



Happy Little Placemats

Let's start with a little disclaimer: Paper piecing is not hard to do, once you get started. If you have never done it, you might want to watch an online tutorial to get you started. There are a lot of great ones to choose from.

For 2 Placemats, I used:

6 color of solids in small cuts - $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ or even fat quarters will work

White - $\frac{1}{4}$ yard or less for sashing

Gray - $\frac{1}{2}$ yard for the final edge, face binding and backing.

My finished placemats are 12 x 18", but both dimensions can be easily adjusted.

Downloadable Printout :

Print 2) Foundation Papers #1

Print 4) Foundation Papers #2 and #3

Foundation Paper #1

Cut 3" x 9" strips of fabrics 1-6 to start your variegated stripes. Use paper piecing techniques to stitch as shown on Foundation Paper #1. Use any trimmed strips and cut more as needed.

Foundation Paper #2 and #3

Cut out each of the individual designs as marked on page. Tape 2 lengths of "like" designs together to obtain desired length. I used 14" lengths to allow for adjustments on placement later on. If you want your final project larger, simply tape more photocopies together, being sure to add 1" extra length to the desired size. I urge you to pick and choose the designs you like – or grab some graph paper and draw your own!

Cut a few 3-5" rectangles to start. The best size will vary with each design. After one or two passes, you will know the best size to cut your fabric. Follow directions for stitching and trimming as listed on Foundation Paper #2 and #3.

Once all your strips are pieced, arrange them as you wish. Now, for a bit of math - add the finished strip widths, plus $\frac{1}{4}$ " for each sashing, plus 3" for both edges strips. Subtract this amount from your desired width (18"). This will be the finished width for the wide strip near the center. Be sure to add $\frac{1}{2}$ " for seam allowance before cutting. Here's a tip: Cut the wide strip oversized. Later, when you piece everything together, leave one seam of the wide strip for last. You can then measure to check your math!

Sewing Strips and Sashing Together:

Another tip: Leave the foundation paper on until you have sewn all the sashing in place. It will help keep your lines neat and straight. I cut my sashing 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, stitched one side in place, then trimmed to $\frac{1}{2}$ " and stitched the next strip in place. This will help omit any wavy seams. Insert gray as the last few sashings on each end if desired and finish with a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strip for the edges on both ends. Trim top and bottom.

Sandwich with batting and backing, then quilt. I suggest very simple quilting, so as to not detract from the design. Bind with a Faced Binding if desired.

And there you have it! Happy Little Placemats for you to brighten your summer table with. I hope you share your finished projects with me on Facebook at **See How We Sew** and also on my **Instagram@PatiFried**.

Questions?

You can always reach me at Pati@Patifried.com or at Seehowwesew@gmail.com

Thanks for Playing with me!

Pati Fried



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Foundation Paper #1 - Print one page per placemat.

One sheet of foundation paper will yeild approximately (3) strips, 13" in length and 1 ½" - 2" in width.

Step 1. Fabric 1

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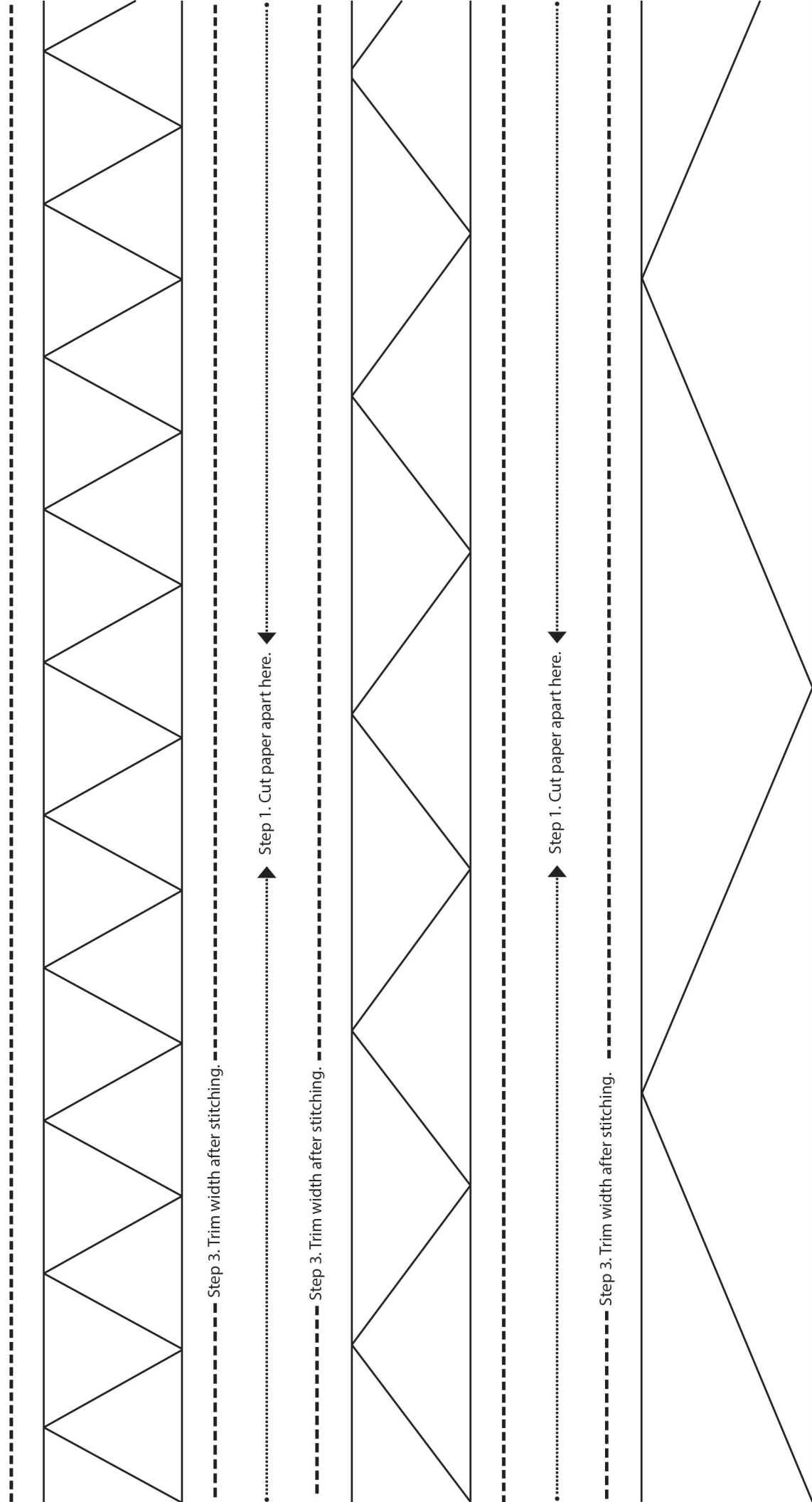
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Step 1. Join fabric strips 1-6 in order shown. Repeat to bottom of paper.

Step 2. Trim on the dashed lines to make sections.

Step 3. Keeping the correct order of your fabrics, create 13" lengths by connecting sections together. Do not remove foundation paper.

Foundation Paper #2 - Print 2 sheets to complete 1 of each design strips. Each placemat will use 4-5 strips. Placemats are based on 14" lengths. 2 sheets of foundation paper will yield 3 strips with extra length.



Step 3. Trim width after stitching.

Step 1. Cut paper strips apart on 2 copies of Foundation Paper #2. Tape 2 "like" designs together, short ends together, lining up triangles as to not break the design pattern. Make your finished strips at least 1" longer than needed. Extra length will allow for playing with your placement.

Step 2. Paper piece strips, using different pairs of solids or prints for each design.

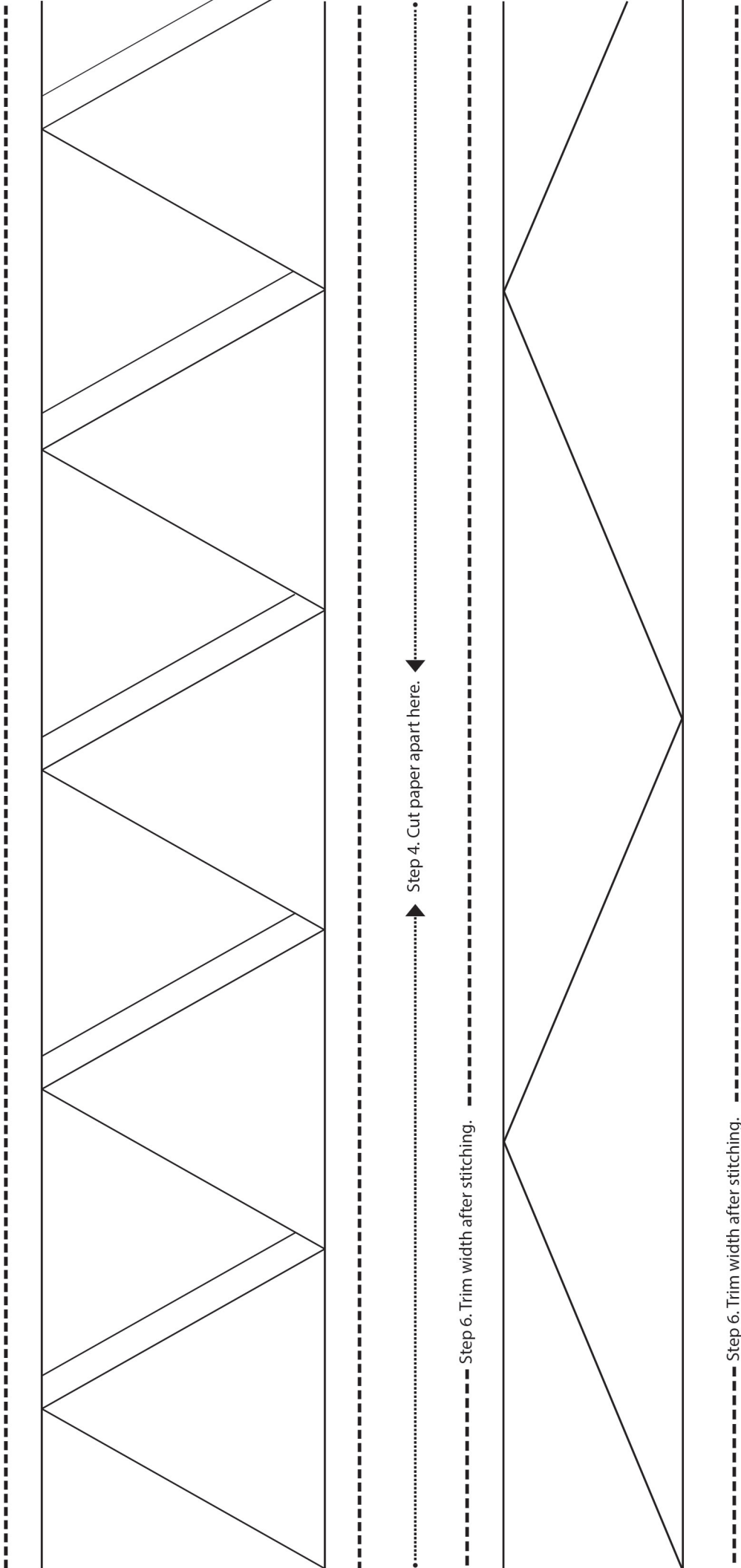
Step 3. Trim width of strips (as marked) after stitching. Do not remove foundation paper.

Step 4. Proceed to Foundation Paper #3.



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Foundation Paper #3 - Print 2 sheets to complete 1 of each design strips. Each placemat will use 4-5 strips. Placemats are based on 14" lengths. 2 sheets of foundation paper will yield 3 strips with extra length.



Step 4. Cut paper strips apart on 2 copies of Foundation Paper #3. Tape 2 "like" designs together, short ends together, lining up triangles as to not break the design pattern. Make your finished strips at least 1" longer than needed. Extra length will allow for playing with your placement.
Step 5. Paper piece strips, using different pairs of solids or prints for each design.
Step 6. Trim width of strips (as marked) after stitching. Do not remove paper piecing yet.
Step 7. Proceed with further directions on Happy Little Placemats printout (Sew Strips and Sashing Together.)

