

Want to add a little dimension to your next project or outfit? One little piece of fabric, a needle and thread, a cute button, and maybe a clasp or pin is all you need to take you to the next dimension of sewing with "hexies"!

Course Instructor: Deonn @ Quiltscapes

At the recent International Spring Quilt Market in Portland, it was apparent that hexagons are the shape of the day! I saw hexagonal quilts, flooring, fabrics, rulers, tools, techniques and magazines with issues dedicated to this wonderful, versatile shape! And at the Riley Blake Designs booth, I shared some fun Make & Take projects that I've recently come across that I call "Hexagami". Basically, it's origami, which is the Japanese art of folding to create decorative shapes and figures. Only, we'll play with fabric.

Course Supplies:

Fabric (Riley Blake Design Basics - shades, solids, tone-on-tone dots)

Needle and matching thread Buttons (<u>Alpine</u> - Geo Happy) Clasp or pin (optional)

Course Instructions:

We'll begin with a 10" square, starched and pressed. <u>Lori Holt's Half-Hexie Rulers</u>, designed to use with 5" and 10" pre-cut fabrics are just perfect to cut out the hexagons.



A solid fabric or tone-on-tone print works best for this technique.

Prepare your hexagon piece.

* FOLD the square in half.



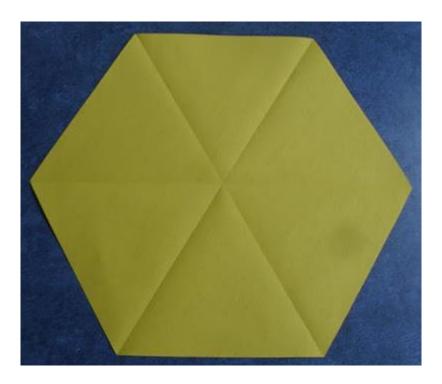
* ALIGN the dotted line on the ruler (seam allowance indicator) along the foldline.



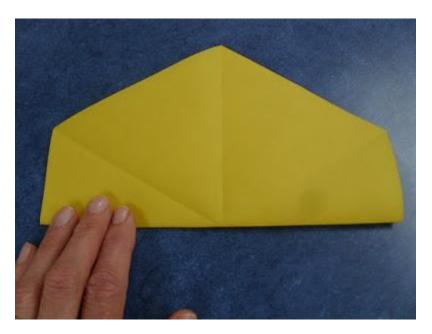
* CUT. If you're right handed, the foldline is on the left, then cut the outer edges. A rotary mat is also helpful.



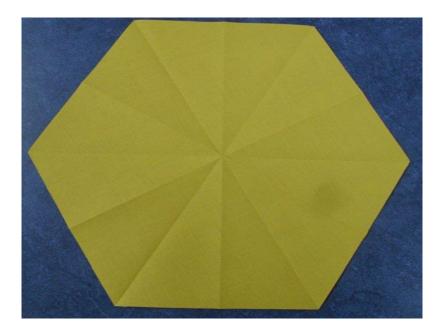
^{*} FOLD wrong sides together from point to point; finger press. Do this so each point is folded and forms a grid in the center.



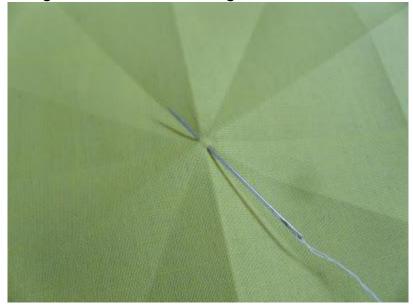
* Next, turn the hexagon over, wrong side down and FOLD in half so that the points align in the middle, and you're making a crease halfway between the points. Finger press each fold. Starch really helps.



Flip the hexagon over so that the creases from point to point are facing down and the creases from side to side are right side up. Hard to tell in this picture, but trust me...

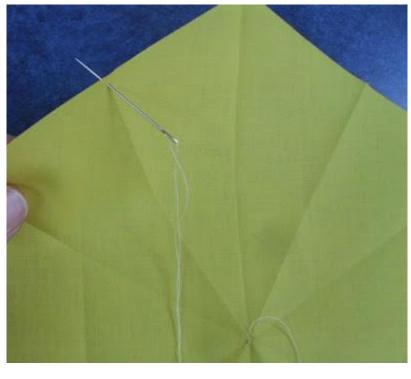


* Thread a needle with a single strand of thread; knot one end.
* Take a stitch through the center of the hexagon.



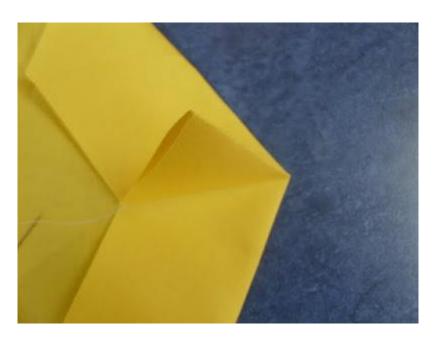
Now you're ready to begin.

Step 1) Find a foldline halfway between two points and take a STITCH, about 1/8" from the raw edge. Bring it to the center and ANCHOR with a whip stitch or two.





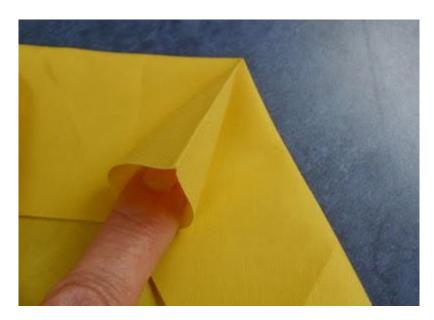
Step 2) SKIP the point, and grab the adjacent foldline at the edge, again bringing that edge to the center. Anchor with another whip-stitch to secure. Set the needle aside.



Step 3) PINCH the triangle you've just created, which should already be folded to the point. Fold to the left; finger press. FOLD to the right; finger press. Edges of the triangle should align perfectly with the outer edges of your hexagon shape.



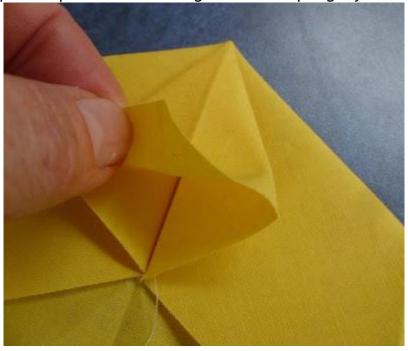
Step 4) FOLD the point of the triangle to the center of the hexagon, forming a little TREE-shape. Finger press. I like to "fingernail" press the end at the corner, to get a nice, crisp point of the diamond shape.

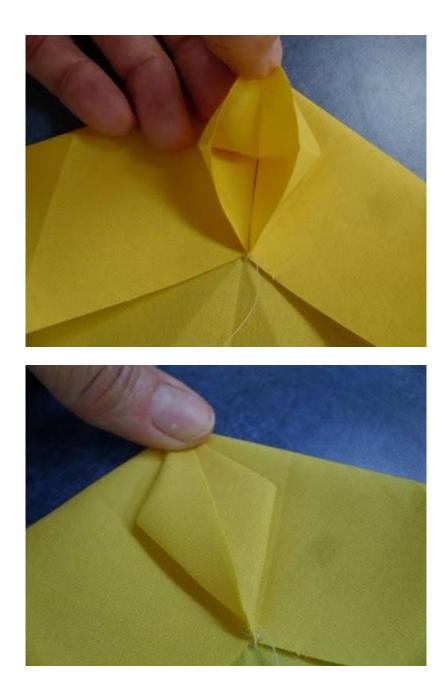




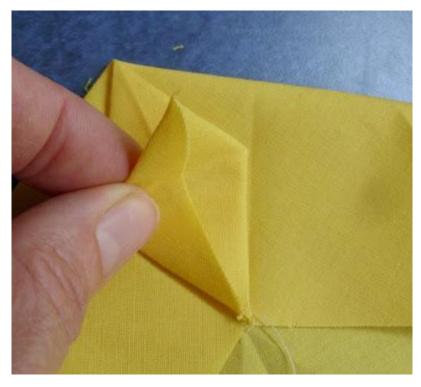


Step 5) PINCH the raw edge and bring it to the outside corner. You'll see the edges start to curl in. Pull that point all the way to the top, forming a diamond shape. Finger-press in place. The raw edges will overlap slightly.





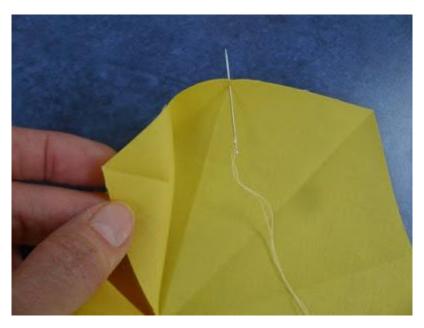
Step 6) Without losing it's shape, FOLD the tip back down to the center, then take a STITCH or two to secure.





Yeah! One down. You'll be an expert at this by the time you finish the next five segments!

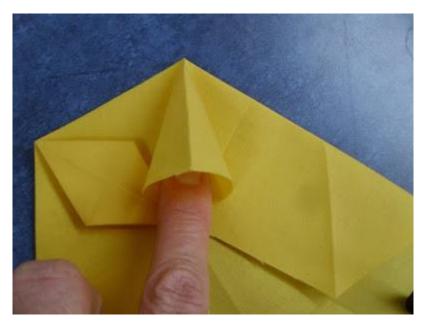
Repeat steps 1-6, stitching, folding, finger-pressing the remaining segments, forming a dimensional star in the center of the hexagon.



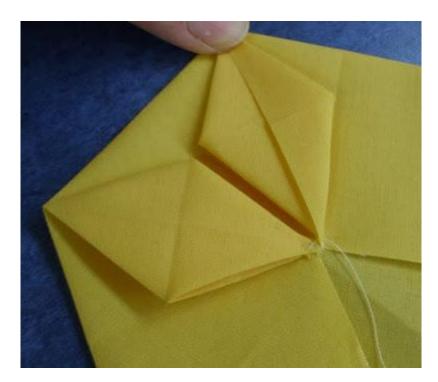




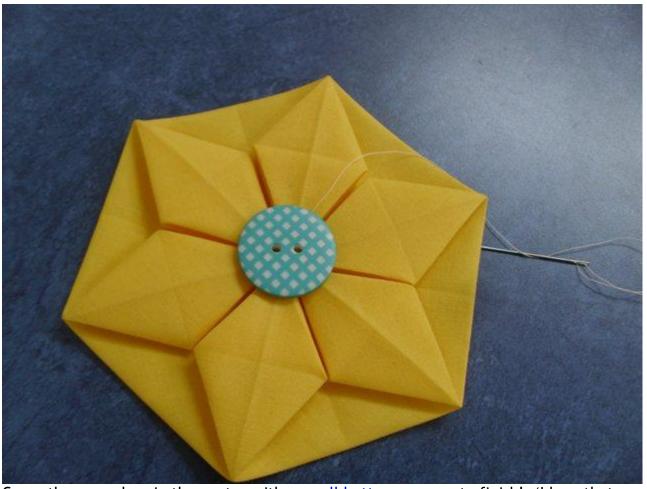












Cover the raw edges in the center with a <u>small button</u> or yo-yo to finish! (I love that "Fudge Factor"!)