

Quarter Inch Seams Accuracy Is Important!

In quilt piecing, having a **consistent and accurate 1/4" seam allowance** is very important. It ensures your patches will go together and that your blocks will fit together as well. There is a technique to sew straight and true.

First of all, this is not a race. You'll enjoy quilting more if you take your time, **relax and sew slow**. In the long run, it will save time... Unsewing is frustrating and time-consuming!

Secondly, don't watch the fabric go under the needle, watch it as it goes under the presser foot. This gives you time to make adjustments.

Also, have your quarter inch guide (see below) "stretched along the **"runway"** leading to your needle

To get an accurate 1/4" on your machine, try these tricks...

Use a 1/4" presser foot if you have or can get one.

Use the 1/4" guide on your throat plate if you have one.

Make your own guide. Place your ruler under your presser foot with the needle directly over the 1/4" line. Be sure the ruler is parallel to the edge of the foot. Mark along the edge of the ruler with...

A permanent marker if you don't mind marking on your machine.

OR

A piece of masking tape along the edge of the ruler

OR

A piece of Moleskin (think Dr. Scholl's)

OR

A magnetic seam Guide (not for computerized machines!)

Seam Allowance Test

Cut two pieces of fabric that are 2" X 6". Stitch them together along the long edge. Open and press seam to one side. Your joined pieces should measure 3 1/2" across.

Work until you know just how to make this happen on your machine.

Now you can sew accurate 1/4" seams every time!