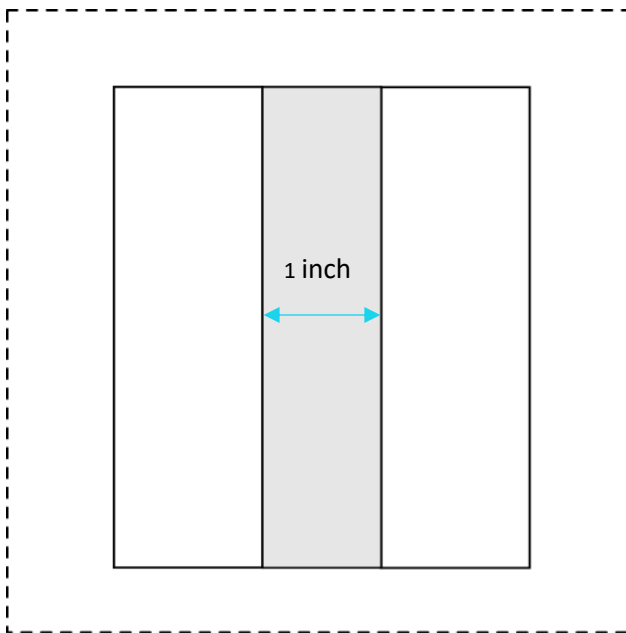


Amy's guide to get your perfect seam for piecing...

Cut 3 strips $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches by a minimum of 4 inches long. The length isn't super important, cutting them accurately is!

Sew these strips together side-by-side using your quarter inch foot, a seam guide for $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seams, or your piecing method of choice.

Press the seams to one side.



Measure the center strip:

- If the strip measures 1 inch wide, congratulations!
- If the strip is narrower than 1 inch, your seam allowance is too wide. This is what many people find even if they measure their seam allowance.
- If the strip is wider than 1 inch, your seam allowance is too narrow.

It does not matter if your seam allowance actually measures $\frac{1}{4}$ inch! What matters is that we get a one-inch strip after the seams are sewn on each side.

Ideally, your machine allows you to change your “needle-drop position” by small increments. This is done by moving the width setting while the machine is set up for straight stitch.

If you can't fine tune the needle position enough, you may need to use a different foot, move your seam guide or use a different seam guide on the bed of the machine.

Other things will affect your $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam; accurate cutting, the thickness of your fabric and thread, pressing, and how steadily you maneuver the pieces under the foot.

Finding the perfect settings for you means that your blocks will measure what they are supposed to when you are done.