# How to read the cutting charts:

The letter of the piece in the block which you are cutting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOR</th>
<th>CUT</th>
<th>NEED</th>
<th>6” BLOCK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 7/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 7/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 1/2 x 2 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 1/2 x 2 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finished Block Size

Piece dimensions in inches.

Two measurements indicate a rectangle.

One measurement indicates a square.

Cut diagonally once.

Cut diagonally twice.
Tips for Beautiful Pieced Blocks

Piecing Notes:

For those of you who struggle with piecing small pieces (who doesn't?!?), the key I have found is to:

- Work on being super accurate when cutting.
- **Tools:**
  - A good, non-warped cutting mat
  - A good rotary cutter with sharp blades
  - Good non-slip rulers

- Find the scant 1/4" spot on your own sewing machine/presser foot that will give you the perfect width seam.
- **Tools:**
  - 1/4” quilter's presser foot

- Be consistent with that scant 1/4” seam.

- Trim and square each sub-unit so it has square corners and is the right size for its spot in the block. This makes a huge difference in the accuracy of a finished block!
- **Tools:**
  - Same as above – good cutting mat, rotary cutter and appropriate rulers

- Whenever possible, **make the block (or block elements) bigger** and then trim to the right size.
  - Pieced blocks for which this works well:

  Two-Patch

  ![Two-Patch](image1)

  Quarter-Square Triangle

  ![Quarter-Square Triangle](image2)

  Four-Patch

  ![Four-Patch](image3)

  Flying Geese

  ![Flying Geese](image4)

  Half-Square Triangle

  ![Half-Square Triangle](image5)

  Square in a Square

  ![Square in a Square](image6)

  3-Piece Half-Square Triangle

  ![3-Piece Half-Square Triangle](image7)
• See our tutorial on using this method for Square in a Square blocks:
  

• Tools
  
  •  **Fit to Be Geese Ruler**
  
  •  **Creative Grids 6.5” x 12.5”** with intersecting 45º lines at the ruler edge or any other ruler thus marked).
  
  •  **Creative Grids** or **Quilter’s Select** square rulers from 3.5” - 12.5”

**Sewing Note (from a miniatures quilter who shared this with me):**

Try sewing more slowly.

• Some machines have a speed control that can be set for a slower speed. Even if yours doesn't, speed can be controlled with the food pedal.

• This seems to be especially helpful when beginning and ending a seam - that time when it always seems to pull to one side making your seam allowance larger or smaller than an actual scant 1/4 inch. This results in a unit or block that does not measure the correct size.

**Pressing Notes:**

Pressing means something different than ironing and does a different job.

• **Pressing** is an up-and-down motion rather than a side-to-side motion and is meant to press seams in one direction or another and to open seam intersections without distorting the fabric.

• **Ironing** is used to take out wrinkles.

• Pressing seams toward the “dark side” is the norm whenever possible.

• Using Jo Morton's clipping and pressing trick is an awesome way to reduce seam intersection bulk and improve the look of your blocks.
  • You can see her YouTube video at this link: [https://youtu.be/4bpGBAR6FXM](https://youtu.be/4bpGBAR6FXM)

**Squaring Notes:**

• When I square my blocks, there are times when I have to make a choice between keeping my points/seam allowances and having a true-to-size block.

• I always choose to keep my points, and then when it comes time to sew the blocks into the quilt top, I "ease in" the fullness of the sides that are greater than the required block size.
Pattern Abbreviations:

WOF – Width of Fabric
RST – Right Sides Together
HST – Half-Square Triangles
QST – Quarter-Square Triangles