



Let's start with some simple basics!

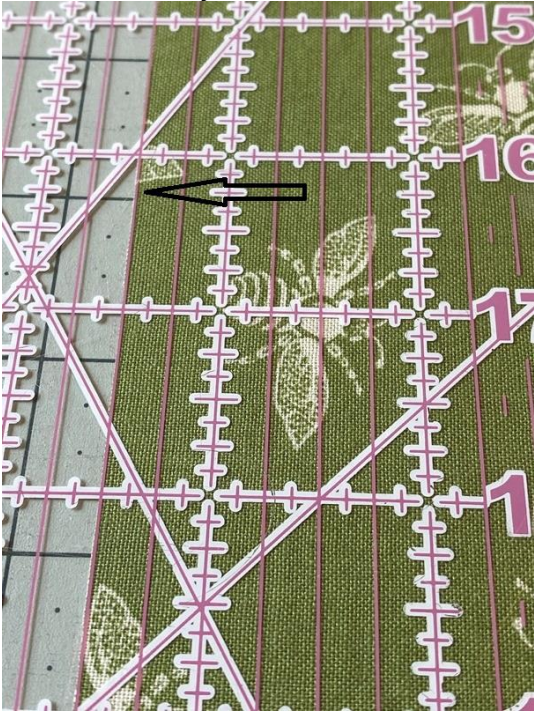
There are (in my opinion) **Six Golden Rules** to piecing. Especially when 'Piecing Tiny Pieces'.

Golden Rule #1. Make sure the machine is in good working condition. It might be time to tune it up! A good working machine is worth its weight in **Gold!**

Golden Rule #2. Replace the needle. A new sharp needle is an essential tool for successful quilting.

Golden Rule #3: Prepare the fabric **BEFORE** cutting out pieces. Either prewash **OR** use spray starch (I use Magic Quilting and Crafting Spray by Faultless) **AND** steam to tighten up the fabric threads. Doing this will shrink the fabric. **If this is not done ahead of cutting** when building a block, the piecing will shrink and the block will be smaller than the desired size.

Golden Rule #4. When cutting fabric for piecing blocks, make sure the desired line of the ruler is **ON** the fabric. Many quilters line the ruler up just off the fabric, resulting in the 'cut piece' a thread or two shy of the desired size. When stitching small blocks together that have multiple pieces, every thread or two counts!



Golden Rule #5: Stitching a quarter inch seam allowance is especially important. A quarter inch quilting foot can be purchased for almost every machine. Make sure the needle is positioned correctly and a perfect quarter inch seam allowance is established before sewing pieces together. I personally do not use a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Golden Rule #6: **PRESS**, do not iron. Ironing is a back and forth motion, pressing is simply placing the iron on the fabric for a few seconds. This method will not distort the shape of the fabric piece, stitched units or blocks.

I appreciate your business!

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