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BASIC RULES FOR FOUNDATION PIECING

The fabric patches are placed on the plain side of the foundation.

Sewing is done from the lined side.

The first patch is placed right side up on the foundation, subsequent patches are placed right side down.

Add patches in strict numerical order.

Use a slightly shorter stitch than usual.

Begin machining a couple of stitches before the line starts and continue a couple of stitches over the end. No backstitching is required as each line of stitching is secured by the next line.

Hand sewers should use a running stitch and sew the length of the line only, starting and finishing securely.

Always pin first, before sewing and fold the patch back over the seam. Hold the block up to the light to check that it covers the area required and extends at least one seam allowance beyond the next seam.

N.B. Reproduced from Popular Patchwork March/April 1997