

Mabel's Garden English Paper Piecing and Embroidery Pattern

by

Emma Jones Vintage Sewing Box



Thank you for downloading this pattern! I hope you love making it just as much as I did. If you need any help please contact me on Instagram, I am @vintagesewingbox there, or you can get in touch via the contact form on the homepage of my website www.vintagesewingbox.co.uk.

Mabel's Garden is a mini quilt measuring approximately 10 and a quarter inches by 10 and a half inches and is made using half inch hexagons. It's a modern take on the traditional quilting pattern "Grandmothers Flower Garden" and features pretty embroidered details. I made this quilt as a tribute to my late Grandmother who had a big influence on me and my sewing. I entered it into the Lancashire Open Art Exhibition 2019 and it was displayed throughout the summer in the Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk. The response I've received towards this piece both on and offline has completely astounded me and after numerous requests, I've created this sewing pattern to help others make their own versions. If you do make a version, I would absolutely love to see it. If you share it on Instagram then please tag me, I'm @vintagesewingbox and please use the hashtag #mabelsgardenepp. When I created this piece, it happened very organically. I basically had no plan and I just made it up as I went along! But my aim with this pattern is to try to put the steps for making it into some sort of logical order. However, feel free to make it in your own way and to add details that will personalise it and make it special to you.

You will need:

- 103 1/2 inch hexagon paper templates
- Fabric scraps in a variety of colours and patterns for the hexagon flowers and plain blue for the 'paths' between the flowers
- A piece of felt 11 inches square
- A piece of wadding/batting 11 inches square
- Embroidery thread in pink, blue, yellow and green
- Embroidery needle
- Needle for English Paper Piecing
- Sewline glue pen or equivalent
- Scissors

Note - There are two different sets of instructions for this pattern. The following instructions are for using paper templates. I made the original piece using Hexiform shapes made by www.ashmeaddesigns.co.uk. If you would like to use hexiform, please download the other set of instructions from my website.

Instructions

1. Make 7 hexagon flowers from your patterned fabrics. I didn't think much about colour and pattern placements when I made mine but you could try to evenly distribute colours so you don't have all yellows in one flower for example. Each hexagon flower uses 7 hexagons, so 49 in total.



2. Once you have made 7 flowers, it is time to start to join them together with the light blue 'paths' which run between them. Start with your central flower and add a blue hexagons all of the way round it.



3. Next, add the remaining 6 hexagon flowers so they are positioned as they are in the photograph below.



4. At this stage I started the embroidery because I was using Hexiform shapes that can be stitched straight into. So please ignore the photograph of the embroidery until the end!

5. Next create another path of blue hexagons all of the way round the remaining hexagon flowers.



6. Press your hexagons and remove the papers, taking care to leave the outer edge of the seam allowance turned under. Some spray starch will help it to retain its shape. Pin onto your wadding, ready to add your embroidery.

7. To embroider this central path, make lazy daisy flowers in pink and blue thread according to the photograph and add yellow french knots to the centre. Next use green thread to add stem stitch between the flowers and use little straight stitches between the flowers to create leaves.



Top Tip - For help in creating embroidery stitches, search on Instagram under the hashtag #mabelsgardenepp to watch videos of me doing these stitches or look at the video tutorials for embroidery stitches on my website.

8. Once you've finished the embroidery, trim the wadding to match the shape and size of the quilt. Now you can add felt to the back of the piece to give it a nice, stable finish and to cover the back. To do this, I placed the piece, wrong side down, onto the felt. I pinned it in place and using sharp scissors, I followed the zigzag edge of the hexagons as I cut the felt to match. The result was a piece of felt that was perfectly the same size and shape as the hexagon piece.
9. Using an appliqué stitch, attach the felt taking care not to let your stitches show on the front of the piece. Remove your pins and your piece is complete and ready to be displayed in your chosen way. I got mine framed and I love the effect it has. It is now proudly displayed on the wall in my house.

