

## Project: Garden Party Pillow

INSPIRED BY FIREWORKS FROM DESIGNER DIANE GILLELAND (CRAFTYPOD.COM)  
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FABRICS are from the Bella Suede collection for P&B Textiles (pbtext.com).

Arrange brightly colored hexagons to mimic flowers and leaves to create a pillow perfect for spring.

## Project: Garden Party Pillow

### Materials

- ¼ yard each yellow print, blue print, purple print, pink print, teal print, and green print (flower unit)
- ⅜ yard brown print (pillow top)
- ½ yard dark brown print (pillow top, backing)
- 12×16" pillow form
- Water-soluble glue stick (optional)

Finished pillow: 12½×16½"

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances unless otherwise indicated. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

### Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

The Hexagon Pattern is on page 6. To make a template of the pattern see "Make and Use Templates" on page 7.

#### From yellow print, cut:

- 4—2½" squares

#### From each blue, purple, pink, and teal print, cut:

- 6—2½" squares

#### From green print, cut:

- 8—2½" squares

#### From brown print, cut:

- 1—11×15" rectangle

#### From dark brown print, cut:

- 2—11×13" rectangles
- 2—1½×17" strips
- 2—1½×11" strips

### Baste Hexagons

You will need a paper template for each hexagon (36 total). Precut paper hexagon templates are available at quilt shops and by mail order. For this project, purchase

hexagon templates that have 1"-long edges.

If you wish to make templates, trace Hexagon Pattern on sturdy paper 36 times. Carefully and accurately cut out paper hexagon templates on traced lines.

1. Pin a paper hexagon template to wrong side of a yellow print 2½" square (Diagram 1). Cut out fabric hexagon, adding a ⅜" seam allowance to all edges. (Your seam allowance does not have to be exact because the paper hexagon will be an accurate guide.)
2. Fold seam allowance over one template edge. Hand-baste or use a water-soluble fabric glue stick to baste fabric in place. To hand-baste, hand-stitch through fabric, but not the paper, with a long stitch (Diagram 2). Finger-press basted edge.
3. As you approach a corner, fold next seam allowance over template and take a stitch or two to tack the corner in place (Diagram 3). Repeat folding and basting with remaining seam allowances to make a yellow basted hexagon. Remove pin; do not remove paper template.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 to make four yellow basted hexagons total.
5. Repeat steps 1-3 to make six blue, six purple, six pink, six teal, and eight green basted hexagons.

### Assemble Flower Unit

In English paper piecing, the quiltmaker decides the order of construction because the paper stabilizes the fabric, making it

possible to work in any direction. These instructions are for starting at the center and working outward.

1. With right sides together, layer a yellow basted hexagon and a blue basted hexagon, aligning a pair of edges for stitching. Hold hexagons together with your fingers or a clip.
2. Thread a hand-sewing needle with matching thread. Begin whipstitching at one corner; use tiny stitches and catch a few threads of both fabric folds (Diagram 4). You'll feel the templates with your needle, but do not stitch through them. Backstitch to secure, then stitch to opposite corner.
3. When you reach opposite corner, take a backstitch, then knot thread by making a tiny backstitch in fabric and passing needle through thread loop.
4. Lightly press open the joined hexagons and check seam from right side; your stitches should not show. If they do, take smaller whipstitches.
5. Referring to Diagram 5, continue in the same manner to join six blue basted hexagons total to yellow hexagon, setting in seams as necessary, to make a flower shape. To set in a hexagon, pin and sew seam on one side of hexagon. Reposition stitched hexagons so next seam is aligned, and continue sewing.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 with purple, pink, and teal basted hexagons to make a total of four flower shapes.

## Project: Garden Party Pillow

7. Referring to **Diagram 6**, join four flower shapes and green basted hexagons to make a flower unit.
8. Press, remove paper templates, and press again.

### Assemble Pillow Top

1. Center flower unit on brown print 11×15" rectangle; pin in place (**Diagram 7**).
2. Stitching  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from hexagon unit edges, topstitch hexagon unit to rectangle to make appliquéd pillow top.
3. Join dark brown 1½×11" strips to short edges of appliquéd pillow top. Add dark brown 1½×17" strips to remaining edges to make pillow top (**Diagram 7**). Press all seams toward dark brown strips. The pillow top should be 17×13" including seam allowances.

### Finish Pillow

1. Turn a long edge of each dark brown print 11×13" rectangle under  $\frac{1}{4}$ "; press. Turn same edges under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " again; press. Topstitch folded edges to hem pillow back pieces.
2. Referring to **Pillow Back Assembly Diagram**, overlap hemmed edges of pillow back pieces about 4" to make a 17×13" rectangle. Stitch across overlaps to make pillow back.
3. Layer pillow top and pillow back with right sides together. Stitch outer edges together to make pillow cover. Turn right side out through opening in pillow back; press. Insert 12×16" pillow form to complete pillow.

Project: Garden Party Pillow

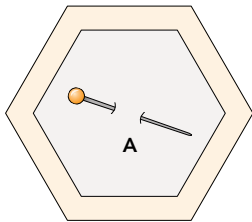
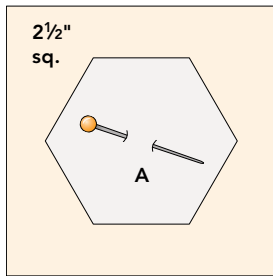


DIAGRAM 1

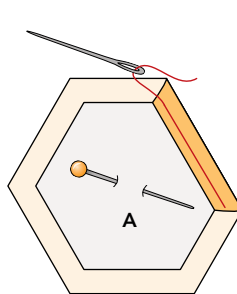


DIAGRAM 2

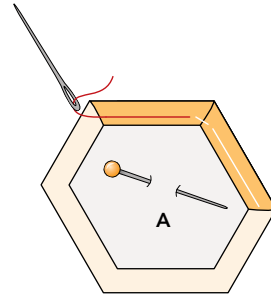


DIAGRAM 3

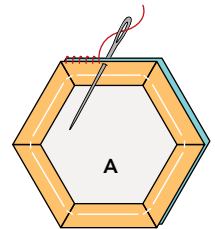


DIAGRAM 4

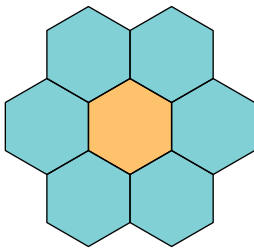


DIAGRAM 5

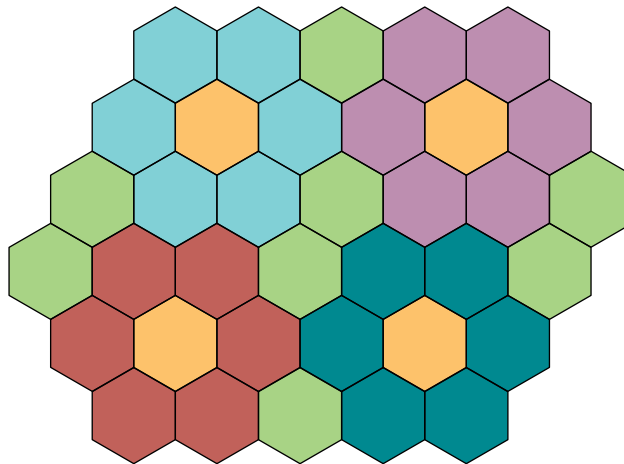


DIAGRAM 6

Project: Garden Party Pillow

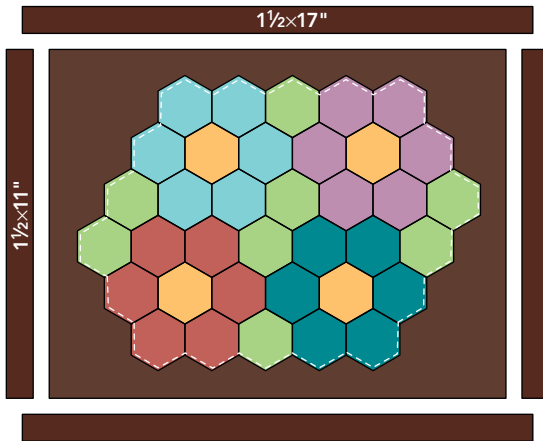
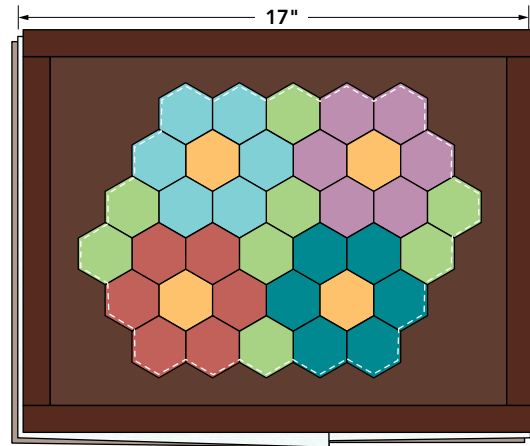
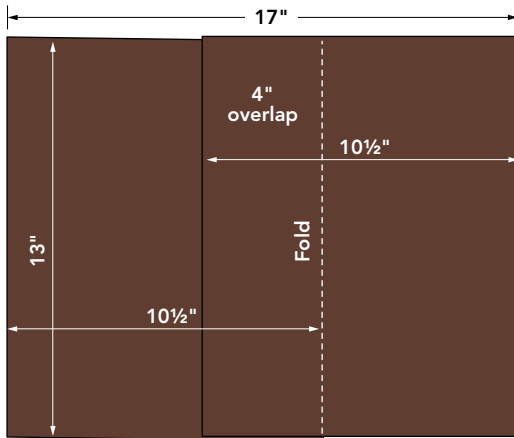
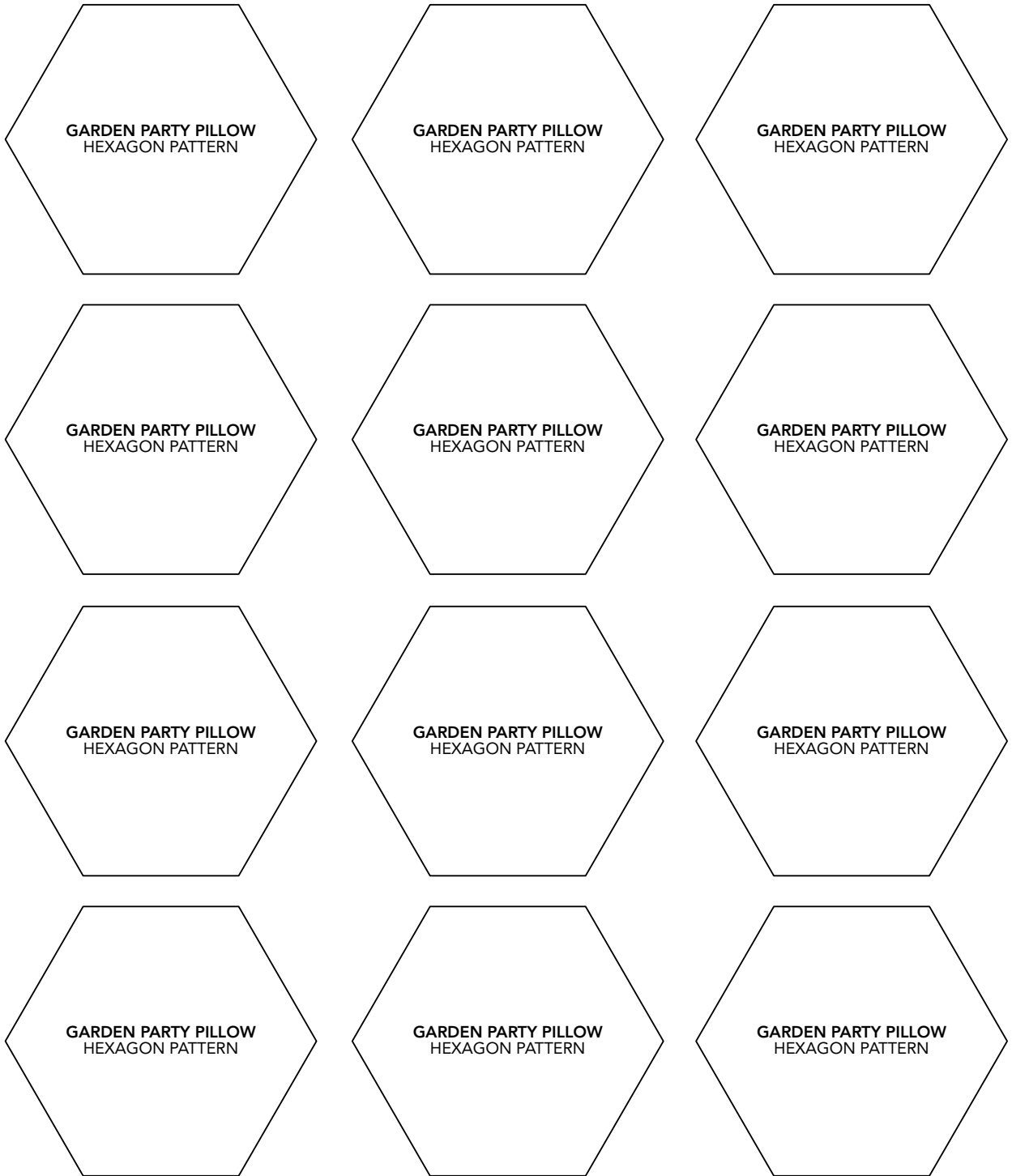


DIAGRAM 7



PILLOW BACK ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

Project: Garden Party Pillow



This box should  
measure 1".



**\* NOTE:**

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

## Make and Use Templates

### 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.

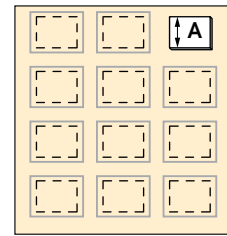


DIAGRAM 1

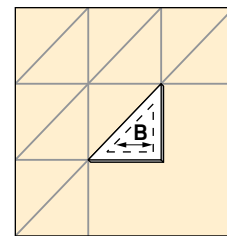


DIAGRAM 2