

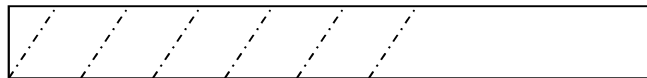
Diamonds to Tumbling Blocks

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Let's get started and the *Butterfly Seam*:

- All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ ", unless noted otherwise.
- The diamonds have bias edges, so I highly recommend that you pin the beginning and end of each piece.
- Don't trim any notch or "dog ears" until that piece is sewn on all sides. These are used as alignment markers.
- The direction of the pressed seam is very important to achieve flat and accurate tumbling blocks.
- It is more accurate and faster to sew into the seam allowance followed by **unsewing** than to try to figure out where to stop and start.

Step I: Cutting diamonds: Using the Polygon Tool by Gyleen and 3" strips, cut as many diamonds needed from width of fabric. Crosscut diamonds from each strip.



For tumbling block charm quilt, you will need pieces about 3" x 4". Cut individual diamonds using the Polygon Tool. Cut lots of them making sure you have light, medium and dark diamonds.

Step II: Making tumbling blocks: It is very important to keep the placement of the fabric in the same order when making the tumbling blocks. Super dark is on top, medium is to the left and light is to the right.

- Sew medium diamond to light diamond. Keep the medium next to the feed dogs and light on top. Refer to sketch above for positioning. Use straight pins at the beginning and end to keep the seams together and to reduce stretching. Press seam toward the light.
- Lay the dark diamond directly on top of the medium diamond. Check the alignment of the points. Again, pin the beginning and end to keep seams together and to reduce stretching. Sew the seam. Press seam toward the medium. Note: You should **not** have sewn over any seams if you pressed correctly in the previous step.
- **Unsew** all stitching in the seam allowance. **Try not to cut the thread just unsew.**
- Last step is now a snap. Fold the tone on tone (medium) diamond in half, crosswise. Both previous sewn seams should be on top of each other and the seam allowances are released. The super dark should now be lying directly and perfectly on top of the print (light) diamond. Pin beginning and end of seam; and edge to keep the folded diamond closed. Sew.
- **Unsew** in the seam allowance and press toward super dark diamond. Spin out the seam allowance from the back to form the cutest little tumbler. This is the key for a flat unit. Make (3) blocks for each star. Note: From the back, the seams will be pressed clockwise.
- **Done!** Congratulations, you've just learned how to execute a perfect *Butterfly Seam*.