

# Kelly Quilts with AccuQuilt!

Kelly Ashton, Kellyquilter Designs

## The GO! Large Hexies Die Bundle:

*Hexagon, Half-hexagon, and Equilateral Triangle + Cutting Mats*

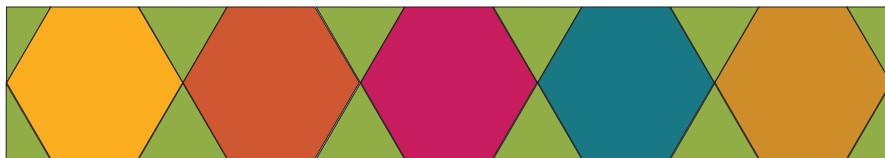
*The GO! Large Hexies Die Bundle from AccuQuilt is SO versatile! Each of the three dies can be used independently, and the dies also work beautifully together in a variety of combinations! The quilt possibilities are nearly endless!!*

In this demo and/or from this handout, you will learn:

- how to prep your fabric for optimal results working with bias patchwork edges
- how to mark the equilateral triangle die to cut half-triangles to make straight side edges on your quilts
- how to cut each die shape in the bundle
- how the pieces work independently and together
- how to make a template to mark start / stop points for shapes that require set-in seams
- how to sew set-in seams ("Y-seams")

### Used in this demo:

- AccuQuilt GO! Fabric Cutter
- GO! Large Hexies Die Bundle:
  - GO! Hexagon-4 1/2" Sides (4 1/4" Finished) (55438)
  - GO! Half Hexagon-4 1/2" Sides (4 1/4" Finished) (55437)
  - GO! Equilateral Triangle-4 1/4" Finished Sides (55429)
  - GO! Cutting Mat-10" x 10" (55111)
  - GO! Cutting Mat-5" x 10" (55110)
  - GO! Cutting Mat-6" x 6" (55137)
- Fabric: 100% quilter's cotton
- Template Plastic, ruler, ultra fine tip Sharpie pen, 1/16" hole punch, "utility" scissors
- Mechanical Pencils: "lead" and white chalk



### AccuQuilt Die & Cutter Compatibility:

Die / item #	AccuQuilt GO! Me	AccuQuilt GO!	AccuQuilt GO! Big	AccuQuilt Studio
Hexagon 4 1/4" (55438)	--	X	X	X (with adapter)
Half-hexagon 4 1/4" (55437)	X	X	X	X (with adapter)
Equilateral Triangle 4 1/4" (55429)	X	X	X	X (with adapter)

### General Tips for cutting patchwork with the AccuQuilt Die-Cutting System

- Use good quality fabric.
- Blades on some dies are positioned at an angle. Align the fabric parallel to the edge of the die shape.
- Keep scissors handy. Occasionally, a thread or two will remain where die blades meet. Snip with scissors.
- It's always a good idea to test cut one shape before cutting several to ensure fabric orientation is as desired.
- Place fabric on the die so the lengthwise grain is in the direction that the fabric moves through the AccuQuilt GO cutter.
- Up to 6 layers of cotton fabric may be cut at once.

**Fabric Preparation**

Whether or not you pre-wash your fabrics, I recommend this “fabric prep” step to help add stability to the fabrics prior to cutting. This step is not related to cutting with AccuQuilt; the AccuQuilt cutter and die will cut the fabric beautifully! This step is related to piecing. In my opinion, this step is important to help diminish the likelihood of distorting the patchwork during piecing anytime one may be working with bias edges. I believe this step is especially important if you pre-wash your fabrics, as all of the sizing in the “off the bolt” fabric will have been washed away.

**Procedure:** Generously spray your fabrics (damp; not drippy wet) with Mary Ellen’s Best Press or other fabric sizing product. Press fabrics with a dry iron on cotton setting, then hang fabric to dry completely (or put fabric in the dryer for a few minutes on cotton heat setting). Once dry, press your fabric to remove any creases. Fabric prepped!

**AccuCutting With AccuQuilt**

AccuQuilt Cutter

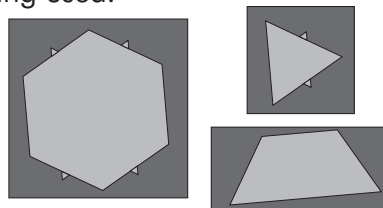


The die can move through manually-propelled AccuQuilt Die-Cutting machines in either direction (GO! Me; GO!, or Studio). If using the electric GO! Big machine, the die will be propelled through the machine in only one direction.

Die(s) & Cutting Mat(s)

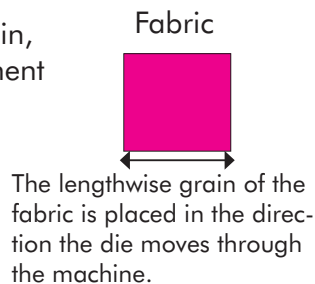
With the exception of the strip-cutting dies (because they have no cross-cutting blades), all the AccuQuilt dies are made so that the shape is on the die board at an angle so there are no big “blade bumps” for the rollers of the machine to move over. Always use the appropriate sized cutting mat for the die that is being used.

Notches and blunted corners

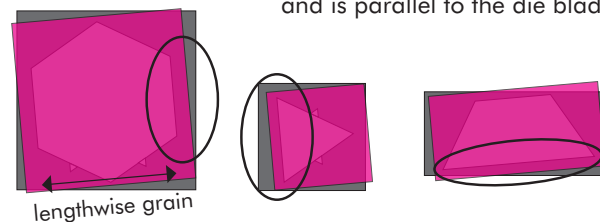


Each of the dies in the GO! Large Hexies Die Bundle has either notches, blunted corners, or both as guides for accurate patchwork alignment before stitching!

Fabric, Grain, and Placement



Fabric positioned on die:



Note how the fabric is overlapping and is parallel to the die blade.

This is the direction that the die with fabric will go through the machine.

**Rough-cut Fabric Sizes for Dies in GO! Large Hexies Die Bundle**

Hexagon - 4 1/4” finished side length: 9 1/2” square

Equilateral Triangle - 4 1/4” finished side length: 5 1/2” square

Half-hexagon - 4 1/4” finished side length: 4 3/4” crossgrain x 9 1/2” lengthwise grain

### Piecing and Pressing Plan

Each of the shapes in the GO! Large Hexie Die Bundle can be used on their own or in combination with the other shapes. SO much versatility!!!

#### Equilateral Triangles(ET)

The equilateral triangles (ETs) can easily be used together by piecing them together into rows, then sewing the rows together, as shown. The simplest way to do this is to piece the rows with identical triangle orientation which creates "stacked" triangles. There are no points to match from row to row when piecing the triangles together in this way. Simply align the point of the triangle from one row to the midpoint of its corresponding triangle in the next row.

The triangles are sewn to one another using a regular "raw-edge to raw-edge" seam, so the triangles could be chain-pieced.

Another option when placing the rows in a "stacked" manner is to use many triangles from one fabric to create a zigzag across the quilt, as shown.

Press seam allowances to one side.

ETs can also be pieced with the triangle orientation alternating from row to row. As shown at right, the first whole triangle in the first row is flat side up; the first whole triangle in row 2 is flat side down. This creates rows where points of triangles meet. This also allows the same fabric to be placed opposite one another in one row and a neighboring row to create a (pieced) diamond.

Pressing: alternate from one row to the next pressing seam allowances all to the left, then all to the right.

#### Accucutting a Half-Triangle

I placed a half-triangle at the end of each row to create straight edges on the vertical sides of my rows. Rather than piece a whole triangle on the end and then trim it off to create a straight edge, I prefer to cut "half-triangles plus seam allowance" using my GO! ET die! To do this, I first used an Ultra Fine Tip Sharpie pen (permanent ink) and a ruler to mark the foam on my die board.

1. Measure and mark the center of the top and bottom of the die shape. Notice my hash marks at the top and bottom.
2. Using a ruler and the marker, measure 1/4" away from the hash marks and mark a dashed line as shown.
3. Mark an "x" on the side that represents "more than half" of the triangle. This is the side of the die that fabric will be placed upon to cut the "half-triangle plus seam allowance".
4. Rough cut rectangles, 3 1/2" crossgrain x 5 1/2" lengthwise grain. You will need two mirror-imaged half-triangles to complete each row. **To get mirror-imaged half-triangles, place two rectangles of fabric RST to cut. Up to 3 pairs of rectangles can be cut at once.**

"Stacked" triangles: the first whole triangle in each row is flat side up.



scrappy version



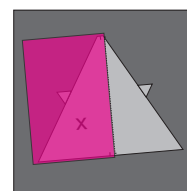
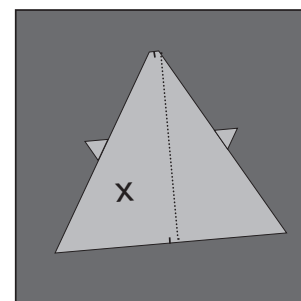
Create vertical rows of the same color with identical fabric placement in every row.



Create a zigzag pattern using triangles from a single fabric.



Same fabric lined up in two consecutive rows, creating the appearance of a diamond.



Mirror-imaged half-ETs

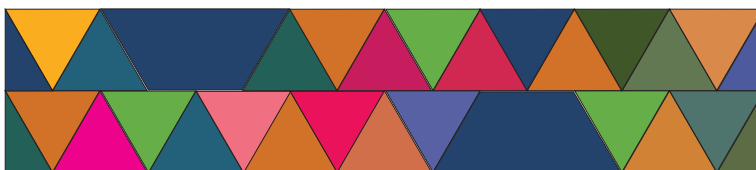


### Half-Hexagons (HH)

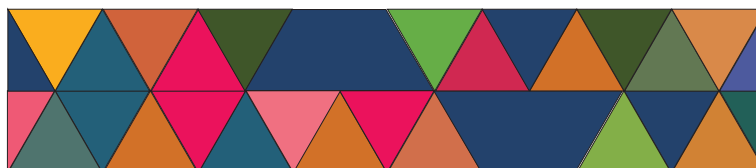
Like ETs, Half-Hexagons (HHs) can easily be used together as the primary shape in a quilt. Similar to ETs, HHs can be lined up in a "stacked" fashion in either a scrappy or an organized way. Press seams to the side.



One HH is the same size as (3) ETs sewn together, so an HH can be a fun and visually interesting substitution in a quilt made predominantly from ETs.



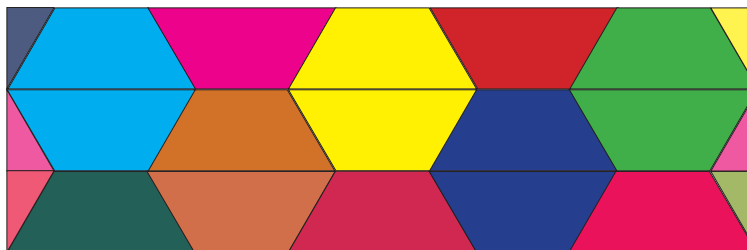
Press seam allowances to one side.



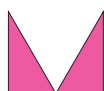
Press seam allowances to one side, alternating directions from row to row.

Because two Half-Hexagons makes a full hexagon, the HHs can be placed in rows so that, once pieced, they look like full hexagons.

Press seam allowances to one side, alternating directions from row to row. When the rows are placed RST to sew their connecting seam, the seams between HHs will "nest" making aligning the seams easy!



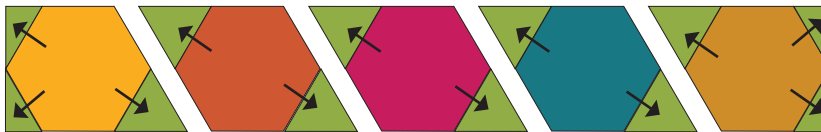
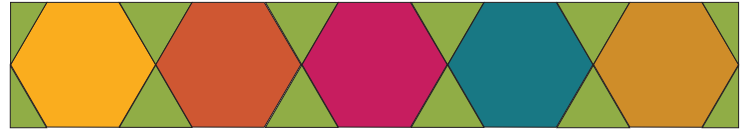
For all of these varieties of options shown for using HHs, the mirror-imaged half-triangles will be added to the end of each row to create straight vertical edges for the rows, just like with the ETs.



### Hexagons

Hexagons are easily used on their own or in combination with ETs and HHs. And, those handy half-triangles, again, allow us to create straight vertical edges on the rows. Here is a popular combination:

Straight rows of hexagons are created by sewing ETs in between the hexagons and adding half-triangles on the outsides of the first and last hexagon.



All seams are straight, raw-edge to raw-edge sewing using scant quarter-inch seam allowances. Press seam allowances between hexagons and ETs toward the ETs. When adding the two half-triangles to the beginning (or end) of the row, press the seam allowances toward the half-triangle. Sew units together to create a row; press seams to one side.

### **Set-in Seams (“Y-seams”)**

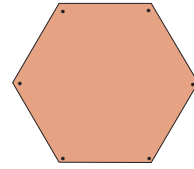
Hexagons can also be pieced together with other, same-sized hexagons by using set-in seams (“Y-seams”). “Y-seams” have been given a “bad rap”, in my opinion. They’re much easier to sew than most people think. The key is knowing where to begin and end the seam, and I’ll demonstrate the technique in the video. The first step is having a template to mark start and stop points.

### **Creating a Template:**

1. Using template plastic, ruler, Ultra Fine Tip Sharpie pen, 1/16” hole punch, UTILITY scissors (NOT your good fabric scissors!!!), and the cover packaging from the GO! Large Hexie die, make a hexagon template.

### **NOTES on template-making:**

2. Use the template and marking pencils to mark start / stop points on the wrong sides of the patchwork hexagons.



3. With two hexagons right sides together (RST), sew from one dot to the other, back-stitching 2 stitches at the beginning and end of the seam line.

### **NOTES on piecing set-in seams:**

When piecing hexagons together using set-in seams, the half-hexagon and the half-triangle can be used to create straight edges on all sides of the quilt top.

The half-hexagons along the top and bottom edges will be "set-in" using "Y-seams". The half-triangles that fit between two hexagons to form a straight edge will be sewn together first, then set-in as a unit. The corner half-triangles will be attached with a straight raw-edge to raw-edge seam.



I hope you've been inspired to play with these fun and versatile shapes!

You can find the GO! Large Hexies Die Bundle and other great AccuQuilt products at your local AccuQuilt Signature Retailer or at [accuquilt.com](http://accuquilt.com). Also at [accuquilt.com](http://accuquilt.com): educational videos and free patterns!!

Thank you for joining me for ***Kelly Quilts With AccuQuilt! : GO! Large Hexies Die Bundle.***  
Happy quilt-making!

***Kelly***

