

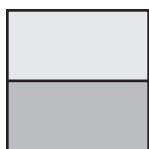
BLOCK PIECING INSTRUCTIONS

These quick-piecing methods can be used for the construction of many pieced block units, in addition to the ones following. They usually result in more accurate and faster piecing, and avoid the need to cut, mark, or pin small triangles and squares.

TIP: When sewing long strips, use a walking foot to keep the layers from shifting.

STRIP-PIECED BLOCKS

TIP: Make a sample strip from scraps to check the accuracy of your finished block. If the sewn strips are slightly smaller than needed, move the **Guide Bars** slightly to the left for a smaller seam.



TWO PATCH

Layer two fabrics right sides together. Cut fabric strips twice the width of the finished strip plus 1" for seam allowances. Example: 2" strips for 4" finished blocks should be cut 5". Use 2 or 3 pins to hold fabrics together for sewing.

Place the **Seam Guide Bars**, tacky side down, on the **Seam Guide** at equal distances from the center line, to total the width of the fabric strips. Example: For 5" strips, place one **Seam Guide Bar** 2 1/2" to the left of the center line and one **Seam Guide Bar** 2 1/2" to the right of the center line (at the 5" black numbers on the **Seam Guide**).

Place the layered fabric strip between the **Guide Bars**, lining it up with the horizontal line in front of the needle, and sew from end to end. Rotate fabric 180° and sew again in the opposite direction. Press seam lines to set seams. Cut between sewn lines (**Fig. 1**) and press seams to one side. Crosscut strip sets into units the width of the finished block plus 1/2" seam allowances (**Fig. 2**).

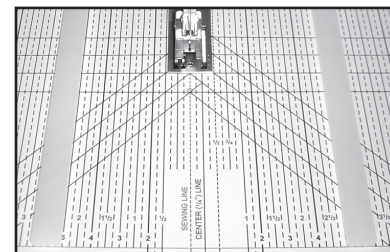
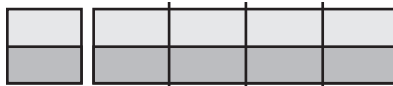


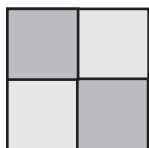
Fig. 1



Fig. 2



TIP: To remove the **Guide Bars**, hold the **Seam Guide** down, lift the **Guide Bars** from the top back edge and pull up and toward you. Place on plastic bag when not in use.



FOUR PATCH

Follow instructions for the **Two Patch**, but **do not** crosscut the strip sets into units. Layer strip sets, right sides together, with raw edges even and like colors opposite each other (**Fig. 3**). Make sure the seams are aligned. Crosscut into units the width of the finished block plus 1" seam allowances (**Fig. 4**). You don't need to pin the seams before sewing. Stagger the units slightly as you cut and stack them to make them easier to pick up for sewing without shifting the layers.

Place the layered units between the **Guide Bars** with the open end of the seam allowance facing the needle and chain sew, making sure seams stay aligned at center. Rotate the units 180° and sew again in the opposite direction (**Fig. 5**). Cut between sewn lines and press seams. Each unit makes 2 blocks, 1 right hand and 1 left hand (**Fig. 6**). For all right hand or left hand blocks, simply rotate every other block 90°.

Fig. 3



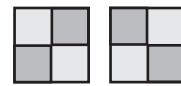
Fig. 4



Fig. 5



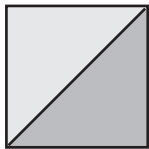
Fig. 6



TRIANGLE-SQUARES

Cutting instructions allow for 1/8"-1/4" extra fabric to be trimmed from the finished block for a more exact block size. For larger squares, mark a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of the top fabric of the layered squares and sew 1/4" from each side of the marked line.

TIP: If your sewn line is continually bowed more than one or two thread widths, you may need to mark your sewing lines. An occasional bowed seam can be reewn.



HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLE (makes 2)

Layer two fabrics right sides together and cut into squares 1" larger than the finished block size. Example: 4" blocks should be cut 5". Line up the left side of the squares on the diagonal line that extends from the needle and the adjoining right side of the squares with the diagonal line 1/2" behind the needle. The top corner of the layered squares should be at the edge of a 1/4" presser foot. Line up the bottom corner with the center line on the **Seam Guide (Fig. 7)**.

Keep bottom corner on this line until seam is sewn. Rotate 180° and repeat for other side. Cut between sewn lines (**Fig. 8**) and press seams to one side. Trim squares to the finished block size plus 1/2" seam allowances by aligning the diagonal line of a square ruler with the diagonal seam (**Fig. 9**). Example: 4" blocks should be trimmed to 4 1/2" square.

Fig. 7

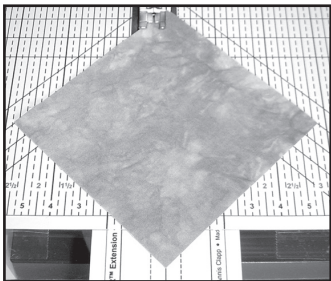


Fig. 8

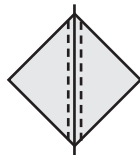


Fig. 9

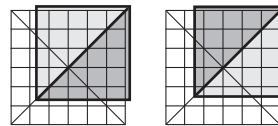
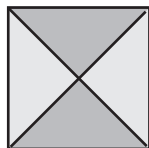
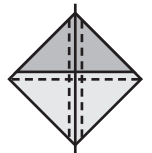


Fig. 10

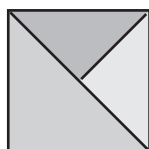
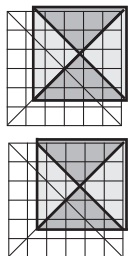


HOURGLASS BLOCK (makes 2)

Follow the instructions for the **Half-Square Triangles**, cutting the squares 1 1/2" larger than the finished block size. Example: 4" blocks should be cut 5 1/2". **Do not** trim the squares. Layer 2 **Half-Square Triangles** with dark and light triangles opposite each other, making sure the seams are aligned at center. Pin seam at center. Using the

Seam Guide or **Extension**, sew 1/4" from each side of the diagonal center, cut between sewn lines (**Fig. 10**) and press seams. Trim to the finished block size plus 1/2" seam allowances by aligning the dimensions on the ruler with the diagonal seams (**Fig. 11**).

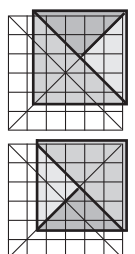
Fig. 11



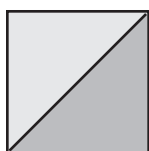
COMBINATION BLOCK (makes 4 - 2 right hand and 2 left hand)

Follow the instructions for the **Half-Square Triangles**, cutting the squares 1 1/2" larger than the finished block size. Example: 4" blocks should be cut 5 1/2". **Do not** trim the squares. Cut 2 squares the same size as the **Half-Square Triangles**. Layer a **Half-Square Triangle** with a square, right sides together. Using the **Seam Guide**, sew 1/4" from each side of the diagonal center, cut between sewn lines (**Fig. 10**) and press seams. Trim to the finished block size plus 1/2" seam allowances by aligning the dimensions on the ruler with the diagonal seams (**Fig. 12**).

Fig. 12

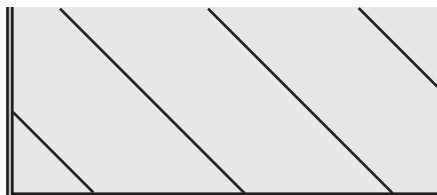


STRIP-PIECED TRIANGLES



Use this method when making large quantities of **Half-Square Triangles** from the same fabrics. Layer 2 fabrics right sides together and cut 45° diagonal strips the diagonal width of the finished block plus 1 3/4" rounded to the nearest 1/4". Example: Strips for a 4" finished block should be cut 7 1/4". (If these blocks will be used for **Hourglass** or **Combination Blocks**, add 1/2" to your measurement.) Cut the first strip slightly larger than needed for a single block before cutting the remaining strips (**Fig. 13**). Use 2 or 3 pins to hold fabric strips together for sewing.

Fig. 13



TIP: Handle diagonal strips carefully and use a walking foot for sewing to help control stretching.

For a scant 1/4" seam, place the **Guide Bars** slightly to the left of the line.

Place the **Seam Guide Bars**, tacky side down, on the **Seam Guide** at equal distances from the center line, to total the width of the fabric strips. Place the layered fabric strips between the **Guide Bars** and sew from end to end. Rotate fabric 180° and sew again in the opposite direction (**Fig. 14**). Sew a 1/4" seam on each long side of the strips. Press seam lines to set seams. Cut between sewn lines at center (**Fig. 15**).

Fig. 14

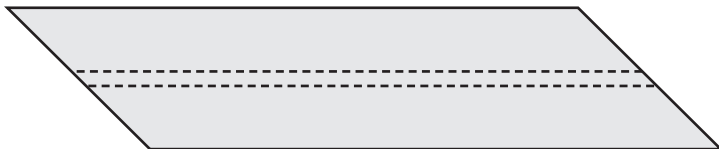
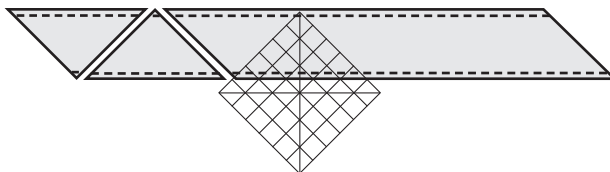


Fig. 15



Use a square ruler to cut sewn strips into triangles the size needed by lining up the dimensions on the ruler 1" larger than the finished block size with the bottom edge of the strips (**Fig. 16**) (1 1/2" larger for **Hourglass** or **Combination Blocks**). Use a second ruler or precut block at the top left of the strip for a guide. Two strips may be layered for faster cutting. There may be 2 or 3 stitches at the top corner of the triangle that can easily be removed by pulling slightly on the corner before pressing.

Fig. 16



Press seams to one side (**Fig. 17**). Trim to the finished block size plus 1/2" seam allowances by placing the diagonal line of the ruler on the seam (**Fig. 18**).

Fig. 17

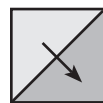
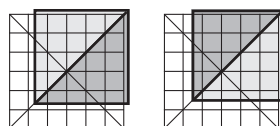
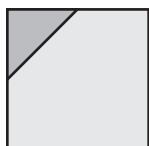


Fig. 18



DIAGONAL CORNERS

The Extension is no longer available, but you can easily make your own if the line in front of the needle is not long enough for the block units. Simply draw a red line down the center of a ruled index card. Laminate the card or cover it with clear packaging tape. Line it up with the red sewing line on the Seam Guide and tape in place.



METHOD 1

Use this method to add triangle corners to one or more sides of a square or rectangle. Cut squares or rectangles the size needed plus 1/2" seam allowances. Place a smaller square on the corner of a larger square or rectangle with raw edges matching and right sides together. Place the top corner of the smaller square under the needle. The right side should line up with the diagonal line that extends from the needle. Align the opposite bottom corner with the red sewing line 1/4" to the left of the center line on the **Seam Guide (Fig. 19)**. Keep bottom corner on this line until seam is sewn. To make the cut-off into a triangle-square, sew again 1/2" to the right of the sewn line. Cut between sewn lines (**Fig. 20**). Press seam toward the corner unless otherwise instructed. Repeat for each corner needed. Seams should intersect 1/4" from edge (**Fig. 21**).

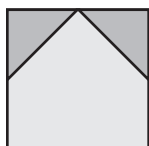


Fig. 19

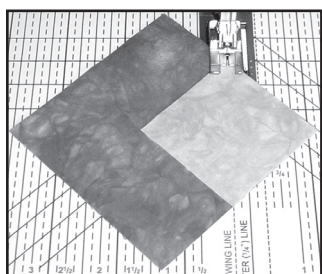


Fig. 20

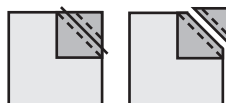
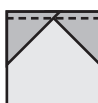
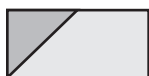


Fig. 21



TIP: Check the accuracy of the seam before cutting by folding the square toward the corner.



METHOD 2



This method can be used when the diagonal corner covers the full width of one or two opposite sides of the block. Cut 1 strip of fabric for the block the longer length of the finished block plus 1/2" seam allowances and 1 or 2 strips of fabric for the corners the shorter width of the finished block plus 1/2" seam allowances. Sew the corner strips to one or both sides of the block strip with a scant 1/4" seam (this seam does not affect the finished block size). Press seam lines to set seams, but **do not** press seams open (**Fig. 22**). Crosscut the strip sets the width of the corner strips (**Fig. 23**). Follow **Method 1** to sew diagonally across the corners in the direction needed. If corner strips are sewn on both sides of the block, move one out of the way when sewing the diagonal corners (**Fig. 24**). Cut 1/4" from the sewn lines. Press seam toward the corner unless otherwise instructed. There will be 2 or 3 stitches at corners that can easily be removed by pulling slightly on the corner before pressing. Repeat for the opposite corner (**Fig. 25**). The cut-off pieces can be sewn together in matching sets of four to make pinwheel blocks (**Fig. 26**).

Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

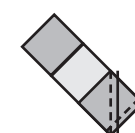


Fig. 25



Fig. 26



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