

Rapid Fire Tips for Success

These tips use screenshots from Deb Tuckers video at <http://youtu.be/jWOS9KBDJgU>. In the video she refers to:

Diamonds 

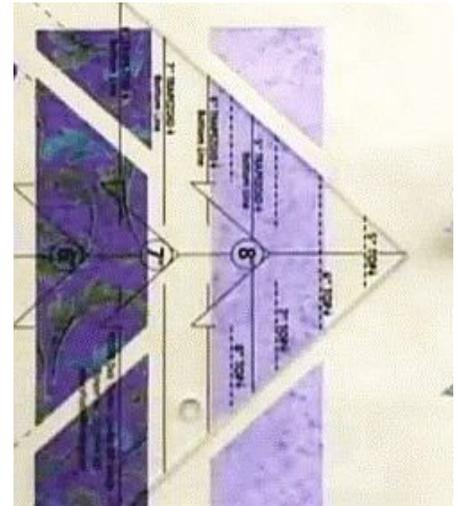
Trapezoids 

Triangles 

Suggestion: use some spray starch or [Best Press](#) on your fabric before cutting. You will be working with a lot of bias edges.

Begin by cutting the strips the width you will need for your size ruler. The video refers to 1-3/4" wide strips for the trapezoids because she is using the petite star ruler. If you are using the larger ruler, your trapezoid strips will be 2-1/4". You will cut a larger width strip for the diamonds and an even larger strip for the corner triangles.

To cut your trapezoids, lay the ruler on the strip with the line of your chosen block size on the bottom of the strip. Ignore that large circle number—you are looking for a line on the ruler. Cut. Flip the ruler and continue cutting trapezoids for the length of the strip.



Sew your trapezoids right sides together to the wider strips you cut in the first step, starting about 2-1/2" down from the top of the strip. Use pins at the top and bottom of the trapezoid to keep it in place. The instructions that come with this ruler suggest working with 20" long strips. If you do, be sure to leave that 2-1/2" at the top of each strip. Flip the trapezoids over and press.

Trim these units by laying the ruler on the top of the strip, lining the center diagonal line of the ruler on the left hand side of the strip. This ensures that you will be trimming the unit at a perfect 45 degree angle, creating a perfect diamond sewn to one end of the trapezoid.

You only have to trim the top. The bottom will be trimmed after you add the next diamond.



Sew the trapezoid-diamond units you just made to another strip. This time you don't have to start 2-1/2" from the top. Open, press and cut on a 45 degree angle like you did before.



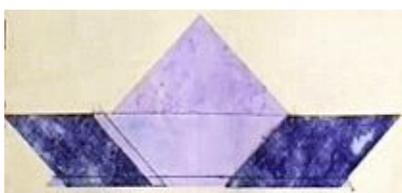
Suggestion: half of the trapezoids-diamond units you are making will have light trapezoids and the other half will have dark trapezoids. Take the time to re-press the light trapezoids toward the dark diamonds. It will help you in the next step. Use lots of [Best Press](#) to keep everything straight.



Notice that the bottom still needs to be trimmed. You will do this with a regular ruler.



The width of the widest strip you cut will be based on the size of the block you want. Remember that a Hunter Star block the one shown to the right, not the one on the first page, which is actually 4 blocks sewn together.



Cut squares from that strip, then cut those squares on the diagonal to make triangles. Roughly matching the center of the trapezoid-diamond unit to the center of the triangles units, sew the unit as shown left.

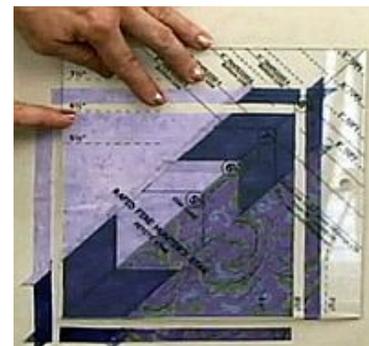
Open and press as shown right. The edges may not match up exactly, but that is okay.



Last step! Sew the dark-trapezoid units to the light trapezoid units, taking the time to pin the intersection where the diamonds meet. Because of the way you re-pressed the seams, they should just nestle next to each other. Ease the center to fit if necessary. Press this center diagonal seam open.

Use the Hunter Star ruler to square up this block by placing the ruler with the diagonal line on the seam you just created and the trapezoids centered in the markings on the ruler.

Cut two sides, flip the ruler and, in addition to matching the same markings again, you will also match the block size line on the outside of the ruler.



Whew! You are done. The first block is always a challenge, but it gets easier. Soon you will be making these blocks *Rapid-Fire!*