

extra olives, please

by robin koehler



You know us. You know that we live and breathe as much by our happy hour as by our sewing time. So, for us, blending our martinis with our fabric is just a big no-brainer. Robin's adorable table runner combines paper piecing and applique techniques. This paper-piecing pattern is VERY SIMPLE! We swear—there will be no running screaming from your sewing machine on this. But do remember to not think ahead on the steps and just take them one at a time.

overall materials:

(NOTE: Be sure the blue hues vary enough to create contrast in the background.)

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of pale blue
- $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of medium light blue
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of medium blue
- $\frac{1}{3}$ yard of medium dark blue
- $\frac{1}{3}$ yard dark green for olives
- 1 fat quarter lighter green olive centers
- 1 fat quarter red pimientos
- binding: $\frac{1}{4}$ yard
- batting: 18" X 46"
- backing: 18" X 46"
- 1 yard of paper backed fusible web
- freezer paper
- Add-A-Quarter® ruler (not absolutely essential, but will really help!)
- 7 copies each of left and right paper template units (extras are for color guides and practice blocks)
- fabric glue stick
- index cards
- applique pressing sheet (optional, but will help keep your iron and ironing board glue free)
- 5" X 7" mini cutting mat (optional)

cutting:

For this project, it's far easier to handle the piecing if the fabrics are precut. So we're giving you the measurements here.

Pale blue:

- Cut (1) 7" X WOF strip; then cut (12) 3" X 7" rectangles (A1 and C1)

designed, pieced and
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skill level: great starter
project for paper piecing!
table runner size:
13 ½" X 40 ½"
block size: 13 ½" X 13 ½"

- Cut (1) 2 ½" X WOF strip; then cut (12) 2" X 2 ½" rectangles (A3 and C3)

- Cut (3) 5" X WOF strips; then cut (12) 9 ½" X 5" rectangles (B1 and D!)

Medium light blue:

- Cut (3) 4 ½" X WOF strips; then cut (12) 9 ½" X 4 ½" rectangles (B2 and D2)

Medium blue:

- Cut (1) 1 ½" X WOF strip; then cut (12) 2 ½" X 1 ½" rectangles (B4 and C2)

- Cut (1) 2 ½" X WOF strip; then cut (6) 6 ½" X 2 ½" rectangles (B3)

Medium dark blue:

- Cut (1) 1 ½" X WOF strip; then cut (12) 2 ½" X 1 ½" rectangles (A2 and D4)

- Cut (1) 2 ½" X WOF strip; then cut (6) 6 ½" X 2 ½" rectangles (D3)

Dark green/olives:

- Cut (2) 4" X WOF strips

extra olives, please, continued

Lighter green/olive centers:

- Cut (1) 2 ½" X WOF strip

prepare to paper piece:

- ✓ Shorten stitch length on machine
- ✓ Use open-toe foot for sewing on paper patterns
- ✓ Make (7) copies of each pattern piece from same machine
- ✓ Cut pattern pieces apart and sort into two piles. First piece all the "left" templates, and then the "right" templates. Remember to follow the general directions for paper piecing on page 32 of the magazine.

paper-piecing:

Make (7) copies of all templates on the same printer or copier at the same time. This helps ensure that there will be no slight size changes between the templates. Cut them into two piles for piecing. First piece all the "left" templates, and then the "right" templates. Remember to follow the general directions for paper piecing on page 32 of the magazine.

- Sew 1 and 2 together for left Unit A. Trim seam to ¼", press flat. Add 3. Trim and press flat. Repeat for all 6 Unit A sections.
- Repeat process on left Unit B.
- Repeat process for right units A and B.
- Sew 6 left units A and B together. Sew 6 right units A and B together
- Sew into 3 blocks following diagram and keep unit in proper orientation. (You're sewing a Four-Patch for this block.)

- Set 1 completed block aside; this is the center block. The remaining 2 blocks will be appliqued.

applique instructions:

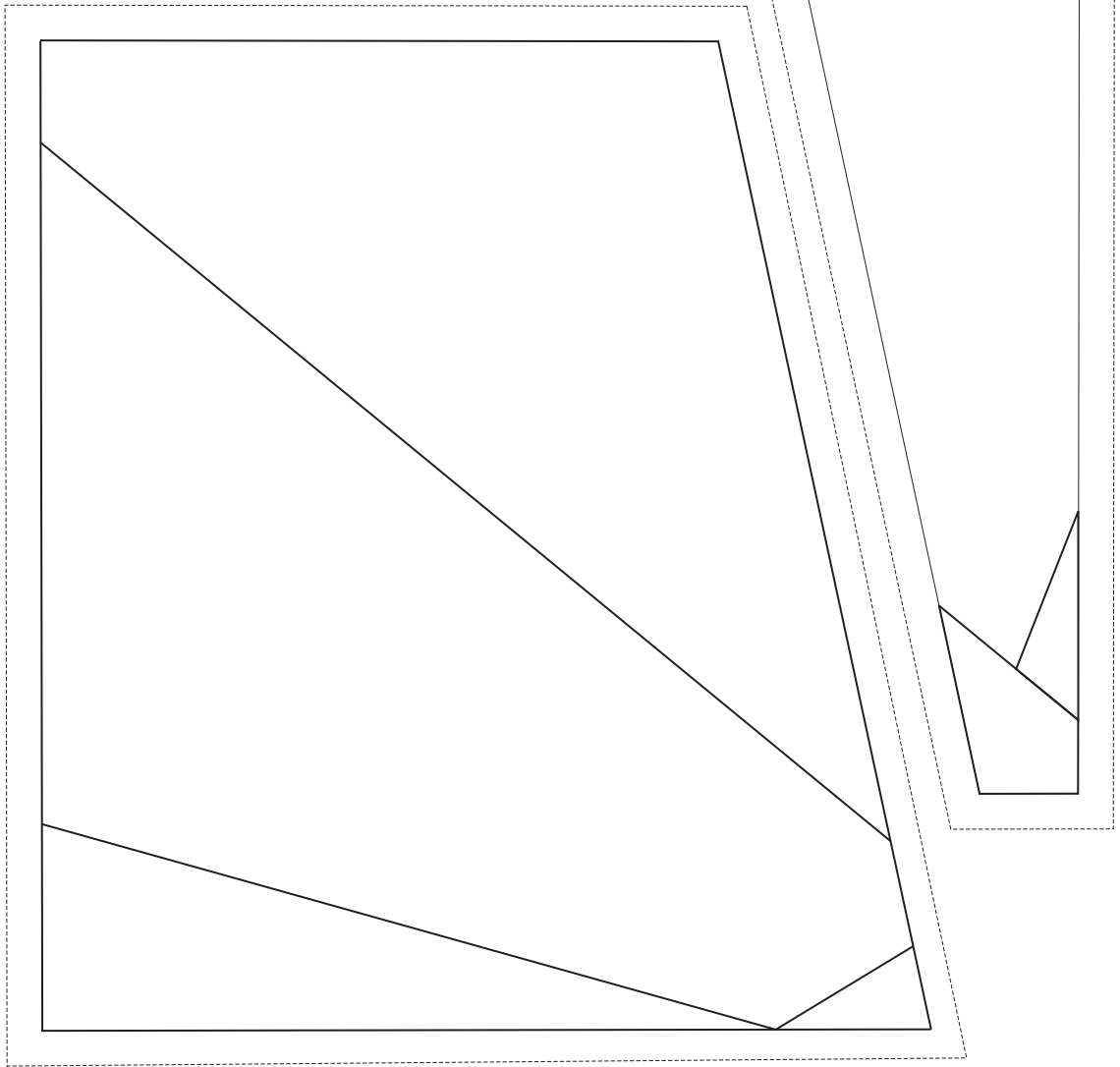
If using pressing sheets, lay one on ironing board, layer fabric and fusible web then lay second pressing sheet on top. Iron layers together. The sheets keep the iron and ironing board free of the fusible web.

- Remove paper from back of 2 remaining blocks.
- Apply fusible web to wrong side of olive, olive center and pimiento fabrics. Follow manufacturer's instructions for ironing fusible.
- Trace (12) pimiento shapes, (12) olive center shapes and (24) olive shapes onto paper side of the freezer paper. Cut out on the lines and iron to the right side of the pimiento fabric, olive center fabric and olive fabric. Cut out shapes and arrange on two blocks as shown in diagram.
- Place the pressing sheet over the "olive wreath" design and iron per manufacturer's instructions. Stitch around each shape to secure it down. Straight stitch, small zigzag and buttonhole stitches are all nice elements.
- Repeat for second block.

putting it together:

- Arrange 3 blocks per diagram and sew together to finish top. Remove all remaining paper.
- Layer top with batting and backing and baste quilt. Note: Robin echo-quilted around applique, and used straight-line "rays" in center block.
- Bind runner as you would a quilt and enjoy! ✨

Left Unit



Life is a journey, and no one knows that more than Robin Koehler. When she isn't relocating with her Coast Guard husband, she is designing, writing, teaching, or devising new ways to combine applique and paper-piecing so quilters will love it as much as she does. See more of her work at www.nestlings-byrobin.com

Right Unit

