

The Seaming Method of Quilting

I have to say that I saw a version of this method on the “Fons and Porter” TV program on PBS, but didn’t like the way they covered the seams. I figured out a way I liked better to cover the seams and have been using this method ever since.

- 1) Prepare your block the way you normally would. Keep in mind that in addition to your normal $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam, you will lose about 1” all around the square, so if you have a pattern that comes right up to the edge of your block it will be covered. I have gotten around this by adding a small framing strip around my square so as not to lose any of the block design. I personally like to work with blocks that are 12-15”, but mostly because that is the size of my square-ups.
- 2) Cut backing pieces and batting pieces the same size as your square.
- 3) Layer your backing, batting, and top square like you would for your finished quilt. (figure 1)



Figure 1

- 4) Pin securely and quilt your square as desired. Do this for all of your squares.
- 5) With backs right sides together, sew blocks together in rows with a $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam, making sure you are lining up all of your layers. (Figure 2) I usually make my rows with the longer number of squares in the quilt. So if your quilt is 6 x 5, I would make the rows six blocks each. This is especially important for larger quilts such as king or queen sized. I like to pin a small piece of paper with the number of the row at the top of each one, so that when I am ready to join the rows, I know which order they go in.



Figure 2

- 6) Press open your seams (Figure 3)



Figure 3

- 7) Cut 3" strips to cover your seams. The way I figure out how many strips I will need is to take the size of the square. In this case it was 12". Multiply that times the number of seams you have in each row. This was a 6 x 5 quilt, so I had five seams in five rows, which meant it would be $12" \times 25 = 300"$. Then I measure the length of each row, in this case 69.5 (I round it up to 70). There will be four seams to join the rows so I multiply $70" \times 4 = 280"$. Now add the two numbers and divide by the width of your fabric to figure out how many strips to cut. In this case it was $580" / 42" = 13.81$, so I know to cut 14 strips 3" strips the width of the fabric.
- 8) Sew the strips end to end to make one long strip. (Figure 4)



Figure 4

- 9) Sew long strip wrong sides together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press the seam open centering the seam in the middle of the strip. (Figure 5)



Figure 5

- 10) Center the strip over the seam and sew close to each edge to cover seam. As I cover the seams in my rows, I roll the row up to fit into the machine. (Figure 6)



Figure 6

- 11) Pin row 1 and 2 together with backs right side together. Stitch with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, making sure you are aligning all the layers together. Only add one row at a time before moving on. (Figure 7) Press the seam open.



Figure 7

- 12) Cover the seam the same way you did before. Work with one row at a time with the bulk of your fabric always to the left of your machine. (Figure 8)



Figure 8

- 13) Continue this way until all of your rows are added to your quilt. Then bind your quilt like you normally would.



This is what I call a couch quilt. (Approx. 58" x70")



Back of quilt

Other quilts using this method:



King sized quilt



I framed the squares on this one so I didn't lose any of my design

Tutorial Prepared for [1 Choice 4 Quilting](#) by [Sandie Oravec](#)