

# Test Your Seam Allowance

For each of your machines



## Shortcut Sheet Tips

- Check to make sure you have an accurate 1/4" seam allowance. Follow the steps below to test your machine's results.
- 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.

## How to Test Your Seam Allowance

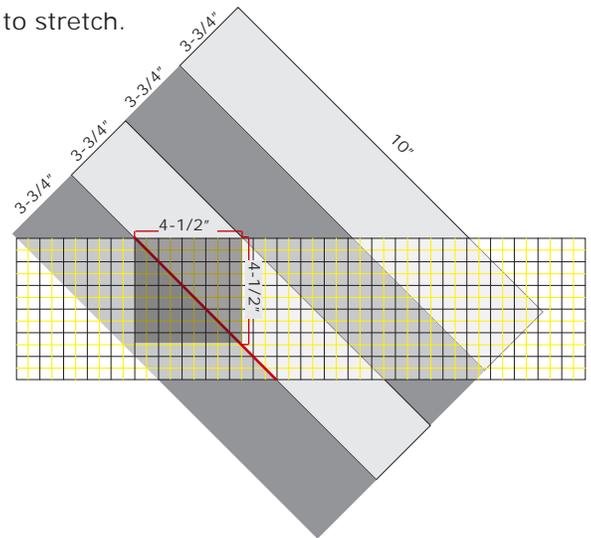
Sew 2 strips each (10" x 3-3/4") of high contrast fabric together. Press seams **open**, very flat and straight.

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.



## 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

**Rows** - 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.



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PO Box 114, Monkton VT 05469  
for more information go to:  
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