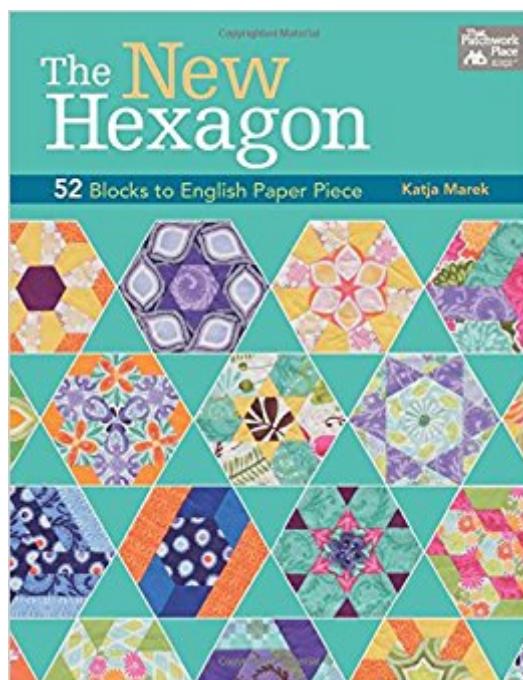


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The New Hexagon: 52 Blocks To English Paper Piece



Synopsis

Learn the glue-basting method of English Paper Piecing! Choose from 52 patterns for 6" blocks, plus seven fun projects: a mug rug, candle mat, table topper, table runner, bed-sized quilt, and more.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 205 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Katja Marek was born in Moers, Germany. At the age of eight, she immigrated with her family to Canada. Her mother was a tailor by trade and took in alterations as a way to stay home with her children. Katja grew up under her mother's sewing machine, and spent many childhood hours crafting, sewing, crocheting, and cross-stitching. Unlike most teenage girls, Katja spent her money not on makeup and music, but on fabric. When she was 14, the family moved to a camp/resort, where many of the cabin beds featured handmade quilts. Katja fell in love with an old version of a Grandmother's Fan design. Without any knowledge of quilting, but with a vast knowledge of sewing, she proceeded to make templates and cut pieces from old clothing--and thus her quilting journey began. Winning the award for art achievement in high school convinced her that she wanted to pursue a career with a creative outlet. In 1999, with years of banking behind her and her children in their teens, the time had come for Katja to realize that dream. She fulfilled her vision by opening her own quilt shop in Kamloops, British Columbia. The shop was featured in the Fall 2008 issue of Quilt Sampler magazine.

I bought the paper edition of this book and immediately joined the Facebook group to be able to interact with others using the book. It turned out that the hexagon patterns in the book were not those being used in the Facebook group. The author mixed them up, using part of one hexagon, part of another hexagon, etc., to make a larger one, and recommended purchasing the paper templates from a company she is closely associated with (!). I ended up trying and not liking the Millefiori pattern she was presenting. Then she had a new Facebook group, Blocks on the Go, which was going to use the hexagons in her book. However, she changed the size, enlarging them, so, again, one could not just use the hexagons as presented in her book, but this time there was an acrylic ruler available, again from the company she is closely associated with, that one could use, and also paper pieces available from this same company for each hexagon, or, of course, draft one's own card stock templates. One of the FB members calculated that she would spend \$300 total throughout the year, were she to purchase the paper templates for this project. The author on the Facebook site has also refused to let anyone post any other places where English Paper Piecing templates are available for purchase, saying that the company she promotes is the only one allowed to be mentioned on the site. So here we have an author who has parlayed this book into quite a lucrative business for enthusiastic quilters wanting to make her pretty patterns, and I, for one, feel manipulated. If one just sticks to making the patterns as presented in the book, this could be an inexpensive project.

I have to admit that on first glance I was not sure what I thought of this book, but since that time I have become entranced! "The New Hexagon" is a well illustrated, well designed book. At first, when I looked at the hexagons, I sort of 'ho-hummed' , but when these humble blocks are considered in light of the wealth of glorious fabrics that we can use, the possibilities come alive and the 'ho-hum' factor evaporates! The image that I have attached is of one of the plainer hexagons (#9-Doris). The fabric does the work to make even plain blocks look spectacular!The author hosts a FaceBook Group "The New Hexagon- Millifiori Quilt Along". The hexagons in the book have been combined to create astounding 'rosettes' which really made the possibilities open up. The rosettes are composed of various hexagons from the book which are used to create large pairings and beautiful results. The 'rosettes' are paper pieces and the paper pieces are available through Paper Pieces.This book offers a lot of inspiration with endless possibilities! Yes, I am hooked on "The New Hexagon"!

I really enjoy hand piecing and hexagons and this book has several ideas as well and with your

imagination you can probably think of many other projects or stand-alone blocks for mug rugs or other uses. The suggestion is to copy the block patterns in the book to cover stock, which was my thought, the only problem being that I will have to decide whether to break the spine in the book to copy flat on a copy machine, or cut the book apart to make it easier. Another option would be to trace onto thinner paper but to me that would mean less accuracy and not the foundation strength of the cover stock. I plan on making two copies of each block pattern on regular paper and then copying two per page on card stock to then cut apart as needed for the templates. This is the cheaper option vs buying the templates from the author's affiliated business. These are both stated options on page 6. I had to buy this book as it has the patterns needed for a project on the authors website. I might have bought it as a stand alone project anyways.

The New Hexagon by Katja Marek will take you on a fabulous English Paper Piecing journey. The 52 hexagon blocks are presented full size and you will make templates to make up those blocks. This is not a pattern book, but don't let that stop you from buying it. Every block is 3" and will fit together with every other block in the book so you can make a quilt of your own design. Or, you can follow along with Katja and her New Hexagon quilt along OR you can quilt along with Lisa Lucy and Kim McLean from Kaffe Fasset fame and their Glorious Hexagon project. Challenge yourself to fussy cut the pieces and create gorgeous designs.

I bought this book and a stack of fat quarters of fabric before a spring break road trip with my family. What a great, fun, craft to do in the car. I was able to finish 10 Hexagon designs during our week away and they look great. This is a wonderful method to do English Paper Piecing and so fun to be able to play with the various designs that the author put in the book. I would look for more books by this author and have recommended this book to 5 of my sewing friends already. Seeing what I had completed has convinced some non-quilters to take up the hobby!!

I got the Kindle copy of this book so that I could join the La Passacaglia quilt-a-long that Katja is hosting on Facebook. This book is a wonderful collection of different hexagon designs. It is made for English Paper Piecing, but I am using the designs to sew by machine. I find it much faster that way. Some people also hand piece. I thought I would need to buy acrylic templates to make the cutting easier, but since this book uses so many different shapes, it is much easier to glue the pattern on cardboard and use them for templates. The Kindle version comes with a link that has pdf templates for all of the blocks. So basically, this book is all that is needed to make this quilt, besides the fabric,

thread and needle of course. A mirror helps to decide which fabric to buy and which part of the fabric to use. The book also has some quilts you can make with these hexagons.

LOTS OF DESIGNS IN THIS NEW BOOK IT IS WELL WRITTEN WITH PICTURES TO SHOW YOU HOW TO EPP. I GOT THE E VERSION SO I CAN HAVE IT ON MY PHONE SO WHEN I TRAVEL I CAN WORK ON MY PROJECTS WITH OUT A BOOK.

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