

Jenny: Hi, I'm Jenny from the MSQC and I'm here today with Lynne Hagmeier of Kansas Troubles. Welcome to you.

Lynne: Thank you!

Jenny: Oh wonderful. We have so much fun together and really enjoy each other. A while ago, the fabric company started coming out with this hexagon.

Lynne: Six inch hexes.

Jenny: Yes. And I'm telling you, I looked at that and I thought, "what on earth?" But for the projects you do, it's perfect.

Lynne: It took me a while to warm up to it, but they sent me some and Moda said, "figure something out." So, I thought, "why not do what I do," which is the layered patch work.

Jenny: That's perfect.

Lynne: If you just ignore the fact that it's an odd size, odd-shaped precut, and treat it like you would any other layer cake, jelly roll, or whatever to layer, it works out perfectly and you get a really good look.

Jenny: It really does. And I, myself, would have a hard time cutting this out, but you've come up with this amazing ruler.

Lynne: I did. Some of the projects that we have done, you have to center this in the middle of a layer cake. Centering a six inch, six-sided object in a four square.

Jenny: A little hard to eyeball.

Lynne: It is hard to eyeball. Too much measuring for me. You and I both don't like technical, hard things.

Jenny: No, we don't!

Lynne: So our new honeycomb ruler will not only center, but cut your honeycomb in halves or fourths in either direction.

Jenny: I love it! Because, for me, a template is like... the world doesn't need another template. You know, there's so many.

Lynne: Well, and you need four to equal this.

Jenny: But when, yes and you really tried to find other ones and you couldn't. So now we have this awesome template that lines up. If you want to cut them in half, you just line up your hexagon with the lines that are on here--makes a half, makes a quarter. It really makes it a usable precut.

Lynne: It does.

Jenny: So you've done quite a few projects with this.

Lynne: I have. I've embraced it and really had a lot of fun with it.

Jenny: Embrace the honeycomb!

Lynne: Now, they do not have a pinked edge, but Moda has laser cut these, so the edges are actually sealed, so you still aren't going to get the raveling.

Jenny: Oh, that's very cool. I didn't know that.

Lynne: Because every side of a six-sided object is not going to be on the bias. There's no way.

Jenny: So let's talk about this quilt behind us, which is made with the... using the ruler and the honeycomb where you've just cut them in half.

Lynne: It looks like it has some really interesting pieced angles. But there is no piecing to this, except the strips.

Jenny: It's just darling! So what do you need to make this quilt?

Lynne: You need 2 honeycomb precuts that are the 6 inch hexagons. Moda calls them honeycombs.

Jenny: Honeycombs, that's cute.

Lynne: And then 2 fabrics: one for the tan strips and one for the red strips.

Jenny: Ok, so let's get right to this. How do we put this quilt together?

Lynne: We're going to cut our honeycombs in half. And the pattern shows that we want our pointy sides on the strips. So we're going to find that angle on the ruler, line it up, and cut that flat side in half so you have two perfect halves of your honeycomb.

Jenny: Oh, awesome.

Lynne: I like to do three at a time. It's very simple. That's about how many layers I like to cut at once.

Jenny: Three is good.

Lynne: Then we have a 7 inch wide strip. And that...

Jenny: That's right here.

Lynne: Was kind of a random size that I chose because I like that much left in the middle.

Jenny: And it looks really cool, this zig zag in here. It looks like you really have done some major piecing.

Lynne: And I love the diagonal print with it. I've done it in two different quilts and have chosen a diagonal because then it really gives it a lot more movement and interest.

Jenny: That's true.

Lynne: And makes it look more difficult. And any time we can do something really, really simple that looks more difficult, I'm all over that.

Jenny: Oh, that's me too! So I see when you've started this right here, you have, you have this pinned on where this one comes right to the edge and you just pin one right after the other, after the other.

Lynne: Correct.

Jenny: And then this one is halved.

Lynne: It is. And I started so that the point is a quarter of an inch from the end so that you actually, after you've taken your seam, you have half of a hexagon.

Jenny: Ok, that's important to know. So you can see this piece right here comes in where your quarter inch seam would be.

Lynne: Right, and you would just lay a ruler there for...with your quarter inch and position your point so it's on the quarter inch and pin it. That gives you the point here right across from your seam, what would be your seam, or split between the other two so you get that perfect zig zag down the whole row.

Jenny: Now do you, when you do a row, do you, like, pin them all on?

Lynne: I do.

Jenny: Ok.

Lynne: I do because then I will start...we never topstitch in the seam allowance when we're doing layered patch work. It's not only redundant, but you have a greater chance of skewing everything, so then, when you go over it, then, the seam allowance, you're pushing on that fabric again.

Jenny: Right.

Lynne: So we're going to start here and stitch an eighth of an inch and go down and across and back up. And you're just stitching all the way down on one side and back up the other. And you have your entire strip.

Jenny: Now you know, I don't love pins. I'm a little bit allergic to pins. So is, can we, can we use something else on this?

Lynne: I really love label glue. A lot of glues.

Jenny: I use that a lot. I have one here I think. Right here.

Lynne: It's one of the few glues I have found that doesn't make your needle sticky.

Jenny: It doesn't gum up your needle.

Lynne: Exactly, I love it. So we agree on that.

Jenny: Yeah.

Lynne: Sure.

Jenny: So let's take some of these pins out.

Lynne: OK.

Jenny: And let me, see that's why I can't get a hold of them even. So I'm going to take my...a turn at laying these out so I can see how easy. Now, do you usually do your fabric or your...the piece you're using?

Lynne: I do it just like you're doing. A little on both.

Jenny: Ok, and so then we're going to lay this and I'm going to line up this edge right here.

Lynne: Right on the corner, and put the other one right next to it. Now I...

Jenny: How easy is this?

Lynne: I have given the measurement for the entire length of the quilt.

Jenny: Ok.

Lynne: I usually mark my center point and the ends and put one of the hexes in the middle and one on each end and then just kind of scooch them together, scooch them apart, however you need to fill in between.

Jenny: Right. I love this idea. It would make a darling little baby quilt.

Lynne: The beauty of only needing two precuts and two fabrics is that you're never going to have leftovers in your stash. If it's a bright or a more masculine quilt, if it's something that I wouldn't normally want a whole lot of leftovers of, using precuts and just a couple of extra fabrics, you have no leftovers in your stash.

Jenny: That's right, I love that. Ok, so I'm here at this sewing machine and I'm going to sew. We're going to sew an eighth of an inch, right? An eighth of an inch?

Lynne: Yes.

Jenny: Along the edge.

Lynne: You don't have to sew along the edge, in the seam. You can on the end.

Jenny: Oh, ok I did that, oops!

Lynne: You don't need to on, in the seam allowance.

Jenny: Good to know. And I'm, I'm just going to go across the top here and mine is probably in a little further than an eighth. Is that alright?

Lynne: It is. An eighth is the minimum. Any more than an eighth, you're just going to get a little more curl when you wash the quilt. It will fray and curl and get soft, but it isn't going to unravel because of the laser cut edges. If you go narrower than an eighth, you have the possibility of possibly sewing off the edge.

Jenny: Yeah.

Lynne: And then it can curl up more...

Jenny: Right.

Lynne: ...when you wash it. And, of course, we would never sew crooked, so that wouldn't be a problem.

Jenny: Never! So right here, I'm at the very end of my little piece, and what I'm going to do is, I'm just going to lift this up and I'm going to turn the whole thing around and just go back up the other side. You don't even have to, you don't even have to cut your thread or anything.

Lynne: Right, you should be able to sew continuously. You can even stitch a couple of threads across in the seam allowance and then go back up instead of running clear off your strip.

Jenny: Well, that's true because your seam, when you take your quarter inch seam, that will hide it. This is so awesome. I just love the way you think. You do like I do where it's like, we want it to look amazing without working too hard.

Lynne: Exactly. The hexagon, actually it is a fairly fancy looking precut and once, once I got over it being six-sided and, what do you do with it? It has been a lot of fun to work with because there are so many ways that you can use it.

Jenny: Alright, so now I have this all sewn down and what's cool about this is that you don't even have to iron this.

Lynne: No.

Jenny: I mean, it's just like flat on there. It looks great.

Lynne: Once I stitch both sides, I do press it just so it will be smooth and flat. But then your sashing strips are cut exactly the same length as your background strips, so you're sewing strips together.

Jenny: This is so cool.

Lynne: That's all there is to it.

Jenny: And you have one over here that's done with a blue background, and that's fun too.

Lynne: This is from a different fabric line, a different coloration and a little more masculine looking maybe. But in any, I mean, it would be adorable in novelty prints, like you said. I have a brother-in-law who loves that hexagon shape and he has moose fabric. So, I mean, it could be done in just about anything.

Jenny: Well, there you go! Just about anything. Well, I love how this turned out and you actually named it after your granddaughter, is that right?

Lynne: I did. My granddaughter Kira plays soccer and she thought the hexagons looked like soccer balls, so it was a natural.

Jenny: And they do! And that pattern is in this book, *Layers of Love* in its entirety. And it's called, "Kira's Kickin It". And we also love this hexagon ruler. What a great help! This is just genius! And we love you! So thank you for coming today and thank you for joining us. And we hope you enjoyed this tutorial from the MSQC.