

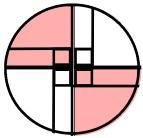
# Precision Piecing Tips

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- Accuracy begins with the basics: Good tools, accurate cutting, use the best materials you can find and afford (fabric, thread, batting, sewing machine, etc.)
- MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE! Using the same brand of ruler regardless of size when measuring and cutting will keep your pieces consistent. Keep a sharp blade.
- ♦ Use a neutral thread color - helps the thread blend in, especially when you have multi-value fabric.
- ♦ Square up and align pieces before sewing together. Pin/glue stick/stiletto to help pieces fit together as you stitch. If necessary to ease, place larger piece on bottom so feed dogs can help. Re-trim each pieced unit to required measurement.
- ♦ Use 1/4" seams on all piecing. Stitch length: 2 to 2.5. Check your seam allowance: Sew three 1-1/2" strips of fabric together with a 1/4" seam. The center strip should measure exactly one inch. Place masking tape on the throat plate of your machine 1/4" away from needle for a guide if necessary.
- ♦ Alternate seam allowances wherever possible to reduce bulk at seams. Sometimes the fabric will tell you where it is going to lay the best.

The Magic Twist:



Release the stitches in the intersection,  
fan out the seam allowances

- ♦ Press seams flat to sink the stitches into the fabric. Press seams toward the darker fabric whenever possible. Use a hot, dry iron when pressing. PRESS in an up and down motion rather than IRON.
- ♦ Sew slowly and keep control. Sometimes multi-tasking such as chain piecing or cutting multiple layers of fabric can in the end diminish the ability to be precise. Relax, remember to blink, breathe, swallow. Take a break every 45 minutes.
- ♦ The process should not be a race to the finish but an enjoyable experience. You are telling your story and making a treasure in cloth. It deserves your best work. Be willing to try new things, test your creativity, and enjoy yourself!