

My Favourite Colour is Moda
Blocks 2 and 3
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These two blocks, variations on the traditional Courthouse Steps block, are identical except for colour placements.



A few tips for successful construction:

All of your pieces are pre-cut, which means you need to pay attention to accuracy in three areas: cutting, sewing, and pressing:

a) Make sure that your pieces are cut exactly according to the measurements given in the cutting maps and block charts. Use a sharp blade in your rotary cutter, and use the measurements on your ruler, not your cutting mat. If your ruler is prone to slipping, use a product such as [ODIF's Grippy](#) or [Gypsy No-Slip Grip Dots](#) to keep your ruler steady.

b) Make sure that your $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam is perfect – even a small discrepancy in seam width will mean that the next piece won't fit properly. There is a myth out there that says your seam doesn't need to be a perfect $\frac{1}{4}$ " as long as it's consistent – NOT TRUE! This may work for blocks made up of squares only, but once you introduce rectangles and triangles, it doesn't work. Basic geometry. And, as your block grows, these discrepancies can accumulate to cause major headaches.

If you have trouble with your $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, use a quarter-inch foot (with or without a guide, personal preference) and make sure it is giving you a true $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. You may be crowding the guide and getting a wider seam, or you may not be following the edge of the foot and ending up with too scant a seam. Analyze your sewing

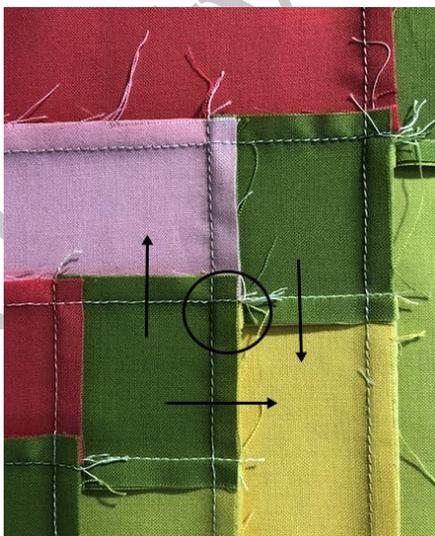
technique to rectify the problem (a [Sewing Machine Seam Guide](#) is a handy little gauge, with needle holes, to help visualize how to fix the problem). The [Pfaff Perfect 1/4" Foot](#) allows you to move your needle position a tiny bit to the right or left, which can be very helpful. Also, a seam guide placed ahead of your needle – the [Clover 6-in-1 Stich n Stitch Guides](#) or [Sewing Edge](#) strips -- will let you align and feed your fabric well before it reaches the foot. This prevents wobbly, uneven seams and reduces fabric distortion caused by “steering” the fabric at the needle area. It’s also much easier on your eyes!

c) Press carefully. Press, don’t push, with your iron and make sure that your seams lie flat without pleats or puckers. Take your time, and pay attention to the direction in which you press your seam allowances – whenever possible, it’s helpful to have nesting seams for accurate and precise seam junctions. I’ll give tips as we go along, if the pattern doesn’t specify pressing directions. In fact, here’s the first one:

The pattern says to press toward the corner squares. I found it much better to press toward the strip, as you can see in the following pictures:



By pressing toward the green corner square and then pressing toward the pink strip, you get a lump of seam allowances at the intersection.



By pressing toward the strip (yellow), away from the corner square (green), the intersection is much flatter and easier to press. I call it the “pressing path of least resistance”, and it gives a much better result while making your life much easier.