

# Sewing Repair Solutions

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## My Wife (Linda's) Hints for Beginning Quilters

First of all, I'm by no means the world's expert on quilting. I've been sewing since I was about 8, but quilting since around 2003, and long arm quilting the last four or five years. Before that, I was stippling my creations on a small regular sewing machine – all sizes of quilts – so it is possible. It just takes patience and determination!

I HIGHLY recommend Quilt Shop Quality Fabric (Not Wal-Mart) and Top Quality Thread (Not Coats & Clark). ANYTHING worth all the time and effort that goes into making an heirloom is worthy of the best..... even donation quilts deserve top quality materials. High Quality will last over time -- Poor Quality will fall apart, fray, tear & wear too quickly.

Thread. When I piece my squares & blocks together, I use 60 weight thread. You may not think there's much difference between 40 weight and 60 weight – but there definitely is. Use the same thread throughout your project.

There are No Quilt Police – So be Creative & Expressive of your personality & mood. Don't ever let anyone talk down to you or tell you "I would have done it differently". You are using your time & money to make something fabulous that you will either keep in your home or better yet give it to someone you know will appreciate it.

There is nothing more important than seam consistency. Without using the exact seam allowance in each and every block, your blocks will end up being different sizes. Practice to ensure your 1/4" seam is the same block to block. Inconsistency is sure to bring you frustration and disappointment.

There are several presser feet on the market you may choose from – some with the little metal flange on the side, some using the side of the foot, etc. I've seen some sewers use a piece of painter's or sewing tape on the bed of the machine – whatever your method – consistent seam allowance is extremely important.

Without this consistency, block sizes shrink or expand – an 1/8" difference adds up pretty quickly – with only ONE seam per block (in a four-patch quilt block) you had added an additional 1/4" to that one block. Add that up joining those blocks over an entire row of perhaps 8 blocks and you have added nearly 2 inches to that row! What happens when you stitch the next row using 1/4 seams? The rows will never match. So, practice those seam allowances and get them consistent from the beginning.

Make a label for the back side – I typically use a triangular shape in the bottom right corner. Give the quilt a name that suits the design & your creativity. Put the Date & Your Name and City etc. This will document your work long after we are gone and folks will always be talking about you and your talents.

Once you complete the Quilt Top – Think about the Batting that goes inside and a Backing that compliments the quilt top you just completed. Next comes the pretty quilting that holds it all together and then the Binding.

I would be pleased to help you plan or complete your masterpiece.

## Most of all – Be Creative and Have Fun



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