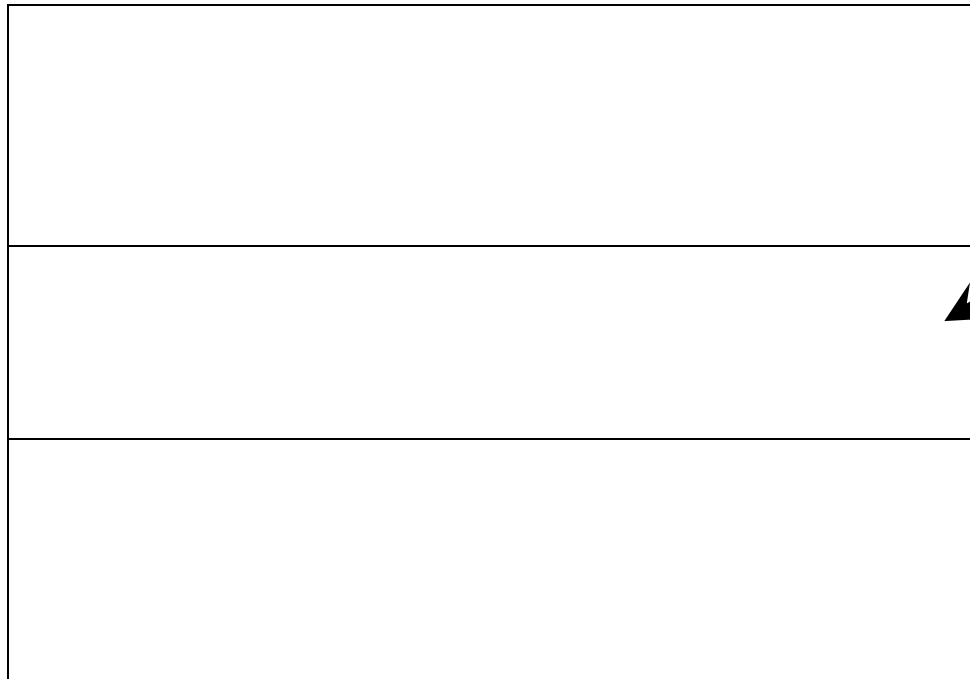


Calibrate your Sewing Machine – Seam Test

USING AN ACRYLIC SEAM GUIDE TOOL:

Manually lower the needle into the scant quarter-inch hole, and align the tool straight on the bed of the machine. Use a thick stack of painter's tape, moleskin, Q-tool vinyl strip, or other item to create a guide. When sewing, align the fabric along this straight raised guide for consistent straight accurate seams.



**Pin or Tape
Seam Test
samples here.**

**** TIP:** one thread-width too wide or narrow results in 1/8" gain or loss in this sample. The sample will change with the weight of thread used in the project. Sew a new sample for EACH new project.

- A successful setup for this quilt – the sample should measure **3-1/2" wide.**
- You may sew several samples to establish the correct setting for the machine.
- Adjust the needle position right or left OR
- Adjust the position where you align the edges of the fabric beneath the presser foot OR
- Place a seam guide (such as a Perfect Piecing Tool or Jan Krentz Corner Marking Tool) beneath the presser foot.

Write notes on your samples with a permanent pen. **KEEP THE SAMPLES.**

Write notes on the wrong-sized samples:

- SEAM too narrow
- SEAM too wide
- Watch seam width – inconsistent start / stop (with arrow toward inconsistency)
- Wandering seam width
- Presser foot, machine, needle position

Notes on the best seam test:

- GREAT SEAM
- Machine name, make, model
- Presser foot name or number
- Needle position or setting
- Thread weight

WHEN YOU RESUME SEWING after moving your machine, or following an absence from the project:

Select the **GREAT SEAM test piece**. Fold the fabric strips at either side so they are facing right sides together. Place the sample beneath the presser foot, as if you were sewing it again. Verify that the needle position will pierce the seam in **EXACTLY** the same place. Adjust seam width as necessary, referring to your notes. Resume sewing your project. The construction should match, with no size distortion of quilt sections.

Calibrate your Sewing Machine – Seam Test

Blue Painter's Tape Strips
For your machine and your ruler

1 ½" x 5" fabric strips (right)
To be used for the seam calibration test