Tucker Trimmer Tool Basics

Designed as a trim down ruler for squares that are constructed from triangles, the Tucker Trimmer® tool helps quilters produce high quality pieces of work. By starting with squares that are slightly larger than necessary, quilters can quickly sew and press units and then trim them down to an exact measurement. Use the chart below to determine your starting size, then construct using Deb’s preferred construction methods illustrated here, or using one of your own.

Once the units are constructed, they will be trimmed down to an exact measurement using the Tucker Trimmer® tool. Note that there are two marks, a circle and a half circle, that will aid in determining which corner of the ruler to use for trimming.
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If you will be trimming your squares to a whole number (2", 3", 4", etc...) and you are right handed, position the whole circle in the upper right. If you are left handed, position the circle in the upper left. If you will be trimming your squares to “half numbers” (1½", 2½", 3½", etc...), rotate the ruler around to position the half circle in the upper right or upper left respectively. Simply align the diagonal ruler lines with the diagonal seam lines of the the oversized blocks and trim down the first corner. Then rotate the block, aligning not only the diagonal guidelines over the seam lines, but also the horizontal and vertical “clean-up” guidelines over the two sides previously trimmed. Each of your units will be trimmed to the perfect size, and will have every seam going directly into the corners of your blocks.

In addition to the instructions included here, you can also watch video demonstrations for using your *Tucker Trimmer*® tool on my website: [Studio180Design.net](http://www.studio180design.net).

### Finished Size of Pieced Unit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1&quot;</th>
<th>1½&quot;</th>
<th>2&quot;</th>
<th>2½&quot;</th>
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<th>3½&quot;</th>
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<th>4½&quot;</th>
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<th>5½&quot;</th>
<th>6&quot;</th>
<th>6½&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cut Size of Pieced Unit</td>
<td>1½&quot;</td>
<td>2&quot;</td>
<td>2½&quot;</td>
<td>3&quot;</td>
<td>3½&quot;</td>
<td>4&quot;</td>
<td>4½&quot;</td>
<td>5&quot;</td>
<td>5½&quot;</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>6½&quot;</td>
<td>7&quot;</td>
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### Starting Squares for Half Square Triangle Unit

|                | 2"  | 2½" | 3"  | 3½" | 4"  | 4½" | 5"  | 5½" | 6"  | 6½" | 7"  | 7½" |

### Starting Squares for Combination Unit

|                | 2½" | 3"  | 3½" | 4"  | 4½" | 5"  | 5½" | 6"  | 6½" | 7"  | 7½" | 8" |

### Starting Squares for Quarter Square Triangle Unit

|                | 2½" | 3"  | 3½" | 4"  | 4½" | 5"  | 5½" | 6"  | 6½" | 7"  | 7½" | 8" |

### Finished Size of Pieced Unit (Cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>7&quot;</th>
<th>7½&quot;</th>
<th>8&quot;</th>
<th>8½&quot;</th>
<th>9&quot;</th>
<th>9½&quot;</th>
<th>10&quot;</th>
<th>10½&quot;</th>
<th>11&quot;</th>
<th>11½&quot;</th>
<th>12&quot;</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cut Size of Pieced Unit (Cont.)</td>
<td>7½&quot;</td>
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<td>9½&quot;</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
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<td>11&quot;</td>
<td>11½&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>12½&quot;</td>
<td>13&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Starting Squares for Half Square Triangle Unit (Cont.)

|                | 8"  | 8½" | 9"  | 9½" | 10" | 10½" | 11" | 11½" | 12" | 12½" | 13" | 13½" |

### Starting Squares for Combination Unit (Cont.)

|                | 8½" | 9"  | 9½" | 10" | 10½" | 11" | 11½" | 12" | 12½" | 13" | 13½" | 14" |

### Starting Squares for Quarter Square Triangle Unit (Cont.)

|                | 8½" | 9"  | 9½" | 10" | 10½" | 11" | 11½" | 12" | 12½" | 13" | 13½" | 14" |
For Piecing Half Square Triangle Units

**Determine** either the required finished size or cut size of the unit you wish to make. Refer to chart for the suggested size squares to cut for making your units.

**Position** two squares right sides together.

**Mark** two stitching lines ¼" on either side of a center diagonal line.

**Stitch** on lines, then **cut** down the middle.

**Press** seams toward darker fabric.

**Position** the *Tucker Trimmer®* over the unit, carefully aligning solid diagonal line with stitched seam as shown. Note that the right handed quilter will trim up the right side and across the top, while the left handed quilter will trim up the left side and across the top.

**Trim** one corner (two sides) to a clean edge.

**Rotate** the unit and line up the *Tucker Trimmer®* again. This time be sure to position the diagonal line and the outline of the square for the measurement desired.

**Trim** the two remaining sides to create a precise square unit.

For Piecing Combination Units

**Determine** either the required finished size or cut size of the unit you wish to make. Refer to chart for the suggested size squares to use for making your unit.

**Begin** with the fabric squares that will become the two smaller, quarter square triangles and proceed as for pieced half square triangle units: **position, mark, stitch, cut** and **press. Don’t trim these units down to size yet!**
Next **Position** a pieced square right sides together with remaining unpieced square.

**Mark** two stitching lines ¼” on either side of a center diagonal line.

**Stitch** on lines, then **cut** down the middle.

**Press** seams toward darker fabric.

**Position** the Tucker Trimmer® over the unit, carefully aligning both diagonal lines with stitched seams as shown. Note that the right handed quilter will trim up the right side and across the top, while the left handed quilter will trim up the left side and across the top.

**Trim** one corner (two sides) to a clean edge.

**Rotate** the unit and line up the Tucker Trimmer® again. This time be sure to position both diagonal lines and the outline of the square for the exact measurement desired.

**Trim** the two remaining sides to create a precise square unit.

**Note:** This process creates units that are “mirror images”. Some patterns call for both units in construction, some patterns will use only one direction or the other.

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**For Piecing Quarter Square Triangles**

**Determine** either the required finished size or cut size of the unit you wish to make. Refer to chart for the suggested size squares to use for making your unit.

**Make** half square units as described elsewhere; **position, mark, stitch, cut** and **press**.
Then **Position** pieced units right sides together in pairs.

**Mark** two stitching lines ¼” on either side of a center diagonal line, perpendicular to the already stitched line as shown in the diagram.

**Stitch** on lines, **cut** down the middle, then **press** seams.

**Position Tucker Trimmer®** over pieced square. Carefully align both diagonals of your desired cut size square over the sewn seam lines of the fabric square.

**Trim** the side and top to create one clean cut corner.

**Rotate** the pieced unit and line up the **Tucker Trimmer®** again. This time be sure to position both the diagonal lines and the outline of the square for the exact measurement desired.

**Trim** the two remaining sides to create a precise square.
Star and Square Bonus Pattern

Cutting Instructions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dark</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Light</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cut 2 squares 4½”</td>
<td>cut 1 square 4½”</td>
<td>cut 1 square 4½”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cut 1 square 3½”</td>
<td>cut 4 squares 2”</td>
<td>cut 4 rectangles 2”x 3½”</td>
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</tbody>
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Block Construction:

Step 1: Place one 4½” dark square right sides together with one 4½” light square. Place the other 4½” dark square with the 4½” medium square.

Step 2: Follow directions for making quarter square triangles. Draw two stitching lines, ¼” on both sides of a center diagonal. Stitch on the lines. Cut down the middle. Press all seams toward the dark fabric.

Step 3: Position the pieced squares together. Align a light/dark square with a medium/dark square as illustrated and repeat above procedures - draw, stitch, cut and press.

Step 4: Using the half circle corner of the ruler, trim all squares to exactly 3½”.

Step 5: Sew together the 2” light squares to the 2” medium squares then add the 2”x 3½” rectangles as shown. Repeat to make 4 corner units.

Step 6: Lay out block units then stitch together first into rows and then into a complete block.

Visit our website, Studio180Design.net, to check out our many companion products for the Tucker Trimmer® such as our Shaded Four Patch Technique Sheet, numerous companion patterns, or the Quilter’s Magic Wand which will make marking your diagonal seam lines so much faster! We also have many other fantastic tools for creating fundamental quilting units, such as our Wing Clipper® for flying geese or the Square Squared® for traditional diamond square units. Or something more challenging, check out the Rapid Fire® Lemoyne Star tool, which incorporates streamlined strip piecing techniques to quickly and easily construct traditional Lemoyne Star blocks in 10 different sizes!

Stay up-to-date on all our newest releases by subscribing to our newsletter or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest!