

Impracticality

A free tutorial by Angela Walters

Before I begin, I want to point out that I named the quilt Impracticality because it was an impractical use of my time and fabric, it took way too long to make and it wasted too much fabric. But since I was just making it for myself, I wasn't too worried about either one. I am sure that there are easier ways to make this, ones that might not waste so much fabric. But, for good or for bad, this is how I made it.



Materials:

Since this quilt is improvisationally pieced, this tutorial will only show you the basic construction of the quilt. The amount of fabric used and finished size completely depends on you!!! You will need:

Iron, Best Press (or some kind of starch), Ruler, Rotary cutter and a bunch of strips of different color fabrics. Around 2"-4" wide depending how large you make the rings. (This is a great way to use up scraps!)

Assembling the Top:

1. Make the center piece.

This can be whatever size you like and have as many sides as you want. For this example I am going to use a hexagon, which I made by randomly cutting the corners off of a square.

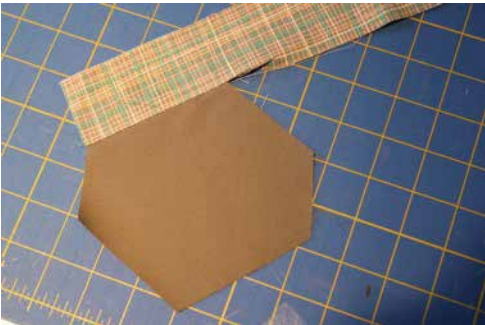


2. Sew the first ring.

Start by sewing one strip of fabric to the a side of the hexagon.



Press open away from the hexagon. Trim so that the next edge is straight.



Repeat the steps on the next side of the hexagon.

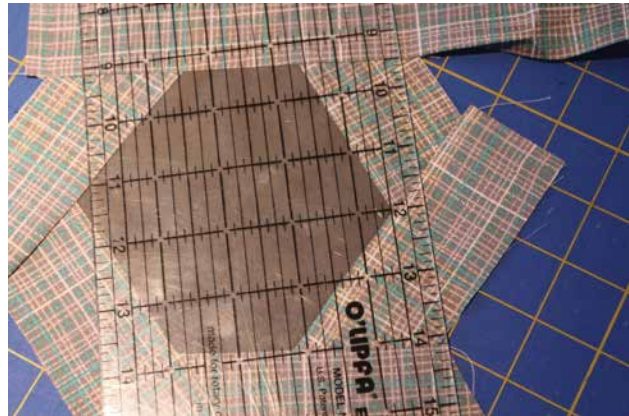


Continue sewing, pressing, and trimming until all the sides have been sewn. (This is why I named the quilt Impracticality!!!)



3. Once the first ring is finished, trim the sides.

Using your ruler, pick a point of the hexagon to start. Line up the ruler so that you have a 1/2" seam allowance.

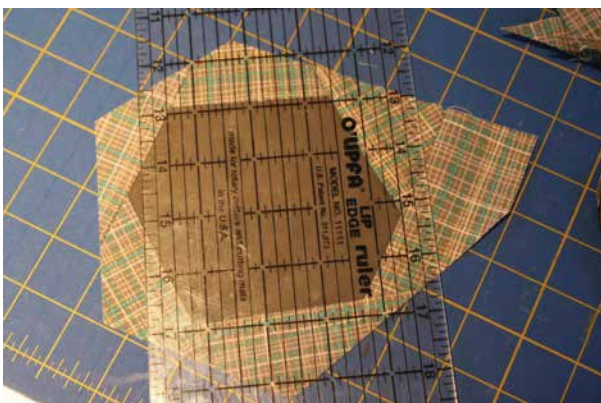


You don't have to use 1/2". For my quilt, I lined up on the 1/4". This took a lot longer but made the pieces look as though they were touching. You could also use a larger measurement, which would make the rings larger.

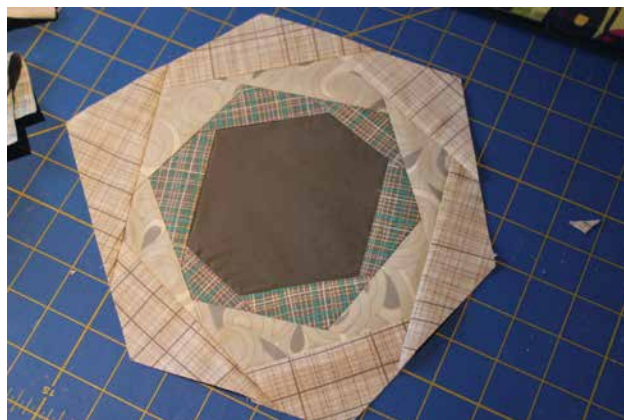
Use the rotary cutter to cut a straight line.



Continue working your way around, lining each point on the 1/2" line (or whatever measurement you had decided to use). Don't worry about the angle of the ruler in relation to the block, that just adds to the wonkiness of the block.

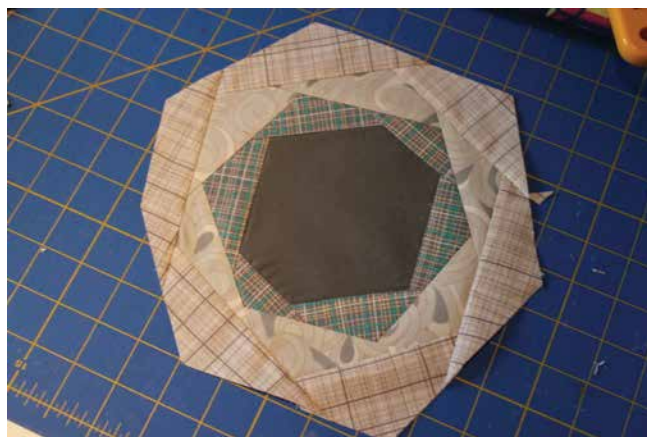


4. Repeat the steps above to sew the next ring to the block.
Continue working your way around the block adding rings until
The quilt is the size that you like.



Notes:

1. One thing you will notice is that the more rings you add, the larger the "triangle" pieces will get. When making my quilt, I wanted to keep all the pieces fairly the same size. So as the triangles got bigger, I would randomly cut the tip off of one, creating an extra side to that ring.



I would do this about every few rings or so, just depending on how it was looking.

2. To create the "broken" look to the edges of the quilt I made. I started mixing in strips of the background fabric with the prints. The quilting makes it hard to see in this picture, but if you look closely you can see the seams.



As I worked my way to the outside of the quilt, I made the sections bigger and bigger. Ultimately trimming it so the sides were straight.

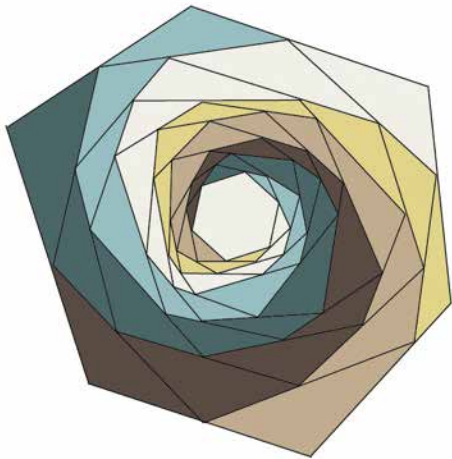
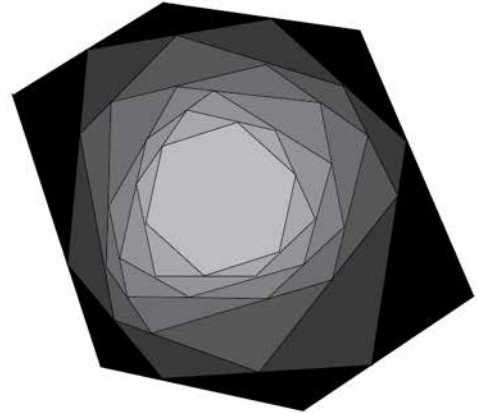


3. Make sure that you are pressing carefully and using best press to make sure that the quilt top isn't getting stretched out. When I was done with the quilt top, it was incredibly warped. Thankfully, the quilting helped flatten it out.

Other Color Options:

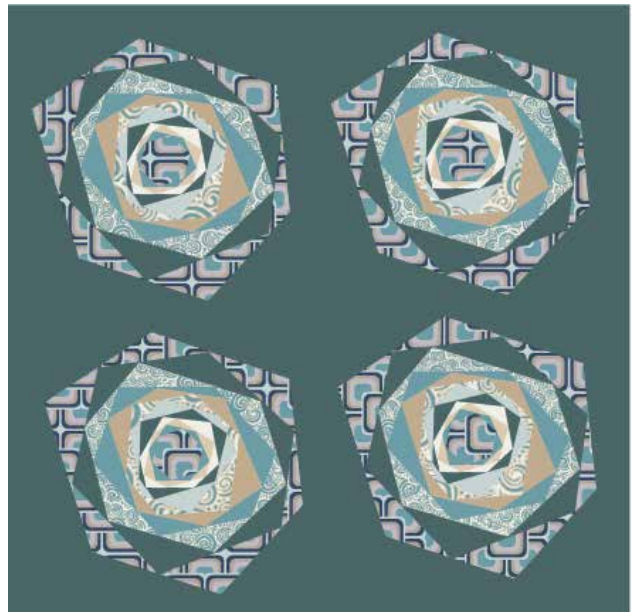
As I pieced the original quilt, I pieced each ring in the same color, randomly switching up the colors of the rings as I went. But there are so many other ways to piece this.

You could use graduating colors to create a tunnel look:



You could use a different color on each edge of the block, creating a spiral design. I think this will be the next kind I try to make.

Or, instead of making a large one, you could make a bunch of smaller ones and put them together on the quilt.



About this tutorial:

You are free to use this tutorial in any way that you wish; pass it along to a friend, make a quilt to sell it, post it on your blog (with a link to my website, please)

The only thing that I ask is that you do not sell this tutorial or copy it word for word!

To see more pictures of the quilt or to learn more about me, check out my blog:

<http://Quiltingismytherapy.com/>