

## Tips for Sewing Pinwheel Blocks

-Kathleen Tracy

Here are some tips to help you sew a basic pinwheel block and get your points to match in the center. You may find that you have to keep your seam ripper handy.

First, make sure your half-square triangles are trimmed to the correct size for the block you're working on. Each pinwheel block or unit consists of sewing 4 triangle units together. Either press your seams open or press to the side in opposite directions. When you sew the pairs of units together, pin the center where the seams meet so the points match up and the pieces don't shift as you sew. (I use Clover fine glass head pins.) I don't sew over pins but if you feel you must, do it carefully and go slowly so you don't break your needle. I usually sew right up to the pin and then remove it.



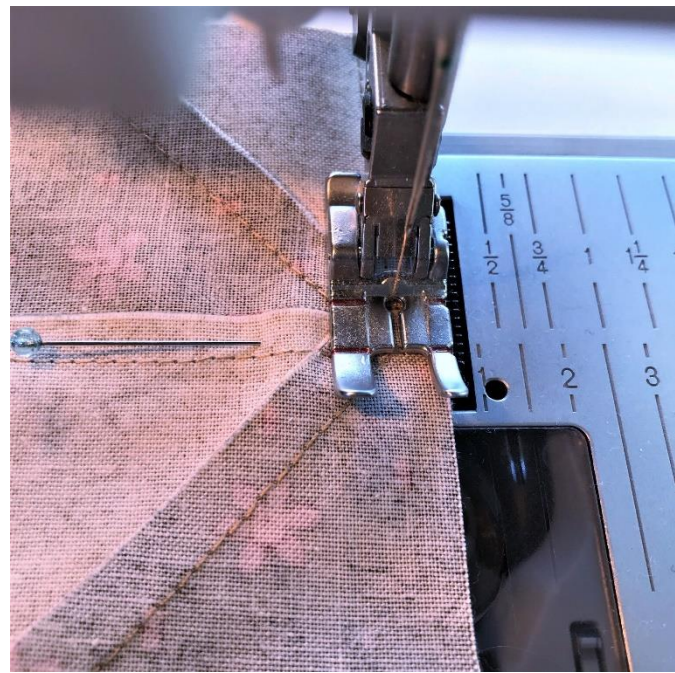
Make sure to leave 1/4" where the points will meet. If you don't do this, your points will be cut off.



Sometimes I like to press my seams open. Run a bit of water along the seam and press to get it to lie flat. Or, press in opposite directions and butt the seams (see photo below).



Pin the units together, matching the seam lines if open or nesting the seams if pressing in opposite directions.



**Sew units together with an accurate 1/4" seam.** Stop right before the pin and remove before sewing over it. If your points are cut off, your seam allowance is too large. Rip and resew. Try a scant 1/4" seam.



Open seam, dab a bit of water along it with your finger and press flat. Or, try this - gently "pop" a couple of threads in the seams where they intersect to "spin" them and reduce the bulk. Gives you a cute little pinwheel. Dab a bit of water in the middle and press.



Voilà! As perfect as I can get it, which is good enough for me.