

Pressing Matters

Good pressing techniques are an important part of getting perfect blocks. We want flat, smooth blocks- no lumps or bumps. Quilters will often disagree on whether or not to use steam. Some feel it will distort the pieces. Try both ways to see what works best for you.

Ironing vs. Pressing

Ironing is what you do to prepare your fabric for cutting. You will move the iron across the fabric, using spray starch, Best Press / steam- your choice.

Pressing is what you do after you sew the seams. The iron is laid down on the fabric and held for a few seconds before being lifted off and pressed back down on another section of the seam. This will prevent stretching or distorting the seams. Let the weight and heat of the iron do the work!

How to Press

First, set the seam by pressing down on top. Setting the seam is very important and will “meld” the thread into the fabric, basically flattening it. You will get a better, more accurate seam.

TIP: If you are pressing seams to the dark side, have that side on top when pressing.



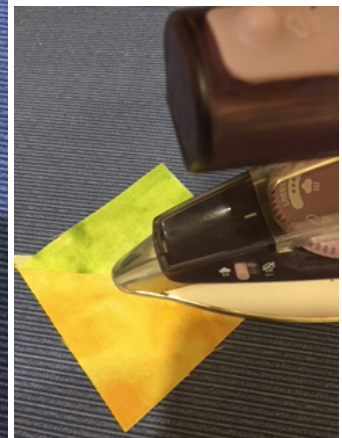
Set the seam



Lift up top piece



Finger press



Press the seam

Second, lift up the top piece (dark side) and gently finger press the seam down, and then press with the iron.

Some additional tips:

- Use Best Press or starch with each press
- Iron should be on “cotton” setting.
- Some quilters use a weight on freshly pressed pieces to let them cool/dry. (a square ruler, or block might work)
- Finger pressing helps remove tucks in the seam
- **Always** press at each step!

Taking a few extra moments to press carefully will save much time and aggravation later!