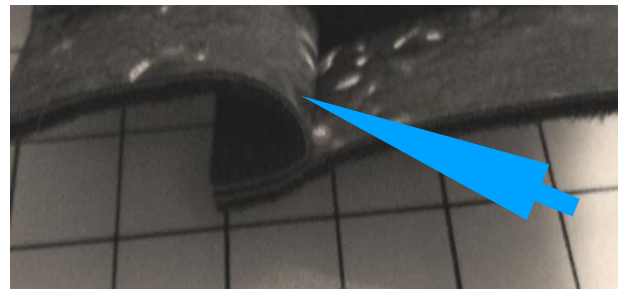


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### *Find Your Perfect Quarter Inch Seam*

Almost all pieced quilts use a “scant”  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam in construction. The cut size of the pieces depends on an accurate seam allowance for the pieces to fit. If the quilt top design uses many different shapes, such as squares and triangles, the pieces will not fit together if the seams are different widths. The ideal quarter inch seam is the one that results in the accuracy of the final measurement of the finished pieces. The seam itself is generally smaller than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” and is called a “scant” quarter inch seam. In quilting, both of the seam allowances are generally pressed to one side rather than open. Because of this method of pressing the seams, one side of the fabric is riding over the top of bulk of the seam resulting in more fabric taken up. A smaller seam is needed to compensate for this turn of the fabric when the seam is pressed open even if it takes up only a couple of threads. If any specialty fabrics used in quilting are either thicker or thinner than standard quilting cottons, the seam allowance must be adjusted to accommodate the different thickness. Thicker fabrics may need an even more scant seam as determined by a test sample.



Set up your machine by sewing a test seam with two accurately cut squares of fabric. Cut several 2” squares out of the fabric you will be using in the project. Layer two squares right sides together and raw edges even. Set up machine for piecing with the thread you are using in your project and a machine needle made for quilting. Select the stitch and the foot of your choice. Sew one edge of the squares and then press the squares open with both of the seams to one side. Measure the sewn squares from raw edge to raw edge across the seam. It should

measure 3 1/2" from edge to edge. If it doesn't, adjust the settings of the machine and keep sewing squares till they are exactly 3 1/2". Now is the time to be very, very picky. When you have a perfect seam, put the settings into the memory of the machine and remember which stitch is your perfect seam for that project.

### *Try These Piecing Setup Strategies for Thicker Fabrics*

- Width key and L/R Shift - The width key moves needle position .5 mm in a straight stitch. The L/R shift key moves the needle position for a straight stitch a scant .25 mm for more precise needle positioning. Use both keys to precisely place the needle with the foot you are using and the visual cues you rely on to sew an accurate seam.
- LED guide light- projects a line of light that extends in the front of the foot and is adjustable to help you guide the fabric. This is especially helpful when sewing a seam prior to cutting the fabric as in sewing the corner triangles as shown in the video. Use the plus or minus keys to move the light. The arrow key to the right of the plus key moves the light to the opposite side of the stitch. The guide light can also be placed exactly on the stitch line and used for perfectly matching triangles or can be moved just slightly to accommodate thicker fabrics.
- Straight stitch plate - this stitch plate has a smaller opening for the needle and supports the fabric better than the wide opening of the zigzag stitch plate. This plate keeps the needle position in the middle no matter which straight stitch is selected. Use this plate with a quarter inch foot to avoid accidentally changing needle position and breaking a needle on the foot. Any stitch other than a straight stitch with center needle position cannot be selected when this plate is on the machine. When using this plate, rely on the LED guide light to provide a visual clue when sewing a seam.
- To place a stitch setting into the memory of the machine, adjust the settings and then touch the memory key in the lower right of the screen. When selecting that stitch again the settings will automatically be those in the most recent settings placed in memory. Each utility stitch has five memory combinations. To retrieve any of the five combinations, touch the retrieve key in the lower right corner of the screen. Select a combination by touching it and then touch retrieve. Settings can be removed from memory by touching delete



in the retrieve screen. Touch the stitch, touch retrieve, touch the option you wish to remove and then touch delete. Touch cancel to leave the Retrieve screen.

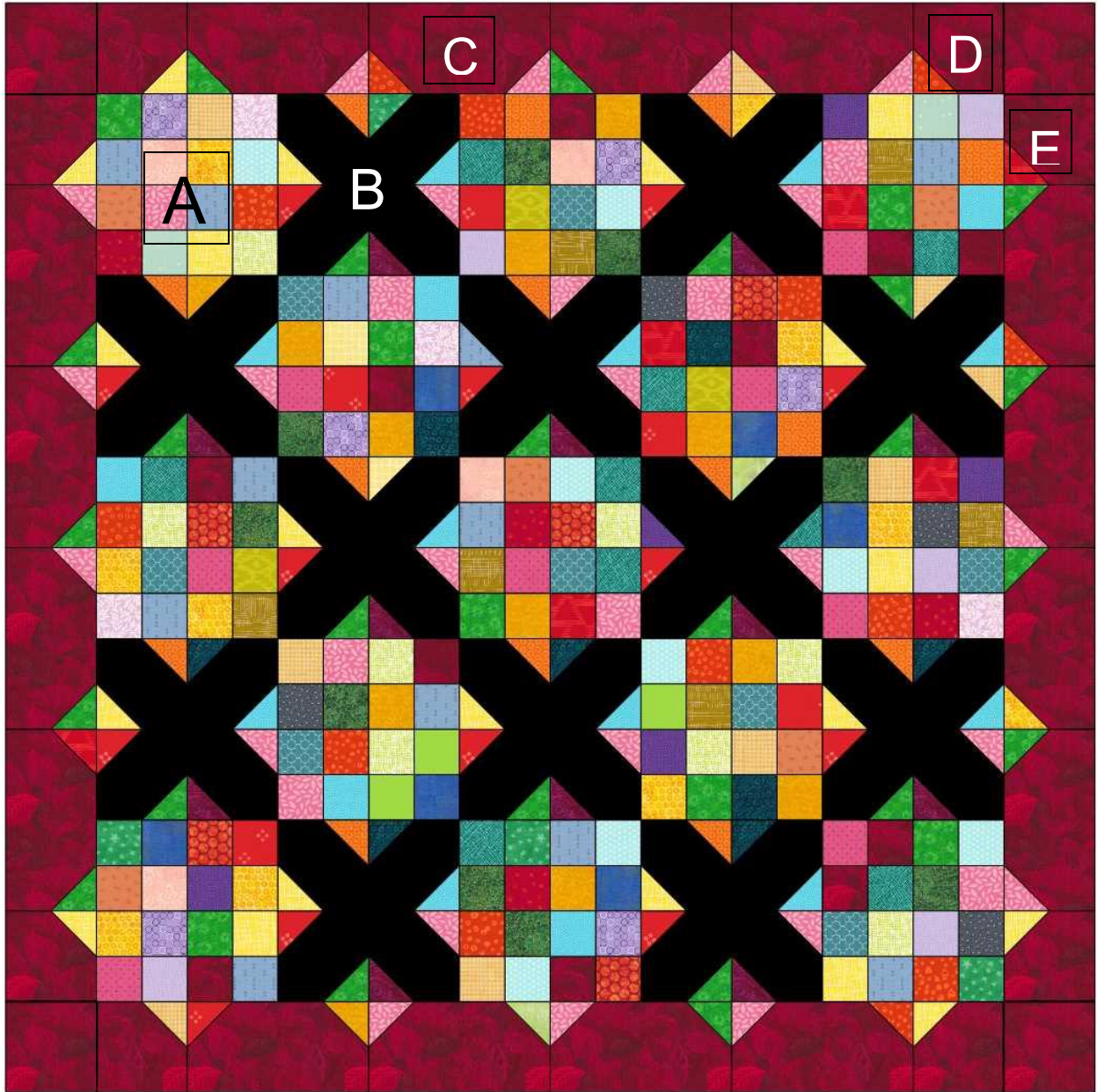
There are many choices and combinations of stitch and foot. Try different combinations to see what works best for you. Perfect piecing for projects may be easier with different set ups, so try a few to see what give you the results you are looking for. Different types of fabrics may need different settings. Thicker fabrics will require a smaller seam. It takes only a few minutes to test your seam before each project with the materials you will be using.

### My Favorite Quarter Inch Seam Settings

• <b>Stitch:</b>	• <b>L/R shift:</b>
• <b>Width:</b>	• <b>Foot:</b>
• <b>Length:</b>	• <b>LED Guide Light:</b>

Fabric shown in video was linen/cotton blend by Robert Kaufman – Essex, Essex Yarn Dyed (used in video) and Essex Metallic.

***To save an image into the screen saver of the machine***, transfer the .jpg image(s) to a USB drive. The image should not be too large. If necessary, use a computer photo editing program to save the image in a smaller format. Open the settings pages of the machine and advance to the Screen Saver settings page. Touch the “Select” and then “Customize” icons. Touch “Custom 1” and select the photo from the USB memory. Touch Set. Up to five images can be saved and they will rotate in order. If only one image is placed in memory, then that is the only image that will show. To remove any custom image, select it by touching the Custom icon and then “Delete”. Set the screen saver time to 1 minute. When the machine is inactive for a minute the screen saver will appear. Touch the screen to return to the screen in use.



# Trellis

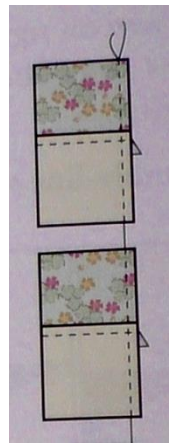
48" by 48"



## Trellis Quilt

- Sixteen Patch Blocks and “Snowball” Triangles - Assorted Fabrics cut into (xx) 2 ½” squares
- “X” Blocks (black fabric in illustration) - (48) 4 ½” squares
- Border Fabric (red fabric in illustration) – (16) 4 ½” x 8 ½” rectangles & (12) 4 ½” squares

Create (52) four patch blocks **labeled A** by first sewing pairs of 2 ½” squares together. Press the pairs open with the seam to one side. The unit should measure 2 ½” x 4 ½”. Join the pairs together by nesting the centers with the seams in opposite directions. Align the pair so the seam on top is pointing away from you. Sew the pairs together with a ¼” seam. Sew all the pairs together to create the four patch blocks. When sewing each pair, the seam on the top should always be pointing away from you. Press the pairs open and swirl the seam allowances as shown in the illustration. Join four sets of four patch blocks together create (13) 16 patch blocks that measure 8 ½” square.



Create the X block **labeled B** by “snowballing” a 2 ½” square on diagonal corners of each of the (48) 4 ½” squares. Sew across the small squares on the diagonal as shown in the illustration. Press the square out towards the corner. Square the corner if necessary and trim away the corner below the top fabric on both corners. Sew together (4) 4 ½” blocks to create the “X” block. The block should measure 8 ½”.

The border rectangles are snowballed in the corners. (16) 4 ½” x 8 ½” rectangles **labeled C** have corner triangles in two adjacent sides. (4) 4 ½” squares have corner triangles on the

**upper right corner labeled D** and (4) 4 ½" squares have corner triangles on the **upper left corner labeled E**. The four corner blocks are 4 ½" squares that are not pieced.

Assemble the quilt as shown in the diagram on the previous page.