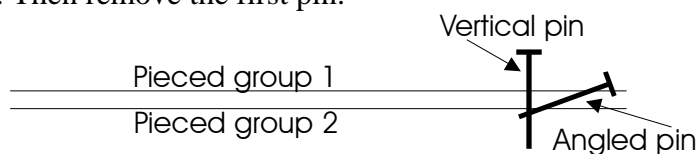


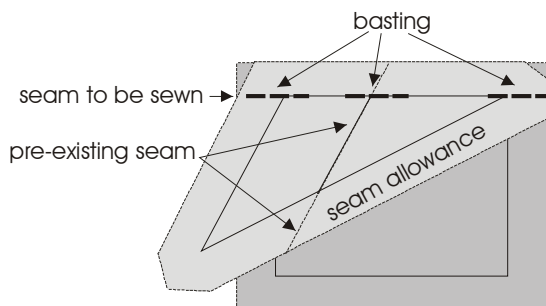
Foundation Piecing Hint #3

GREATER ACCURACY WHEN SEWING FOUNDATIONS TOGETHER

- Use straight pins only. Using a bent pin will prevent accuracy.
- Pin, aligning all matching points. Insert a stabilizing pin first and hold it vertical while you insert a second pin at an angle and pin as usual. Then remove the first pin.



- Test the alignment of the middle of the seam with another pin. Hold it perpendicular to the fabric and poke it through the seam line. Check the underside to be sure the pin goes through the second seam line.
- Machine-baste along the seam allowance at the beginning, over any pre-existing seams or the middle of a long side, and at the end. Don't sew along the whole length of the seam. Instead sew at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on either side of a pin then lift the pressure foot and slide the piece along to the next section. After this is checked for accuracy, sew the whole length with a shorter stitch length (1.5 to 2.5 depending on what kind of paper you're using).



- If your seam line shifts on the bottom patch even though you have pinned and basted, try lightening the pressure on your presser foot or using a walking foot.
- You can use a few tiny daubs of basting glue in the seam allowances but make sure there is none on the paper.

Less bulk in seams (after block is assembled)

- Pull basting thread out of seam allowance.
- If using water-soluble stabilizer, peel the stabilizer away in the seam allowance only. You can leave the rest in the quilt if you wish.
- The center of the block may get very bulky. Iron one seam toward the top, one toward the bottom, one to the left and one to the right. You may have to clip one of the seams to separate the seam allowance in order to split the direction of a seam.
- If block is still bulky in the center, get a small block of wood and place over a protective piece of cloth or plastic and place those over the center of the blocks. Take a hammer and give the wood a good bang. It may take two or three hits. If this still doesn't work, then hit it harder.