



Since I am not done with the actual quilt yet, these will be partial directions. I will show you how to make the half-hexagon stars (Catherine Wheels, as I guess they are called in Britain), and tell you my future strategy for putting them together.

To the left is the picture of the quilt from which I took the pattern. It was on the cover of an old quilting magazine, but the pattern wasn't inside.

After thinking about the size of the hexagons vs the size of the whole quilt, I decided to make them 6" finished.

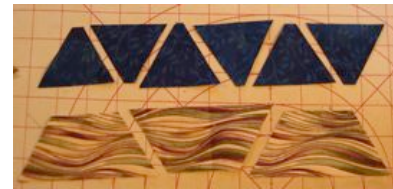
This made the pieced triangles 3" finished.

The two pieces which make up the pieced triangle (I refer to them as "background triangle (BT)" and the "half-hexagon (half-hex)") are both the same height in the quilt in the photo, this meant they were 1.5" finished.

I experimented with different ratios: making the half-hex wider and the BT narrower, then vice versa, but the half-and-half ratio really seemed to look the best.

So I cut strips 2" high the width of the fabric. I found I could get enough BT for 4 1/2 hexstars per strip. I could also get enough half-hexes for 2 hexstars per strip, however, since I prefer scrappy quilts, I simply cut a 2" strip from the long side of a FQ.

I used a 60 degree triangle, marking the longest length on the triangle itself and flipping it back and forth to get the half-hexes. The BT triangles were cut similarly. However, since you requested templates, I have included full-size drawing with this document. You can either print them out on stiff paper, or print them out on full size label paper and adhere that to whatever template material you want to use.



After amassing a stack of BT and half-hexes (in groups of 6 since you need six of each for a star), I made a little assembly line.

First I sewed the BT to the half-hexes, which make up the pieced triangles. (As a hint, there will be one "blunt" end of the BT if you use the templates, use this blunt end to place against one side of the smaller end of the half-hexes to help in the placement of the BT at the top.)

I sew enough of these pieced triangles to form 2 hexagonal stars for my "mini-production line."

Next, I sewed two pieced triangles together. Be sure that a pieced side is against the non-pieced side of the (bottom) half-hex. BE CONSISTENT. This step will determine the "spin" of resulting the hexagonal star (and you want them all to "spinning" the same way!) Sew only two pairs of the 6 pieced triangles (leave 2 for the next step.) Press towards the half-hex (non-pieced side).

Sew one of the pairs to one of the remaining pieced triangles, and then press towards the half-hex (non-pieced side).



I stopped here because my strategy is to sew the big, pieced half-hexes in a row, and then sew their "mates" in the next row, and so on. That way, I won't have to sew any inset seams.

The "original" quilt was 11 hexagons across by 9 hexagons down. The top and bottom were flat, and the hexagon's "kicked out" on the sides (sort of like the arc you would see on a double wedding ring quilt.)

I plan to cut triangles of background fabric for each row to even the sides out and put a border on it, but since I haven't done that yet, I haven't included a pattern piece for it.

I hope these directions are clear enough. I kind of wrote them "off the cuff." If you need any clarification, please let me know.

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