Notes

Sewfast® Tips for Quiltmaking

1. These sizes on your ruler correspond to the numerals on the calculator:

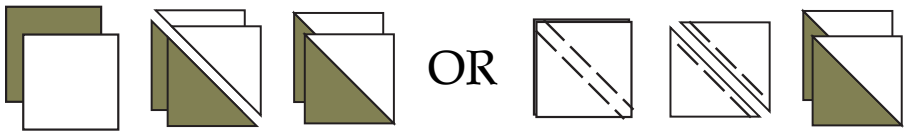
Ruler	***Calculator***
1/16" is half of an 1/8"	.0625
1/8"	.125
3/16" is half way between 1/8" and a 1/4"	.1875
1/4"	.25
5/16" is half way between 1/4" and a 3/8"	.3125
3/8"	.375
7/16" is half way between 3/8" and a 1/2"	.4375
1/2"	.5
9/16" is half way between 1/2" and a 5/8"	.5625
5/8"	.625
11/16" is half way between 5/8" and a 3/4"	.6875
3/4"	.75
13/16" is half way between 3/4" and a 7/8"	.8125
7/8"	.875
15/16" is half way between 7/8" and 1"	.9375

2. To find the size of the square and cut the amount of fabric needed:
   a. Calculate the finished size of a Square and add 1/2" for seam allowance (3"+1/2"=3 1/2"). This is the width of the strip to cut.

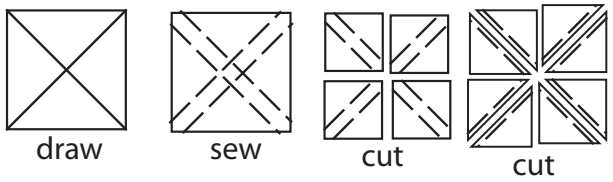
   b. Divide the length of the strip by the size to find the yield of each strip. Allow about 41" for each strip, fabric widths are variable, measure the width before cutting and calculating.
      (41"÷ 3 1/2"= 11 3 1/2" squares)
      It doesn't divide exactly, but this is the number of whole squares, that you will get when dividing this on the calculator.

   c. Divide the number of squares needed by that yield. This will be the number of strips you will need to cut.
      (150÷11=almost 14 strips)
      On the calculator round up. If the number of strips is exact, or just a fraction of a strip, you might cut one or two squares from a scrap.

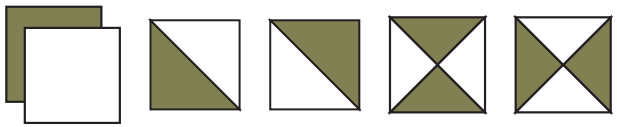
3. A square divided diagonally in half, will yield two Half Square Triangles. (HST) To cut them correctly, calculate the finished size, add ⅞" for the size of the cut square and the width of the cut strip.
   (3"+⅞"=3⅞")



Eight HST can be cut and sewn at the same time, by multiplying the size of the cut square by 2.
   (3⅞" x 2=7¾")



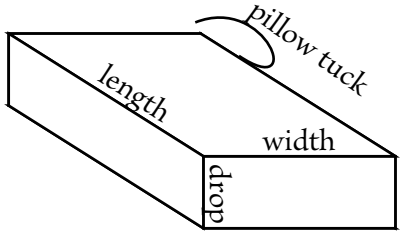
4. A square divided diagonally from corner to corner in both directions, will yield four Quarter Square Triangles. (QST) To cut them correctly, calculate the finished size, add 1¼" for the size of the cut square and the width of the strip.
   (3" +1¼"=4¼")



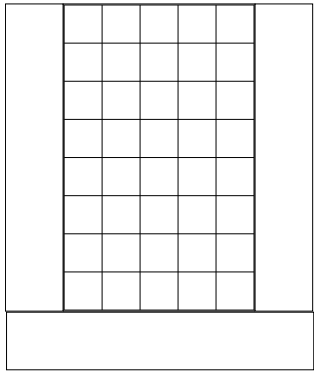
5. When you are trying to find how many HST or QST can be cut from a strip, divide the length of the strip by the size of the square. This gives you the number of squares that a strip will yield. Multiply the number of squares by 2 (HST) or 4 (QST) to find the number of triangles that each strip will yield.
   (41"÷3⅞"=10 squares x 2=20 HST)
   or
   (41"÷7¾"=5 squares x 8=40 HST)
   or
   (41"÷4¼"=9 squares x 4=36 QST)

Mattress	W x L	Coverlet	Spread
Crib	23" x 46"	47" x 58"	--------
Twin	39" x 75"	69" x 90"	83" x 112"
Double	54" x 75"	84" x 90"	98" x 112"
Queen	60" x 80"	90" x 95"	104" x 117"
Eastern King	78" x 80"	108" x 95"	122"x 117"
Calif. King	72" x 84"	102" x 99"	116" x 121"

These sizes are only suggestions. The height of your bed, mattress, the drop and whether or not there is a pillow tuck will determine the size of your quilt. For example, I have a very high California King, so if I wanted the quilt to come to the floor, I would have to have 28" drop on the three sides, with a 15" pillow tuck, my quilt would have to be 128" x 127". I don't think so.



To figure out how many blocks you need, just for the top of the bed, use the length x width figures, adding the pillow drop if you have one, to the length. Divide these amounts by the size block you want to make.



For instance, 12" blocks for a queen bed, with no sashing, would be five blocks across the mattress and seven blocks down the length. Actually this is 4" more than needed, but you can't always make it exactly to the inch. One extra row of blocks could be added to make the pillow tuck. Using the size of the drop would be the depth of the border. Borders could be added to only three sides of the quilt. You might want to make two or three strips as well as some piecing to echo what is on top of the bed.

If it is possible to make a square bed quilt, without an obvious top and bottom, the quilt can be rotated as it is used, so there will be equal exposure to light and any fading would be evenly distributed.

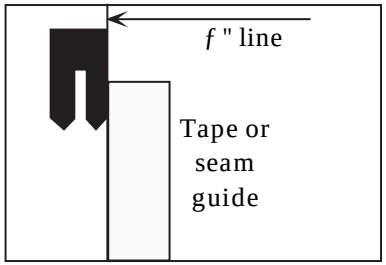
Determining the Perfect Seam Allowance

The ¼" seam allowance is the standard for machine patch piecing. However, an exact ¼" is too much, a "scant" ¼" seam allowance is precise. Accuracy of machine pieced patchwork depends on a scant ¼" seam allowance.

To find this seam allowance on your machine, you need to conduct the following test. There should be special feet or seam guides for your sewing machine, that will aid you. A foot is available with an attached blade, that makes a scant ¼" seam. Check with your quilt shop or machine dealer.

To determine a scant ¼" seam allowance, cut a 1½" strip of fabric across the width of fabric. Cut into eight equal lengths. Sew four strips together lengthwise. Press the seams in the same direction.

The sample should measure 4½" wide. If it is wider or narrower, adjust your seam guide, or use a piece of tape, as a guide. Use the other four strips if you need to test again.



Designing a Bed Quilt

To design the right size bed quilt your need to measure the size of the mattress. The following are standard sizes. Measure yours just to make sure.

The coverlet size includes a 15" drop on three sides. The crib coverlet allows 12" on three sides. The coverlet measurements do not include a pillow tuck. The spread sizes include a 22" drop, plus a 15" pillow tuck.

6. Templates in quilt books frequently have the tips of the triangles or diamonds cut off. Extend these tips by drawing straight lines until they meet, then measure. This will give you the size you need to cut your squares or strips.

7. Any block can be made into any size. If possible stay with even sizes that are divisible by the type of block that it is, ½", ¼" or ⅛" fractions are not a problem, just stay away from ⅓" or ⅕" or other fractions not easily accommodated on the rotary ruler:
   A 9 patch should be divisible by 3:
   (9"÷3 =3" or 3¾"÷3=1¼" or 7½"÷3=2½")
   A 4 patch should be divisible by 2:
   (12"÷2=6" or 6"÷2=3" or 7½"÷2 =3¾")
   A 5 patch should be divisible by 5:
   (10÷5=2" or 8¾"÷5=1¾" or 7½"÷5=1½")

8. Most quilt blocks that are divisible by 3 are also divisible by 2. Numbers divisible by 2 aren't necessarily divisible by 3, using the fractions found on the rotary ruler.
   (9"÷3=3 and 9"÷2=4½" or 11÷2=5½", but 11÷3=3⅔").

9. When making a 5-patch block in a block size not divisible by 5, change the size of the center of the 5-patch. All five divisions will not be the same size, but this is not a problem and the block can be accommodated in the different sizes.

   For a 12" block, four divisions could be 2½" each, with a 2" center.
   For a 9" block, four divisions could be 2" each, with a 1" center,
   or 1⅞" and 1½" for the center.

Sewing and Marking Tips

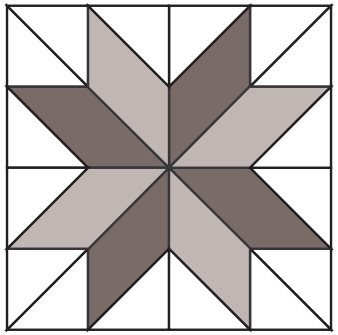
1. Set the stitch length on your machine to 12-15 stitches per inch. Small stitches do not show along the seam from the front of the block. Use a neutral thread for most of your patchwork, using a darker or lighter thread when needed to match the value of the fabric. Small stitches help with accuracy, because the stitches are firm.

2. Use a .05 mechanical pencil or .01 Pigma pen to draw lines. Fine lines aid in making more accurate seam allowances.

Grid Based Parallelogram

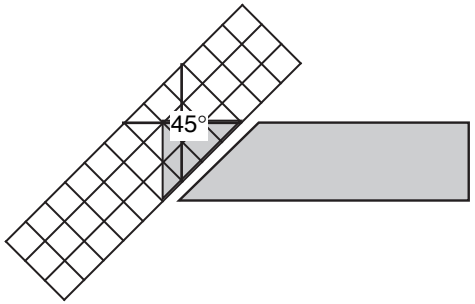
Some shapes that look like diamonds in grid based designs parallelograms, because the sides are not all equal. Most can actually be sewn from two Half Square Triangles.

1. Examine the P.G. (parallelograms). For a 12" block, the width of each P.G. is 3"
   3"+½"=3½" strip
   To figure the other width, you need to find the diagonal measurement of the square:
   3"x1.414=4.242 or 4¼"
   Since we only need half the width:
   4¼"÷2=2⅛"+½"=2⅝"



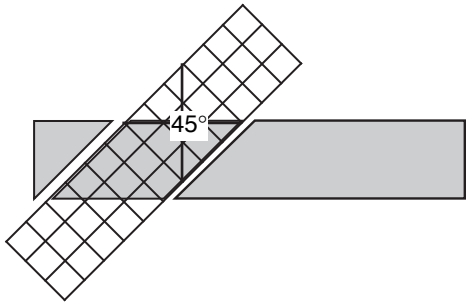
1. ALIGN the (3½") strips face to face, if the P.G. will be mirror images, other wise, stack the strips or cut one at a time.

2. Using the 45° lines on the ruler, align one of these lines with the edge of the strip and cut off the left corner of the strip.



3. Keep the ruler at the same angle, the 45° line aligned with the edge of the strip. Move the ruler so the (2⅝") line is aligned with the new cut. Cut through the fabric for two P.G.

   Keep moving the ruler over in the same way, always aligning the 45° line with the edge of the strip.



Always strip cut diamonds and P.G. from fabric strips that are laid face to face or all laid face up, depending on the block. The first block would have all of the fabric strips cut face to face, because the P.G. are turned opposite from each other. In the following block the strips would be face to face, because the P.G. are all turning the same way.