



Precision Piecing January 2004

- * Accuracy starts with the first step - Good tools, Accurate cutting
Use the best materials you can find and afford. This holds true for fabric, thread, batting, machine, etc. Sometimes the best tool is something you already have. Glue stick along with pins and cheap seam ripper instead of stiletto.
- * You will be more consistent if you use the same brand of ruler regardless of size when measuring and cutting.
- * Test for accuracy, measure twice and cut once! Try cutting just enough to make one block and find any errors then.
- * Check your seam allowance periodically. Sew three 1.5" strips together side to side. The center strip should measure 1".
- * Make sure pieces are "in line" and "square" before stitching. Match outside edges and ease in placing the largest piece on bottom.
- * Thread color - Use darker neutral on top and medium neutral in bobbin. This helps the thread disappear especially when you have multi value fabric.
- * Use a shorter stitch length when pressing the seams open
- * Press seams toward the darker of the two fabrics whenever possible. However, sometimes the fabric will tell you where it is going to lay the best.
- * It's just as important to know what doesn't work as it is to know what does.
- * General rules are just that **general**, most will have exceptions. Watch for them and be open to breaking a few rules in the interest of better piecing.
- * A mistake is just a step in the process to success. The key is to learn how to use the "mistake" and make it work.
- * Just because a pattern is in print doesn't mean it is accurate!
- * Use lengthwise grain whenever possible.
- * Use a hot DRY iron. Pressing is an up and down motion.
- * **SEW SLOWLY AND KEEP CONTROL. THIS IS REALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM.. THINK OF YOURSELF AS HAND SEWING WITH AN ELECTRIC NEEDLE AND MAKE THE NEEDLE ENTER AND EXIT THE FABRIC EXACTLY WHERE YOU WANT IT TO!**