

# How to use: *Diagonal Seam Tape*

## What is Diagonal Seam Tape?

Diagonal Seam Tape is simply washi tape that is placed on the front plate of your sewing machine to act as a guide while you are sewing diagonal seams.

The red line in the center is aligned with the needle of your machine, and the black lines on either side are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to each side from the center of the lines, to represent a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. The black lines won't replace a piecing foot with a perfect  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", but act as an extra guide.

The tape removes cleanly, but I recommend removing or replacing the tape often or after each project to avoid any residue on your machine. This tape is not meant to be a permanent fixture on the machine, and long term use without replacement may result in some residue to clean off.

## How to place the seam tape on the machine:

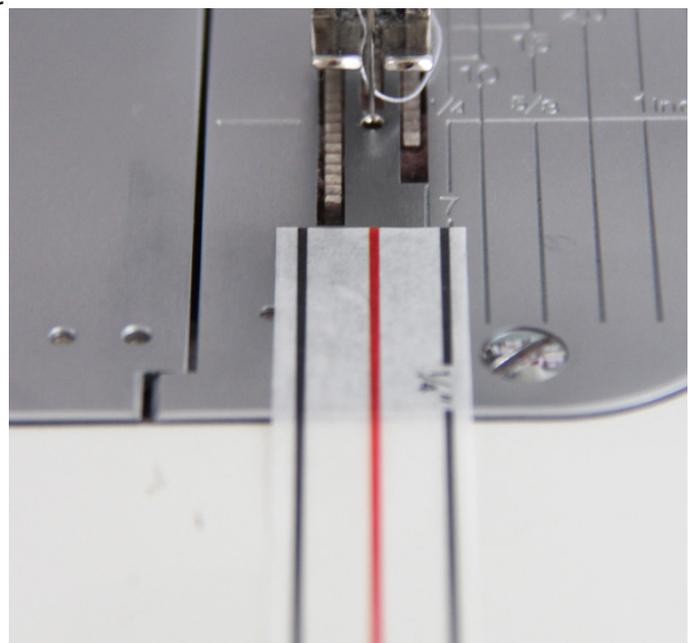
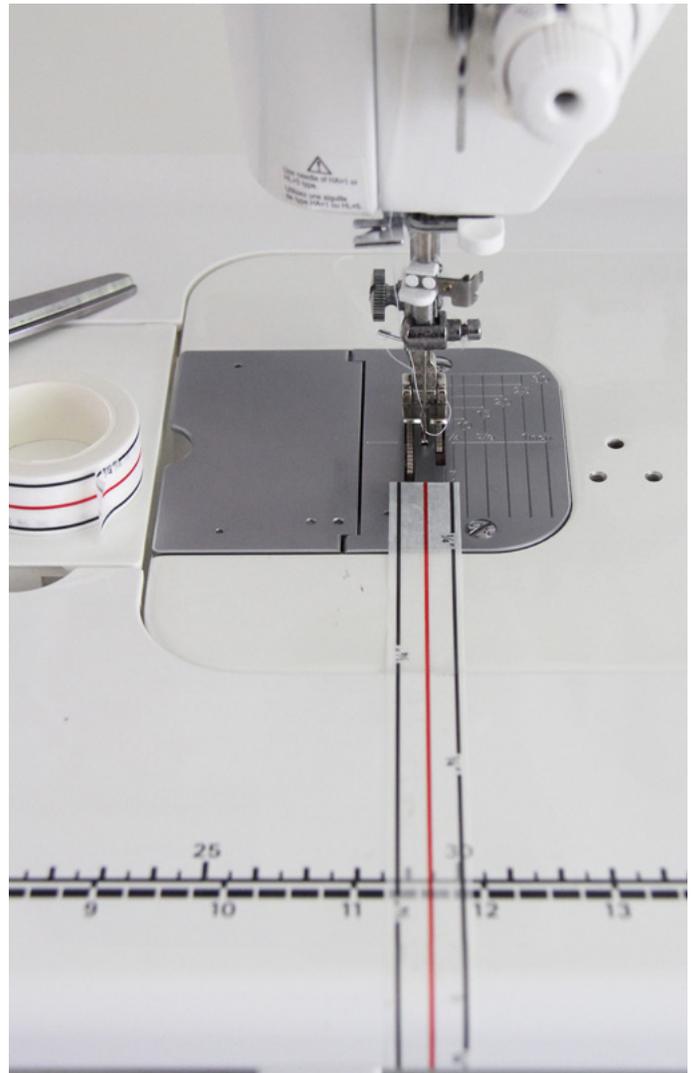
Cut the tape to make a straight edge, and place the edge of the tape directly in front of the feed dogs of the machine.

Align the red line up with the needle. You can use a ruler to make sure it's lined up, but I find it easy to eyeball it.

The machine I'm using in this photo is a Juki, and you can see from the photos that the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark on the metal plate is not accurate. The black line of the seam tape is exactly  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", from the center of the lines.

You can eyeball the tape straight (I do this most of the time), and you can also take a small quilting ruler and line it up with the edge of your presser foot or lines on the metal plate, and just double check that the tape is straight.

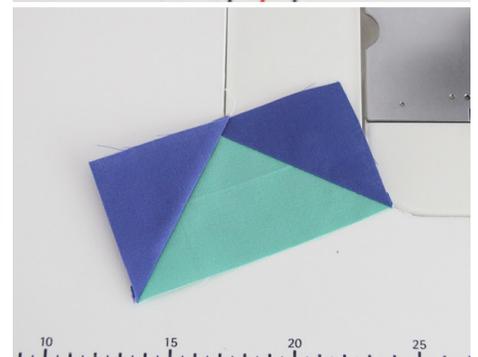
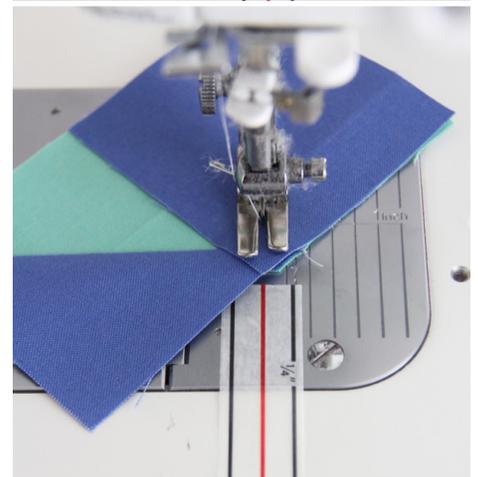
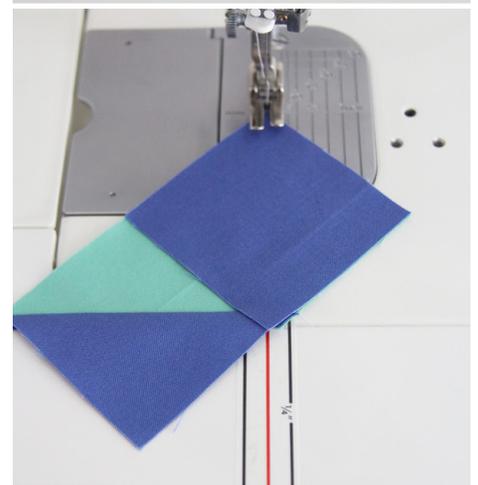
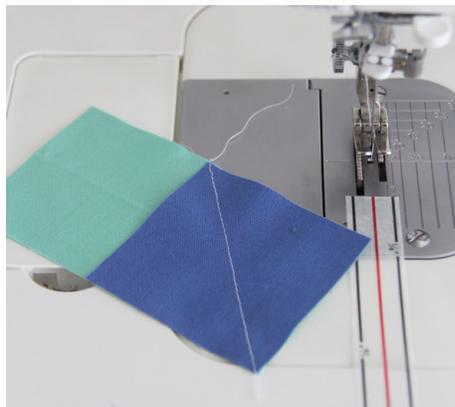
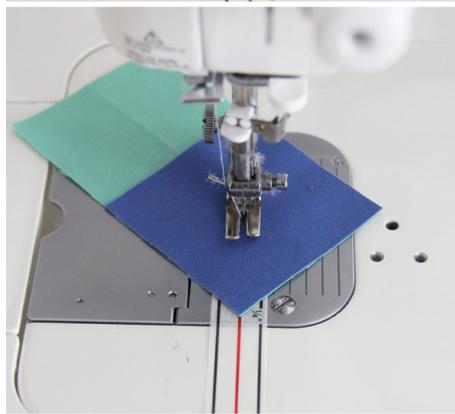
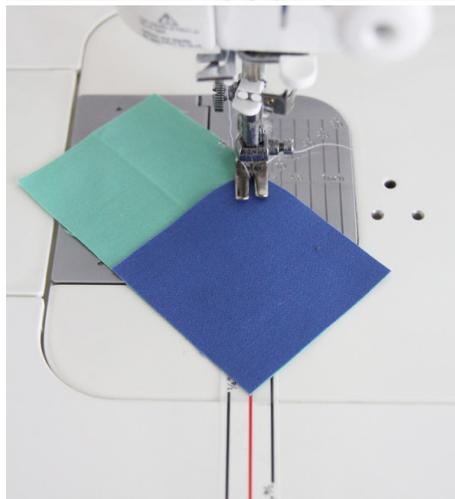
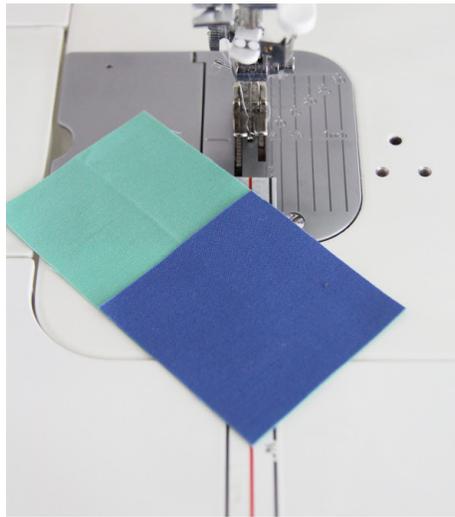
Don't worry if you can't get it absolutely perfect, your seams should still be just fine!!!



### Making a flying geese block:

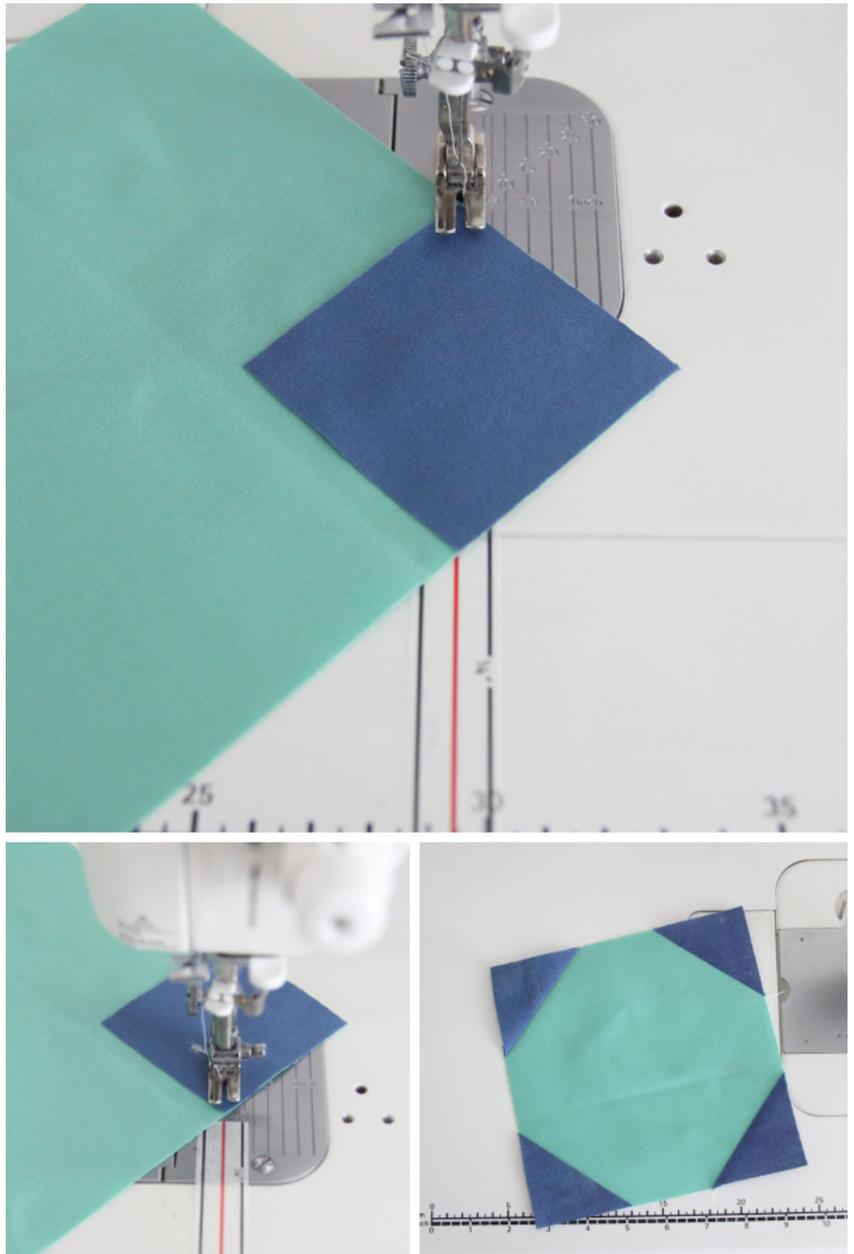
Place the square in the corner of the strip and line up the edges as you normally would, without drawing the diagonal pencil line first. Line the top corner of the square up with the red line, that's where you will start sewing. Line up the bottom corner of the square on the red line. Start sewing at the top corner, while keeping the bottom corner of the square on the red line the entire time. When you get to the very end and run out of tape, just sew to the corner of the square. You will get very fast at this after doing it more!

Now you've sewn a diagonal line! Trim the edge leaving 1/4" as you normally would, press the corner out, and repeat with another square in the adjacent side of the strip. Start sewing in one corner (either corner is fine) and keep the opposite corner on the red line the entire time you sew. Trim the corner leaving 1/4", and press the seam. You have a flying geese block without ever marking lines or using a special ruler!



### Adding Triangle Corners to a Block (a Snowball Block):

Place a smaller square in the corner of a larger square, with the point of the small square at the needle. Start sewing, continuously keeping the bottom point of the small square on the red line until you reach the other point. Trim the corner leaving 1/4" seam allowance, and press. Repeat on the other 3 corners to make a snowball quilt block.



## To Make 2 Half Square Triangles:

The size of HST's you can make using this method depends on the size of the machine table in front of your needle. I can make 4 1/2" HST's using this method on my Juki, but only 3 1/2" HST's on my Bernina. Place a square on your machine on the diagonal to see how big you can go!

Place your two same sized squares together, and align the top point of the squares 1/4" to the right of the needle (or the edge of your presser foot if using a 1/4" foot). Align the bottom point of the squares on the right black line. Sew, keeping the bottom point on the black line the whole time until the end.

Now do the same on the other side of the point, align the top point 1/4" to the left of the needle at the top (or edge of presser foot), and the bottom point on the left black line. Sew the line, cut in between the two seams, and press to make 2 HST's with no marking!

Questions? Email:  
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