

# Compositions in Cloth presents

## Foundation Piecing Hint #1 TOOLS, PREPARATION AND IRONING

### Helpful tools and products

- Iron with both steam and dry settings.
- **Polyester water-soluble stabilizer** (such as Ricky Tims' *Stable Stuff*) doesn't have to be ripped out of the top before you quilt. To maintain a soft hand, you may want to wash your quilt after it's assembled. You can also run this product through a printer. I run *Stable Stuff*, one sheet at a time, through my laser printer with no difficulty. However, most products of this nature cannot be put through a laser printer.
- **Foundation piecing paper** does have to be ripped out, but because it's thin, it's easy to rip.
- Paper card about 6 inches wide. You can use a post card, a chocolate bar liner, part of a cereal box etc.
- **Add-a-quarter ruler** – a six-inch ruler with a ¼-inch shelf so that you can tuck it up against the card to trim the seam allowances.
- **Walking foot** - If things shift while sewing, you may need to adjust your presser foot tension. If you don't have that option on your machine, it may help to use a **walking foot** (the foot used for quilting).

### Getting ready to sew

- After cutting pieces mark each group of fabric pieces with their placement labels on masking tape and stick to the top fabric or put them in a marked zip-lock bag.
- You may want to use a 90/14 needle for bigger holes (a must if you're using straight paper but not necessary with water-soluble stabilizer)

### Ironing techniques - Keeping the ink on the paper and off the fabric

- Set your dry iron to a 'cotton' setting or lower. Ink can transfer onto your ironing board and then to your fabric if your iron is too hot. Keep iron off the paper and only on the fabric.
- Finger-press along the seam line, then use a dry iron on a low cotton setting to get a crisp edge.
- Iron rather than press the seams. You don't have to push hard just nudge the seam to one side on the right side of the fabric. If you have a particularly bulky seam you may want to open the seam.
- Use steam when sewing the blocks together. You can get a tighter, more accurate seam that way. Make sure the steam doesn't touch the paper directly.