

Calico Carriage Quilt Designs®

Helpful Hints and Tips

Cutting, Pressing and 1/4" Seams

You will only need to press a section of fabric slightly larger than what you need to cut.

Selvage edge = tightly woven edges of fabric

Hold the fabric with the selvage edges even and together. Shake the fabric and look at the bottom fold. Manipulate the fabric until the fold hangs straight. Lay the fabric on the cutting mat with the fold toward you. The first cut is to straighten the ragged edge of fabric.

Using two rulers: Lay the square ruler on the fold with a long line of the ruler flat and even with fold. Place your 6 X 24 ruler to the left of square ruler. Check to be sure you are cutting off a small amount of both layers of fabric. Move square ruler out of the way and cut. You will then cut your strips. If you are cutting numerous strips, you will need to re-straighten the edge of fabric occasionally.

Using one 6"X 24" ruler: Place fabric on mat with fold at the top and cut edge to your right. Place ruler on fold close to ragged edge of fabric. Make sure ruler line is straight and fold is flat. Position ruler close to cut edge and check to be sure you are going to cut off both layers. Cut off ragged edge. Turn mat around so that fold is toward you and cut edge is to your left. Cut strips.

As you are cutting you will need to move your hand up the ruler to maintain pressure on the ruler. Be sure to keep your fingers on the ruler and out of the way!

You must sew with an accurate 1/4" seam.

To guide you, you may use a quarter inch foot on your machine, or move needle position, or mark a line on bed of machine. You can mark a line using tape, post-a-notes, permanent pen etc. To test your seam allowance: cut two pieces of fabric 1" X 3 1/2". Sew with 1/4" seam, press seam to one side and measure. The piece should measure 1 1/2" X 3 1/2"

Pressing:

When pressing your seams, you should press them flat as sewn to set the stitches and then press seam toward one side. Usually the seams are pressed toward the darker fabric, but sometimes you will press to the light for construction purposes. In many books the diagrams will tell you which way to press. Do the final press from the right side to eliminate any tucks or folds.

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