

## Ruth McDowell Method of Piecing

Choose your picture 4 x 6 or 8 x 10

Lay tracing paper over your photo and draw sewing lines. Start with section lines and break up each section into sewable pieces. Don't use upper case Y. Lower case y is ok, it will sew together.

Label sections and each piece in that section (a-1, a-2, a-3, b-1, b-2 etc)

Enlarge entire drawing to your full size pattern.

Color in your original traced drawing for each piece for a guide in choosing your fabrics.

Make "recipe" for sewing pieces together (a-1 to a-2, a-1 and a-2 to a-3 etc) for whole piece.

Lay a piece of freezer paper SHINY SIDE UP on top of pattern.

Use fine sharpie and trace all lines. Put sharpie away!!! Do not put any other marks on shiny side of freezer paper, it will bleed through.

Turn freezer paper over to dull side up. Use a pencil and label each section and piece (it will be the reverse of the original full size pattern). If you want you can put full size pattern backwards up in a window and put the freezer paper on top of this to label.

Add tic marks on dull side with colored pencils. Make them 1-2 "apart. Mark with different colors to each side of piece. Make circles where pieces go together.

*long lines - 1 color - each side of piece - different color pencil*

Mark section lines with a highlighter and along outside edge about an inch from edge.

Pin pattern to design wall. Pin freezer paper on top of that.

Cut apart only one section at a time. Cut those pieces and iron them to wrong side of chosen fabric. Add ¼ "seam and cut around each piece.

Pin the piece back in place on full size pattern. Audition as you go and change the fabric if it does not look right.

Check recipe before sewing. Match tic marks on each piece right sides together, pin and sew. Can keep freezer paper on when sewing straight seams, must remove it from curved pieces. Extend the tic marks on to the wrong side of fabric and trace around piece on fabric before removing freezer paper.

Iron seam allowance towards area you want to stand out more.

When all section pieces are sewn together, sew together the large sections.