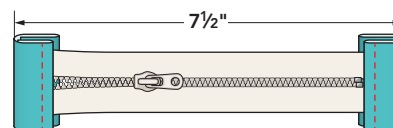


DIAGRAM 4

- 4) Place a $4\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ " lining rectangle right side up on a flat surface. Center zipper, with zipper pull faceup, on one long edge of lining rectangle (**Diagram 5**). The lining rectangle will be $\frac{1}{2}$ " wider than zipper on each end. Using an $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance, baste zipper in place.

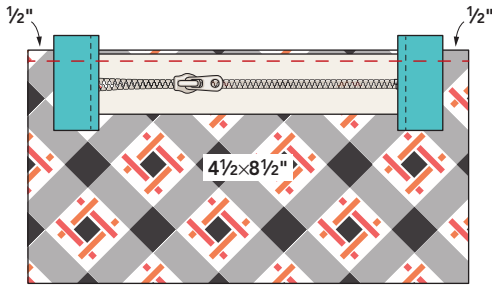


DIAGRAM 5

- 5) With right sides together, place a body unit atop Step 4 unit, aligning raw edges (**Diagram 6**); pin in place. Using a zipper foot, sew along top edge through all layers. Trim zipper tabs even with lining and body unit. Press body unit and lining away from zipper. Topstitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from fold to make a front unit.

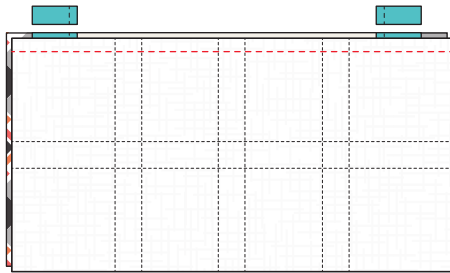


DIAGRAM 6

- 6) Using remaining body unit and lining rectangle, repeat steps 4 and 5 to stitch remaining zipper edge and make a back unit (**Diagram 7**).



DIAGRAM 7

- 7) Open front unit and back unit. With right sides together, layer front and back units so body units are together and lining pieces are together; pin. Join units around all edges, leaving a 3" opening in the lining for turning (**Diagram 8**).

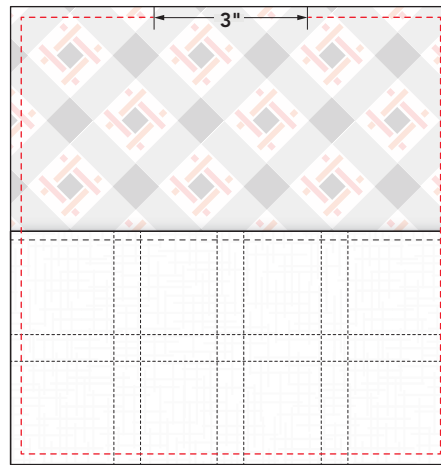
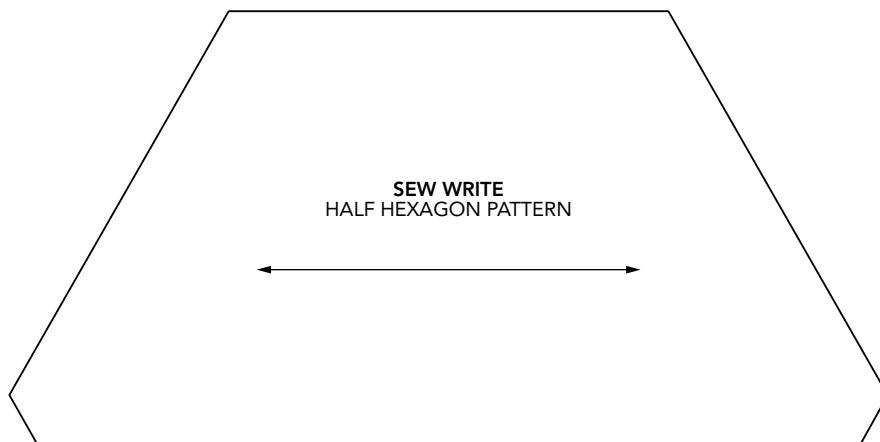


DIAGRAM 8

- 8) Turn right side out through opening in lining and finger-press seams. Slip-stitch lining opening closed. Insert lining into body units to complete pouch.



This box should
measure 1".

← 1" →

*** NOTE:**

When printing a download-
able pdf, set Page Scaling
preference to NONE to print
patterns at 100%.
Do NOT "Shrink to Fit"
or "Fit to Printable Area."

MAKE TEMPLATES

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

USE TEMPLATES

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

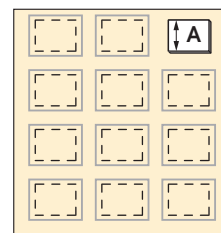


DIAGRAM 1

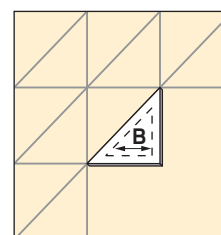


DIAGRAM 2