

## Some quick hints before your first quilt:

- Seam allowance: Almost always a “scant quarter-inch”. If your machine allows you to move your needle, you may want to experiment and see what position works best. The kits are cut for this quarter-inch seam allowances.
- Pressing: One of the most important part of quilting! Seams are often pressed to one side rather than pressing them open, although sometimes pressing open can be beneficial. Generally, where you can, press towards the darker fabric to avoid shadowing. Quilters like opposing seams, so that they nest together for a nice match. In the kits, instructions are not given for pressing so figure out what you thinks works best. Don't sweat it.
- Thread: Some quilters can get very righteous about the need for cotton thread. Frankly, as long as you use a thin, strong thread, it will be fine. A good quality poly or poly cotton may have less lint.
- Thread color: With a variety of fabrics, don't worry about matching thread to fabric color. Using an appropriate neutral thread is fine, usually white, gray, tan, taupe or black.
- Borders: Some quilters are taught to piece borders with diagonal seams; however, quilt kits are cut for straight seams. The edges of quilts can be prone to stretching; measure your desired border lengths through the middle of the quilt and ease the quilt to fit the border if necessary.
- Ask for help if you're confused. You probably already know a quilter or you can call or e-mail any of the following small quilt group members:
  - Linda Cadzow      [cadzowlinda@gmail.com](mailto:cadzowlinda@gmail.com)
  - Eileen Giskaas      [egiskaas55@gmail.com](mailto:egiskaas55@gmail.com)
  - Katie Oaks      [lundoak@yahoo.com](mailto:lundoak@yahoo.com)
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