

## Making The “Y-Seam” Easy

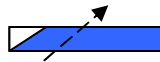
The Y-seam is one of the most feared tasks in the quilting world. At the mention of the words “Y-Seam”, those of us who machine-piece head to the nearest store that has Marci Baker’s Not Your Grandmother’s Tumbling Blocks pattern and hope that she’s in town to teach the class ☺.

If you feel intimidated by the Y-seam, I hope that after you’ve tried this method you will find it less daunting.

1. Pick 3 fabrics for this practice.
2. Then, pick the size of your strip, 3, 4, or 6 inches and cut that size from your fabrics.
3. Lay the 60 degree line on the ruler at the top or bottom of your strip and cut the selvage off with your first cut.



4. Then picking the same size as you cut the strip, measure that 3, 4, or 6 inches using the 60 degree line on the ruler at the top or bottom of the strip and cut the appropriate size square or diamond shape.



5. Take the two pieces you have decided are the right and left of your block and bring them to the sewing machine. With right sides together chain sew them from the point. You will put them under the presser foot and sew 5 stitches and sew back 3 stitches (or backstitch 3). Then continue your seam, add the next piece and do it the same way sew in 5 stitches and backstitch three, continue the seam. This allows you to have a solid corner to match points and usually the 2 stitches that you did not back stitch come apart very easily. This gives you a more stable seam when attaching the third piece.
6. When you are done with the center seams, press them open.
7. Now bring the third (or top) of the block set and right sides together, match the points, and sew down to the ¼ inch seam at the center.
8. Leaving the needle down, turn and match the points by folding the diamond you have just sewn to in half. Use a stiletto or a long straight pin to help you flatten the center. Finish sewing from center to point, open and look to see how flat and matched your points are ☺.

Take a look at the Y-seam instruction video on my YouTube channel:

<http://youtube.com/user/moonlightquilts>

Thank you and Happy Quilting! ☺

Beth Lancaster

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