

PAPER PIECED BLOCK AS EMBELLISHMENT

FROM LAZY GIRL DESIGNS AND MH DESIGNS

LAZY SECRET #6

Paper Piecing designs are wonderful, easy to make and are great embellishments for our bag designs. Select a block or two from your favorite design and carry it with you all day! My favorite paper pieced patterns are from MH Designs. They have a fantastic selection of patterns and the individual blocks from many of their designs are just the right size to grace the covers of our bags. Visit MH Designs on the internet at www.mhquilt designs.com.

How-To Add a Paper Pieced Block to Katy Bags:

Add your block embellishment in Step 7 of the Katy Bags design.

- Select a block design. The finished cover of Katy is 8" x 8". Choose a block design small enough to fit well within the finished cover size. Here, we are using a flower pot block from Posy Pots pattern #MH675.
- Sew the paper pieced block as you normally would and trim the block edges if needed.
- Add a simple border of fabric to the block to coordinate or contrast with the bag cover fabric.
- Cut two strips 1 1/4" wide the same length as the long side of the block.
- Fold the strips in half, keeping the length, wrong sides together and press.
- Place one strip on top of the block, matching the raw edges of the strip to the raw side edge of the block. Stitch along the raw edges. This is similar to the traditional way to attach binding strips to a quilt top.
- Open the strip away from the block and press. Do this for both long edges.
- Repeat this same procedure cutting and sewing strips for the short edges.
- When all four strips are in place and folded away from the block, the outside or folded edges of the strips will provide a nice finished edge for your new paper pieced block embellishment.
- Remove the paper pattern from behind the block.
- topstitch in place before you finish the bag project
- Place the finished block on top of the cover, right side up, centered from all sides, and stitch in place. Consider using a fun stitch such as a decorative or buttonhole stitch in a coordinating thread color.



KATY BAGS #121

Other Ideas:

- Place a piece of batting between the block and the cover fabric to look like a little quilt on the cover.
- Finish a block on the front and back. Topstitch in place on the side and bottom edges to create a perfect little pocket for keys, glasses or a cell phone.
- Make several finished blocks. Attach one to the bag cover with Velcro or snaps and rotate designs for variety.
- Make several smaller block designs to create a little border across the bag.

This technique of using a paper piecing block as an embellishment can be used with any type of block, a special piece of fabric, embroidery design, etc.

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