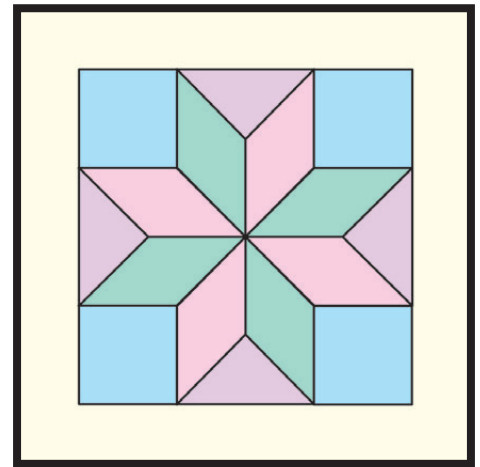
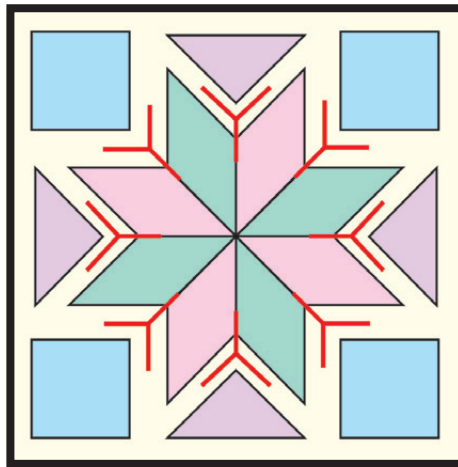
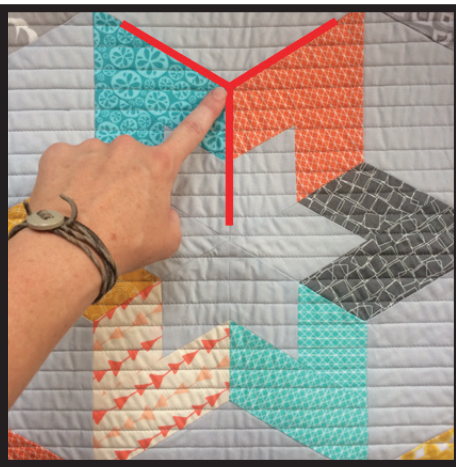


Krista Moser

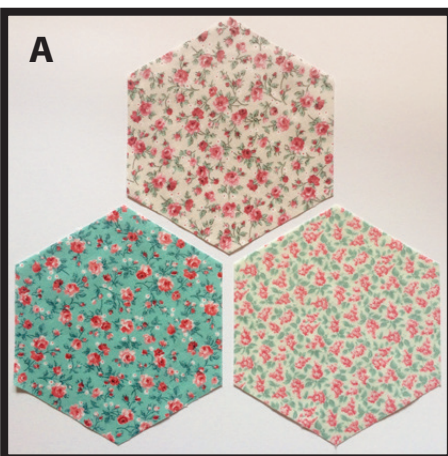
The Quilted Life



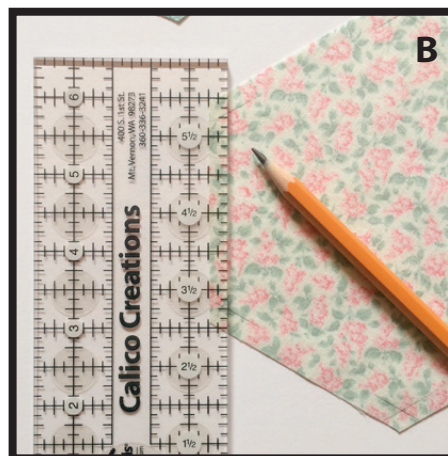
I have a love/hate relationship with Y seams. I love how clean they make quilts because they eliminate any extra, and sometimes distracting, seams. But if you're not prepared, they may get the better of you.



My first quilt involving Y seams was a block of the month that had 16 Lemoyne star blocks all done with eight Y seams in each block. The first block took me more than three hours, after learning everything not to do at least twice, I can now do them in 15 minutes!



1. The first thing to do is prepare your pieces. Believe me, this step saves so many headaches later.

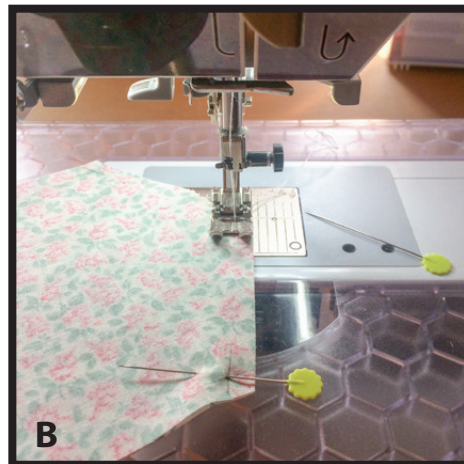
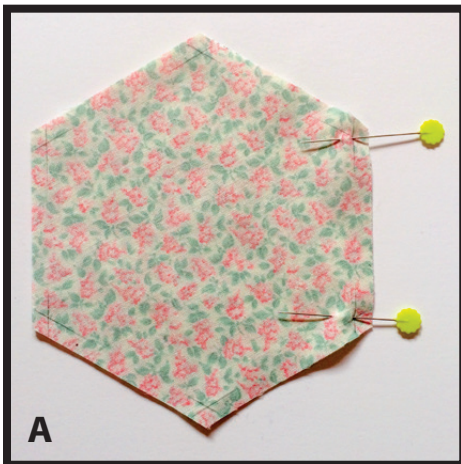


I use a small ruler and a sharp pencil or fabric marking pen. Lay the ruler on the pieces at the quarter inch line, and draw a short line on each side so it intersects like an X at the corner.

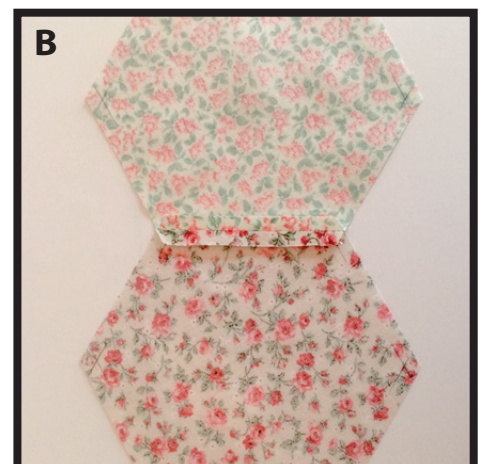
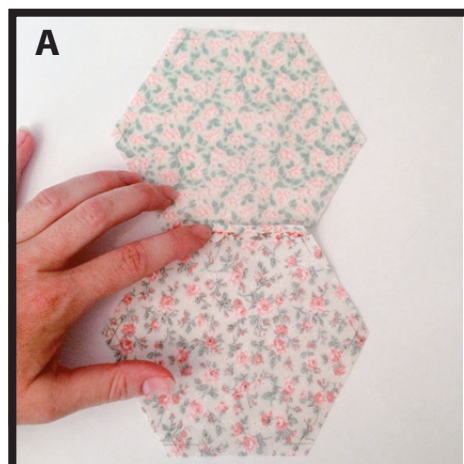


There is a handy tool by Creative Grids that makes this step super easy (if you don't want to do it the old school way). It is a template called "The Inside Angle Finder" with all sorts of angles and tiny pin sized holes $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from each corner.

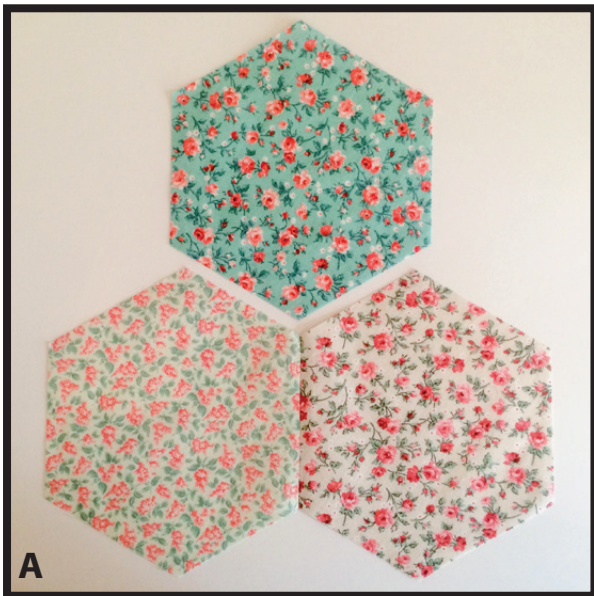
1. (cont.) In this case, I'm sewing hexagons together, so I did this X process at each corner. If you are sewing a Lemoyne star or another block with Y seams, you only have to mark the inside corners (or only those sewn with Y seams).



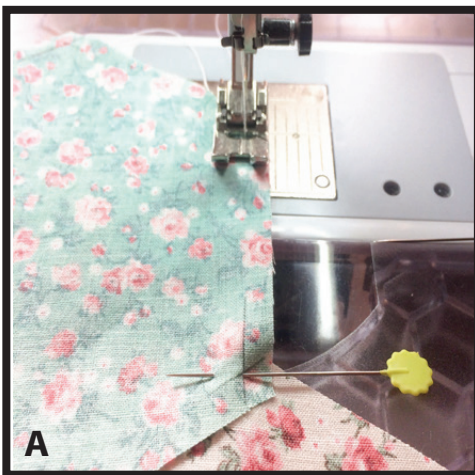
2. Once all the hexagons are marked, lay two of them right sides together and put a pin through those corner X's at either end of the seam line. Sew from one X to the next, doing a little backstitch at each end, if you like. I usually just turn my stitch length down to 1.8 - 2.0 and avoid backstitching if I can.



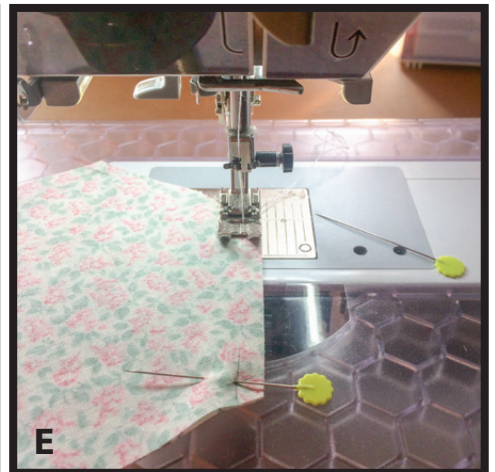
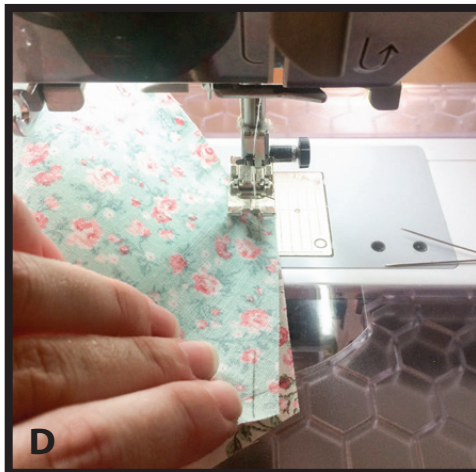
3. Finger press your seam open, then give it a nice quick press with the iron.

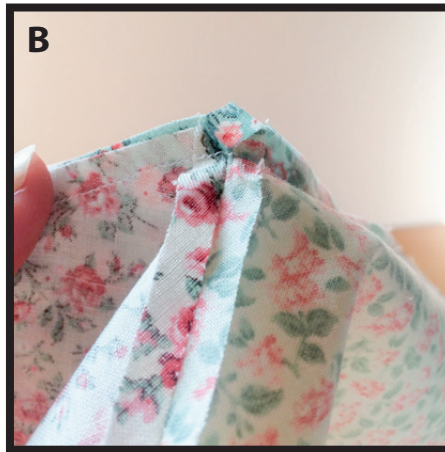


4. Now take the third hexagon, and lay it face down over the left hexagon that was just sewn. Pin at the X's on either end of the seam.

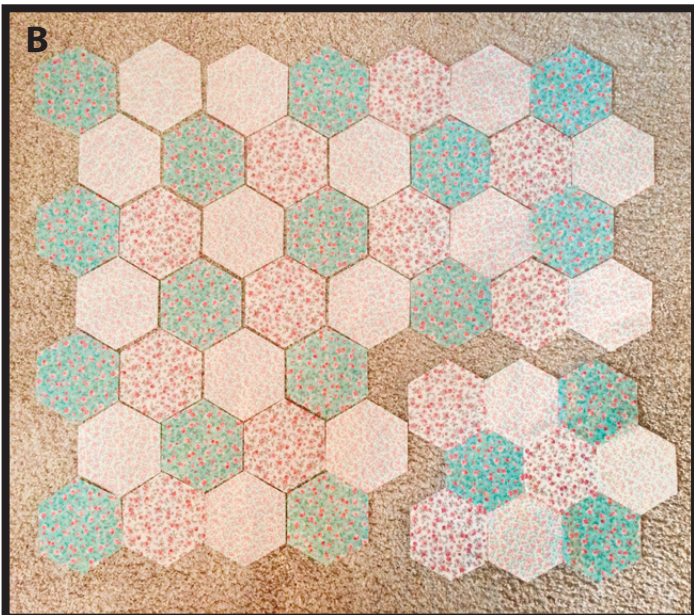


5. Sew from the first pin to the second pin, and drop the needle right into the X. Lift the presser foot, and swivel the top hexagon to match the bottom one. Place a pin in the next X to hold the two pieces together. Sew to meet that pin.





6. Here's a close up of what the front and back of the Y seam looks like. Notice the tiny split in the back seam where you turned the corner, this will allow for the block to lay flat when all the seams are pressed open.



Hollow Star quilt constructed with Y seams, available at kristamoser.com.

7. Keep adding blocks with this "needle down, swivel and pivot method."