

Making a Plague Ball

WHY?

How many different ways have we tried to explain the Passover story, and specifically, the Ten Plagues (*Eser Makot*):

עֲשֹׂר מַכּוֹת

In a way that gives כָּבוֹד (*Kavod* – Respect) to the nature of the plagues themselves?

**How do you
feel about?**



**A plague ball can be fun
to make, AND, it's a great
tool to teach about the
Ten Plagues in a simple,
matter-of-fact way!**

Today, we'll be learning a sewing technique called, "English Paper Piecing."

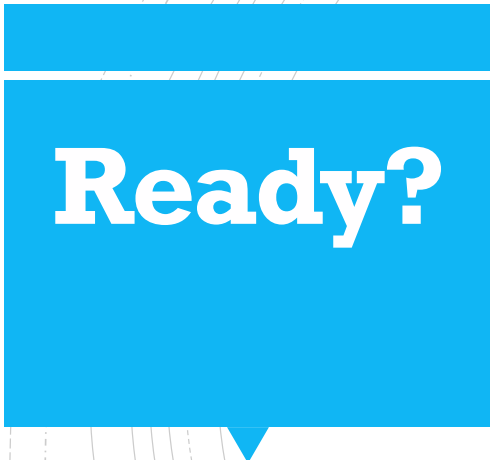
English Paper Piecing is a fun and portable hand-sewing project, with origins in the late 1700s, in England. (Hence the name, **English** Paper Piecing) It's officially a method of:

- Hand sewing pieces together that hold their shape by being secured to paper pieces using either glue or thread.

For what we're doing today, the best tutorial I've found is:

whilshenaps.com/patchwork-ball/





Ready?

- In front of you, you have a bag with:
 - A needle
 - Two squares of Matzah Fabric
 - 12 Pentagons
 - On the Table, you'll find:
 - Piles of fabric for each of the plagues
-

BASTING:

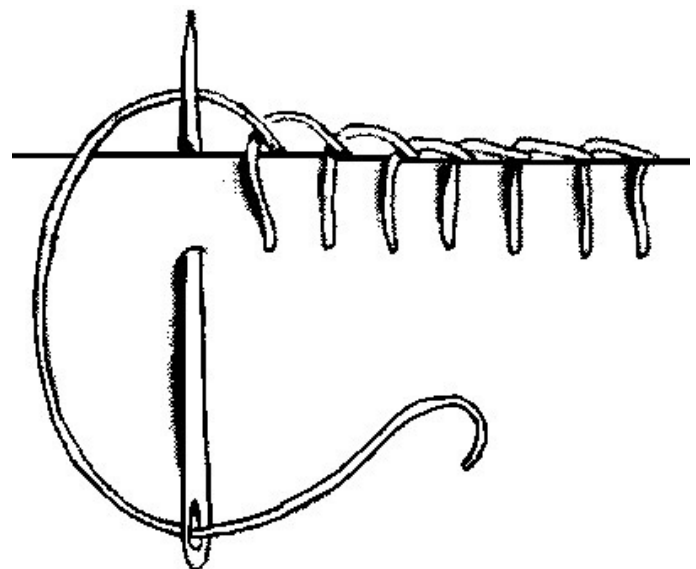
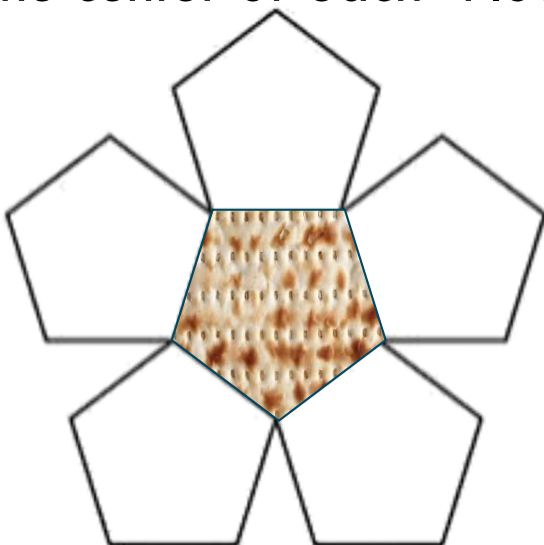
Not this kind:

We will prepare the fabric pieces to be sewn together by stitching them to a paper pentagon. “Stitch Prep” is another way to say basting.

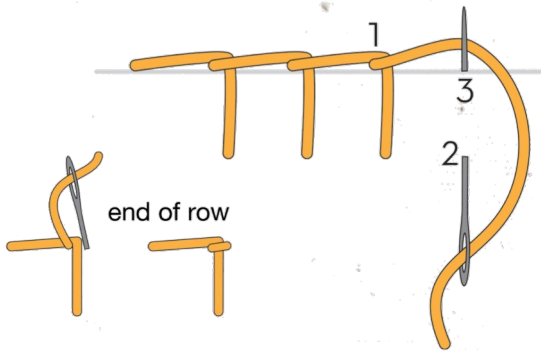
Some folks use glue sticks, (as long as its water-soluble, that can work!), and some do fancy basting, but I just stab through the fabric AND paper at the same time — it’s all good — we rip it out later, so no worries, no fuss!



Then, blanket stitch a pentagon edge to each edge of the center (Matzah) Pentagon. (There are no rules as to the order, except each Matzah piece will be at the center of each “Flower.”)

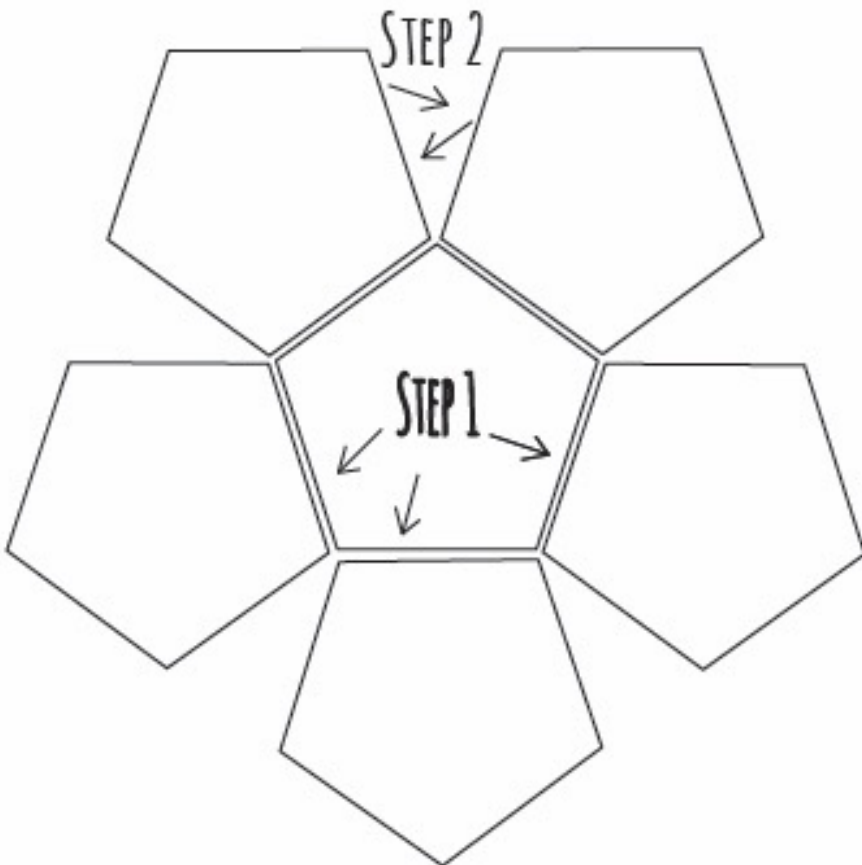


Blanket stitch



Bring the needle UP at 1. Insert the needle DOWN at 2, a stitch length both to the right and down from the line. In the same motion, come UP at 3, perpendicular to the line. Place the floss under the needle tip and finish pulling the needle to the front of the fabric. Continue along the line. To end the row, make a tiny stitch over the last stitch, securing the stitch in place.

1



You will then
stitch the sides
together,
creating a
“bowl.”

2



Once you have constructed a “Bowl” out of each group of 6 pentagons, then it is time to put the two together!

The two sides will fit together, the point of one pentagon fitting perfectly between the sides of 2 other pentagons.

4

Then, sew ALL BUT
TWO edges
together, and
remove ALL of the
papers!





Once you've removed
the papers, turn the
ball right-side out,
and stuff with polly-fill

6



... and then sew the last
openings shut.

7

Fabric Resources:

1. <https://www.1-800-dreidel.com/>
2. Day of the Dead Fabric: ([Amazon Link](#))
3. <https://www.spoonflower.com/>
4. <https://www.bugfabric.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=bugs>

- Water-soluble glue sticks:
 - Dritz Fabric Sewing and Craft Glue Stick

8

If you ever have any questions, or get stuck,
please feel free to reach out:

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Thank you, and don't forget to fill out the evaluation!

www.tiny.cc/newcaje17
