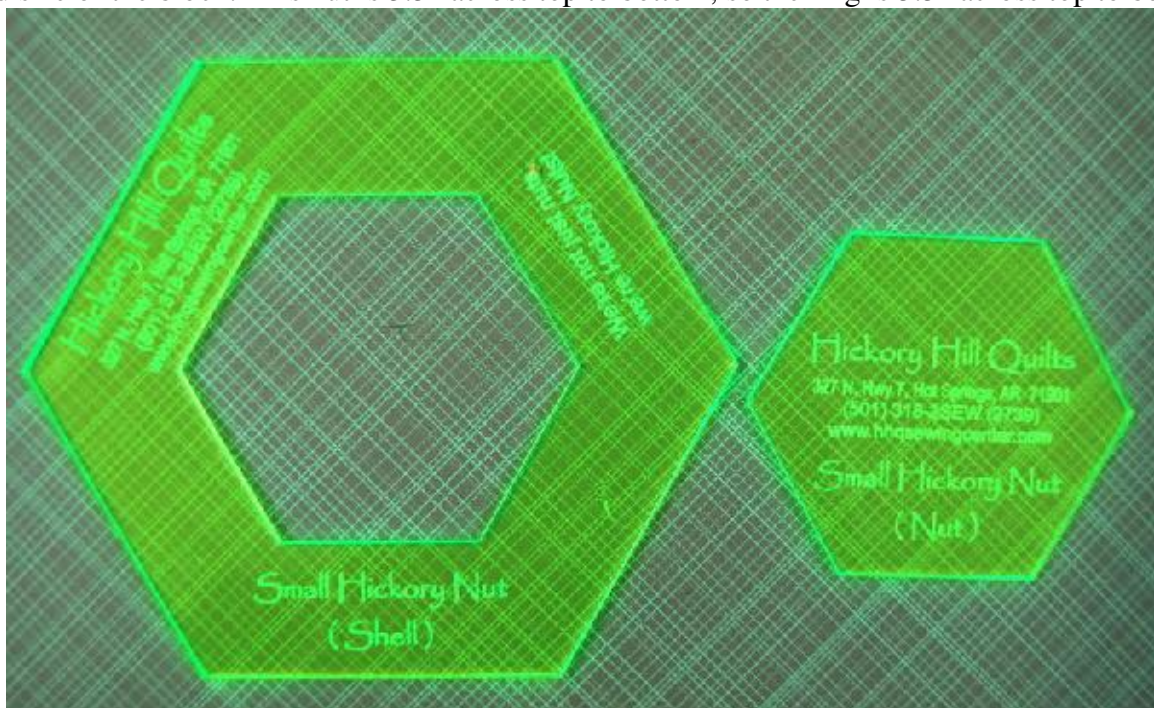


Hickory Nut Blocks

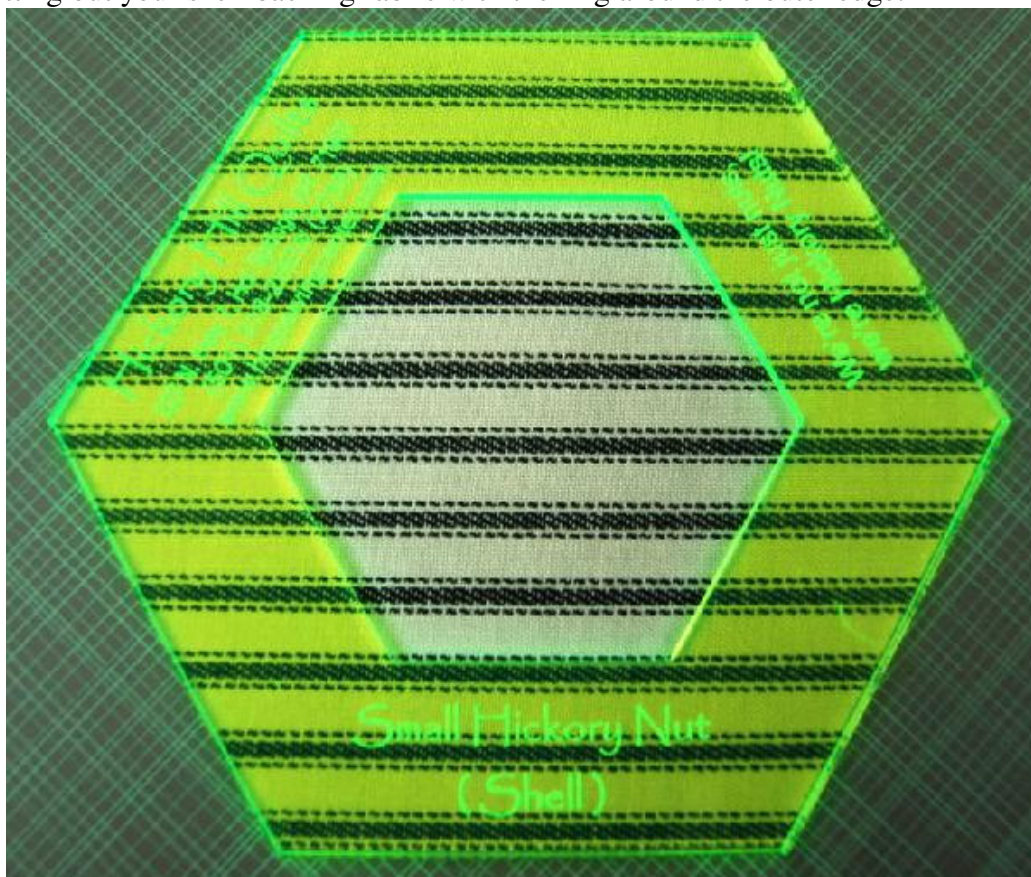
Below is a picture of a table topper I made using the small Hickory Nut template set, but the same general construction methods apply if you're making the Small, Large, or Extra Large blocks.



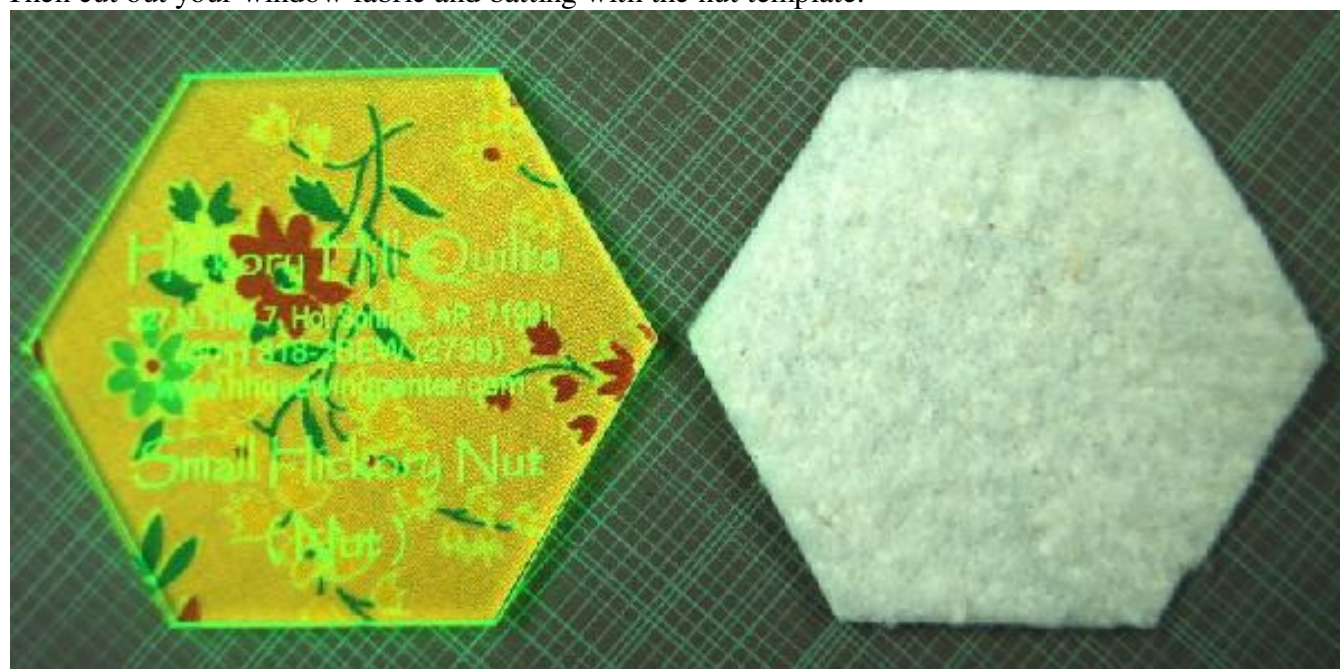
Here's the template set. You can see that it's a hexagon shape and the "shell" is the outer ring and the "nut" is the inner hexagon. The ring is 1" larger than the nut all the way around. So the nut is the finished size of the block. This nut is 3.5" across top to bottom, so the ring is 5.5" across top to bottom.



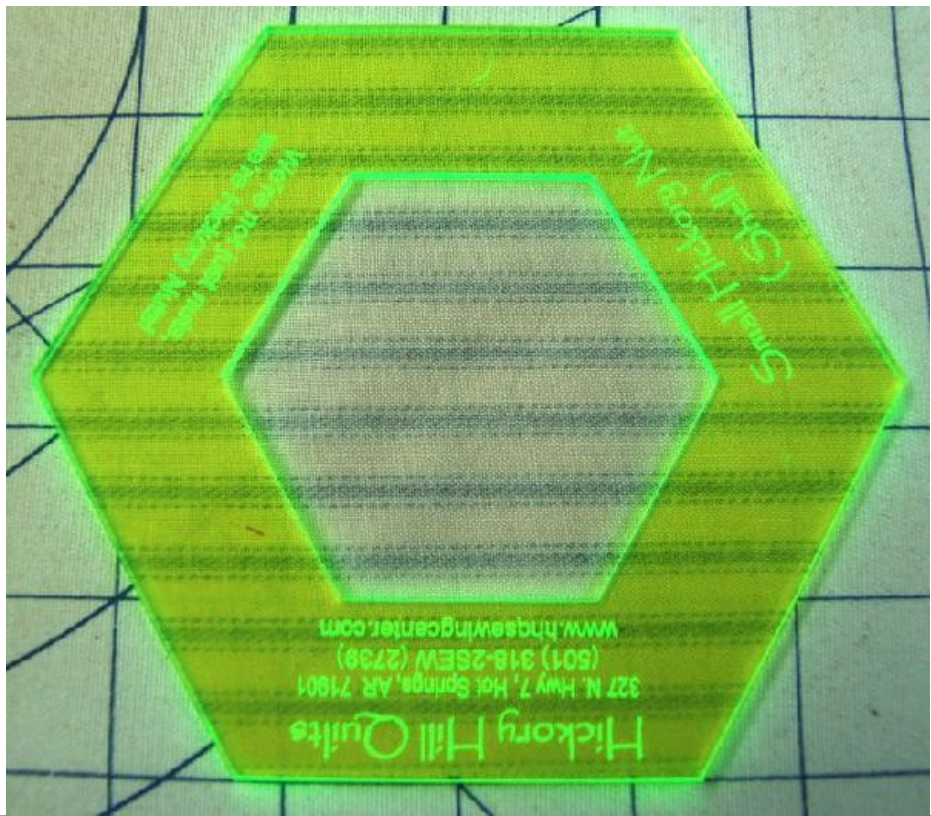
Begin by cutting out your shell backing fabric with the ring around the outer edge.



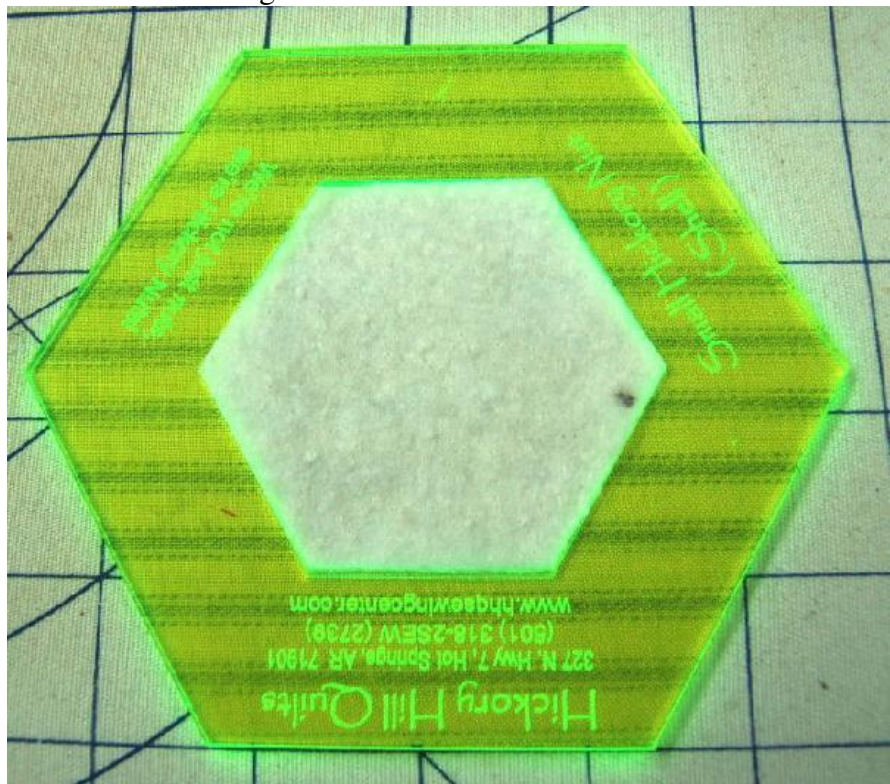
Then cut out your window fabric and batting with the nut template.



Now, with your backing fabric face down, lay the shell ring template on it with the edges lined up all around.



Lay the batting in the center of the ring.



Lay the window fabric on top of the batting.



Hold the window fabric down with one hand and lift the ring up so that the window fabric and batting remain centered.



Beginning with one edge, turn it down over the window fabric and steam press it with an iron down. At this point, 1" of the backing fabric is now showing on the front side.



Working counter-clockwise (because I'm right handed), begin working around the edge, turning the backing fabric over and pressing it down. Notice that the points of the turned edge are just touching the edge of the window fabric. This is important as it helps to keep the block "square".



Continue working around and pressing the fabric down with the iron.



Keep on going until you have a kite shape like this.



Now, go back to the edge you started with and unfold that edge and then fold the backing fabric back onto itself by 1/2" and finger press down.



Now, fold that edge over again so that you now have a 1/2" wide border on top that has a finished edge next to the window fabric (since there is 1/2" of backing fabric folded under that). Finger press this down.



Working counter-clockwise, do the same double folding thing with the next edge. Pay attention to the size of the borders you're creating, as they should all look a uniform 1/2".



Continue working your way around. The fold of the edge you just finished will help hold down the previous edge you folded.



Keep going....



There, we have our kit shaped block all finger pressed now.



Press with a steam iron to set the folds.



Now, we're going to stitch down those folds in a counter-clockwise pattern. So set the needle down into the fabric so that it is just inside the fold line and just less than 1/2" from the edge of the window fabric.



Stitch along that first edge and stop with the needle down right where the two folds meet. Lift your presser foot, and pivot to sew along the second edge.



Continue sewing around the edge of the folds until you get to the other side of the kite. Backstitch a couple of stitches and cut the thread.



Finger press the tail of the kite over by 1/2".



Fold that tail edge over again by 1/2" and finger press down.



Position the block under the needle in the same way as you started the stitching, with the needle down just beyond the edge of the tail fold so that the first stitch catches that side edge of the tail fold.



Stitch across the edge a place a stitch just across the side edge of the tail fold. Then backstitch a couple of stitches to hold in place. Cut thread and remove block.



Press with an iron and it's done! Use a zigzag stitch to stitch the blocks together and make it however big and in whatever shape you want. 😊



The templates are made by a quilt shop in Hot Springs, Arkansas called Hickory Hill Sewing Center. They have a website, but it doesn't have online ordering on it. They will, however, do mail order by phone, so if you want to call them to place your order, you can. Their phone number is (501) 318-2SEW. They have 3 sizes of templates: Small (2.5" finished block size), Large (3.5"), and Extra Large (6.5").