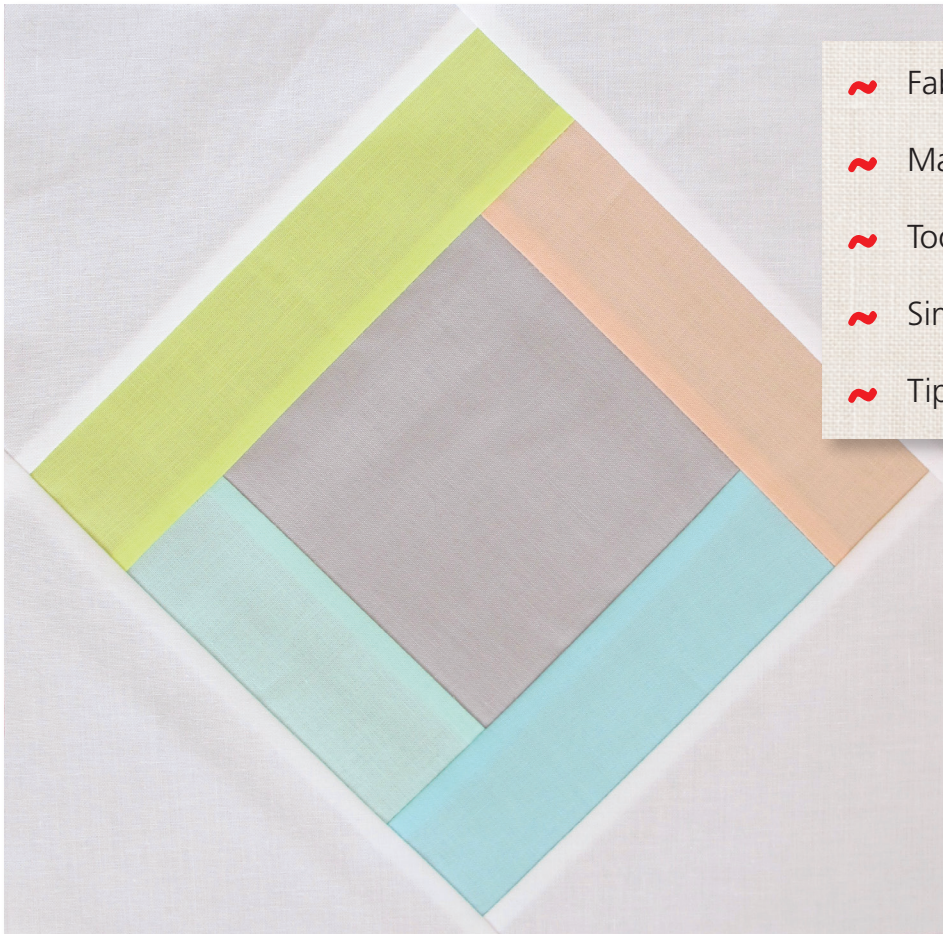


eBook  
SERIES

Just QUILT It!

# Basic Quilt Piecing



- ~ Fabric Preparation
- ~ Machine Setup
- ~ Tools for Success
- ~ Simple Log Cabin Block
- ~ Tips for Accurate Piecing



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# Fabric Preparation

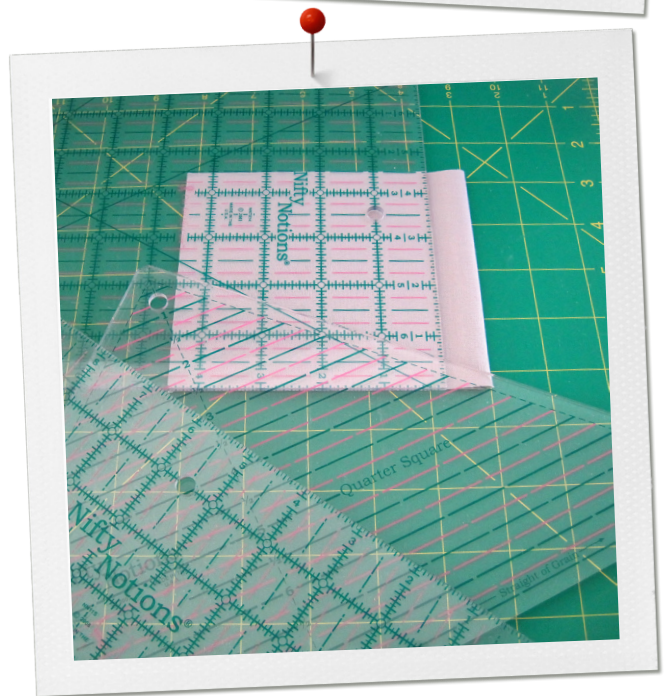
Piecing is that thing we do as quilters that many would find foolish. We buy beautiful new fabric only to take it home, cut it up, and sew it back together. However, there needs to be some preparation before piecing can begin.

## Fabric Preparation

Before any cutting is done, treat the quilting fabric with spray starch or a fabric treatment such as "Mary Ellen's Best Press." This will remove wrinkles and give the fabric some body, making the cutting process more accurate and the piecing easier.



Cutting should be done with accurate rulers. If using several different rulers they should be the same brand as accuracy can vary from brand to brand.



# Machine Setup

Select the Security Program on the sewing machine (if available) and select the Straight Stitch needle plate option. Touch x to close the screen.

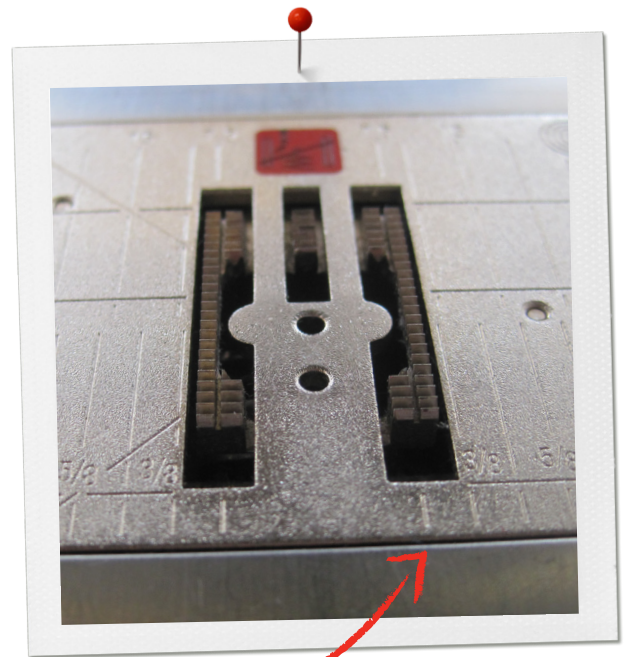


Select the Quilt Menu on the sewing machine (if available). There are several straight stitches located in this menu. Select straight stitch #1326. This has been setup in the machine as the perfect stitch for piecing, at a stitch length of 2.0 mm.



# Tools for Success

Attach the straight stitch needle plate to the sewing machine. This will help perfect the straight stitch on your sewing machine. There are markings on the plate that help you guide the fabric for perfect seaming. It will also prevent the points of triangle shaped pieces from going down into the bobbin area.



1/4" mark

Attach BERNINA Patchwork Foot #37/37D or BERNINA Patchwork Foot w/guide #57/57D. Engage the Dual Feed if using a D foot. The BERNINA Patchwork Foot features special markings and a straight stitch opening. It is ideal for patchwork and precision sewing. The guide on the BERNINA Patchwork Foot #57 aids in sewing precise straight lines.



Insert a #75 Quilting Needle in the machine. A quilting needle has a slim, tapered point and a slightly stronger shaft for stitching through multiple fabric layers and across intersecting seams.



# Simple Log Cabin Block

This Basic Log Cabin block has just one round of logs around a center square. Traditional long cabin blocks will have several rows of logs.

## Cutting Instructions

- Cut one center square 4 ½"
- Select four different fabrics for the logs:
  - Cut 1 log 2" X 4 ½"
  - Cut 2 logs 2" X 6"
  - Cut 1 log 2" X 7 ½"

## Block Construction

- Seam the 2" X 4 ½" log to one side of the center square. When approaching the machine with the fabric, place the edge of the fabric over the single hole in the throat plate so you are not sewing on air and the seam edge just inside the ¼" mark on the throat plate.
- Make sure you can see the mark on the throat plate so you will have a perfect scant ¼" seam.
- There is no need to back stitch when piecing. Snip all threads when finished piecing.
- Press seam towards the log. This is done by putting the iron down on the seam; then again on the seam in the direction it is being pressed. Avoid moving the iron as you may distort the fabric.
- Rotate the block clockwise and seam a 6" log to the square. Press.
- Continue around the square, pressing after each log, always pressing the seam towards the log.
- If the seam allowances are a perfect scant quarter, the final block will measure 7 ½".



# Simple Log Cabin Block

## Adding Setting Triangles

Many times a block like this will be placed "on point" using a setting triangle.

- Cut two squares  $6\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Cut the squares in half, diagonally, creating four triangles
- Fold the long side of each triangle in half, and finger press a line marking the center.
- Fold each side of the block in half, and finger press a marking indicating the center of each side.
- Matching the center of the *triangle* side and the center of one side of the square, sew the triangle to the square using a "scant quarter" seam allowance.
- Be sure not to stretch the triangle edge as it is on bias.
- Press the seam allowance toward the triangle.
- Repeat on the remaining three sides.
- Trim the block to  $10\frac{1}{2}$ ".

