

Piecing

Read the instruction and check to see if the measurements are accurate, make sense &/ or make a sample block in scrap fabric before cutting the entire quilt. Many patterns have errors. It can save a lot of time and aggravation if you test the accuracy first before cutting out the entire quilt, making the blocks and finding out they are inaccurate.

The 1/4" Seam and the compiling of errors...every thread counts:

To test your 1/4" seam and make the necessary adjustments for accuracy – Cut 2- 2 1/2" X 6" of fabric, Stitch the 2 1/2" widths together with your 1/4" seam, measure the width of your sewn strips, it should measure 4 1/2" X 6 ". If you do not have the 4 1/2", adjust your needle or positioning point on your throat bed, and try again. Repeat until your strips are 4 1/2" wide. Then use this placement for stitching.

Think of the quilt block in units:

Each unit needs to be cut, pieced, measured and trimmed to the correct size before adding to the block. Trim the threads as you go,

Square up each individual block before piecing it into the quilt

Pinning can be beneficial for:

Matching points

Joining pieces or units that may have a bias edge

To join units that may not be perfect, or to easy in a **little** excess

Piecing when your sewing machine does not evenly feed the fabric, or you aren't using a walking foot

When sewing strips of fabric together, prevent the bow effect by alternate sewing from opposite ends

Chain Piecing – great for piecing the same unit repeatedly, saves time and thread:

Stitch one unit, leave it under the presser foot and abut the next unit to the end of the first unit, stitch, but the next unit and continue until all units are complete.

I like to take the long strip of pieced units to the ironing board and press, then snip the threads between the units

Use of paper piecing can be helpful for accuracy, especially small piecing or unusual shapes

Many designers have available in local quilt shops and online

Various techniques available, many patterns, books, tutorials

Pressing the units as you piece, seams may be to the dark, open or to a designated side for ease of unit/block construction, reducing bulk in adjoining seams

Use of starch alternative or starch is a personal preference

Use of steam is a personal preference—care must be taken to avoid shrinking and/or Stretching the units out of whack; I use and prefer steam for the crisp seams

Press from the back then flip and press the front to ensure seams pressed completely

