

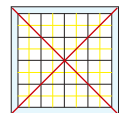
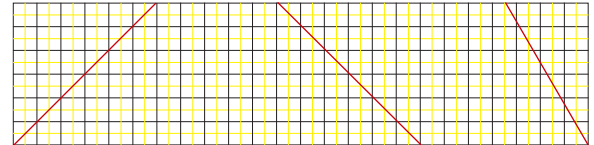
## Introduction

This section explains over-all tips critical to the success of these methods. Plus, some favorite bindings and some 'extensions' to methods. Once you learn and understand these tips, you will get accurate results for all of the methods.

## Tools

This is a list of tools that are both required or helpful (but not essential):

- 24" quilting ruler that has clear 1/4" markings in very thin lines so it is easy to see thru the ruler. There should be 45° angles and at least one 60° angle.
- Large cutting mat - preferably at least 24" x 36"
- Rotary cutter with **sharp** blade
- Square up rulers are **helpful** but not required. These should have thin 1/4" rules and diagonal lines in both directions. A 4-1/2" square is the most helpful as it is a common unit size.



## Terminology

To avoid confusion, this is the terminology used throughout the techniques:

- Strip** the cut from the width of fabric (WOF)
- Sheet** the result when you sew multiple strips together
- Row** what you get when you cut the sheet
- Units** what you get when you cut the rows into final sizes

**Note:** Some units require sewing the rows cut from the first sheet together to form a second sheet. The rows from the second sheet are then cut into the final sized units. In those instances there will be a Sheet 1 and a Sheet 2.

## Shortcut Sheet Rules

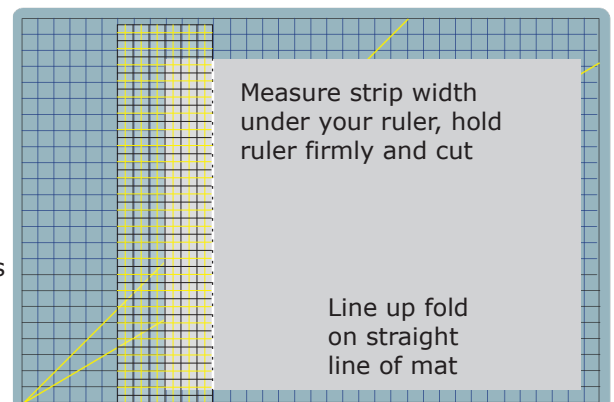
There are a few standard rules that apply to all methods. Most of the methods result in bias units, so checking your seam allowance using the bias measurement will guarantee those results.

- Check your seam allowance on all your machines (see Page 2). Once you determine if your needle needs to move right or left, your new position will work for all methods.
- Take extreme care when cutting fabric strips (see below)
- Tighten your stitch length.
- Always press seams **open**, very flat and very straight.
- Do not hang uncut sheets on a design wall as this may cause the sheet to stretch. Do not use steam to press your seams as this may cause the fabric to stretch.

## Cutting Strips

The accuracy of your strip width is critical to the success of these methods.

- Press the fabric, on both sides. You can use steam at this point. If you like to use a stiffener, do so now.
- Keep your fabric folded
- Lay the fold of the fabric along a straight line on your mat.
- Position the ruler on the fabric and hold firmly - the first cut is to straighten the raw edge
- Measure the strip width using the ruler, not the cutting mat, and cut your strips.



# TEST FOR ACCURATE SEAM ALLOWANCE

## Not all machines (or 1/4" feet) are the same

Not only are you checking for a consistent and accurate quarter inch seam allowance, you are also confirming they are accurate for Shortcut Sheet methods. Most of the methods result in bias units, so checking your seam allowance using the bias measurement will guarantee those results. Sew 2 strips each (10" x 3-3/4") of high contrast fabric together. Press seams **open**, very flat and straight.

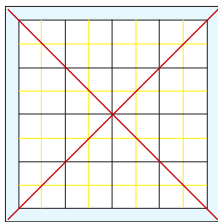
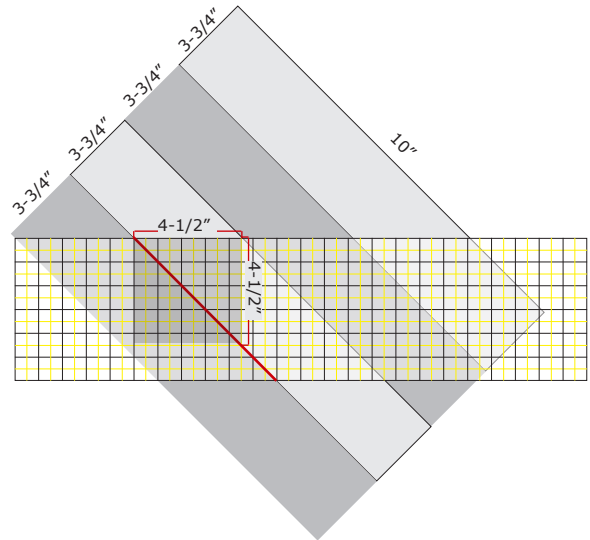
Place your ruler with the 45° angle on one of the seams.

Does the horizontal line meet the next fabric at the 4-1/2" line? Does the vertical line meet the next fabric at the 4-1/2" line? If your measurement is *less* than 4-1/2", then you will need to sew a scant seam allowance by moving your needle to the right.

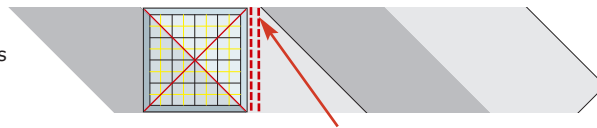
If your measurement is *more* than 4-1/2", then you will need to make your seam allowance larger by moving your needle to the left.

Once you determine what the best setting is, then use it for all the shortcut sheet techniques.

Note: if your diagonal measurement is more than 4-1/2" you can still use the sheet. You will just need to make an additional trim. Cut the rows 4-1/2", making sure the diagonal line on the ruler is on the seam. Then make an extra trim on the right when you cut the units apart. A small square-up ruler with a diagonal line will be handy.



Square-up ruler is handy but not essential



Maintain the angle and the height of the row, but make an additional trim on the right