

STARCH



If you have seen me give a demonstration or been to a class with me you will have heard me talk about my fabric preparation and how I always starch the fabric before I begin to cut out my pieces.

Why do I starch my fabric?

1. There are many different weights and bodies of fabric that we use in patchwork, starching the fabric brings the fabrics onto an even playing field making piecing easier.
2. Starch helps to tame BIAS cuts.
3. The process of starching is to wet and dry the fabric with heat - as I do not wash any of my fabric before piecing this process takes care of any shrinkage.
4. Starch gives a slight protection to the fabric for marking quilting guidelines.
5. When pressing seams the steam moistens the fabric thus reactivating the starch and this gives me beautiful tight firm seams when pressed.
6. I think that I achieve better results by using starch.



How

Step 1. Cut fabric into usable lengths

Step 2. Spray the fabric with the starch of your choosing there are many starches available.

Step 3. Allow the starch to breath for 10 minutes.

Breathing the starch allows the starch to actually enter the fibres of the fabric and not just sit on the top of the fabric. Resting the starch before ironing helps to eliminate the build up on your Iron and the white crystals on your fabric.

Step 4. Press the fabric with steam.



Which Starch

There are many different starches available for us to choose, aerosol and pump, fragrant and non-fragrant. The choice is personal preference. Lately, I have been making my own starch..... and it is really easy and not time consuming and very cheap (and with amount of fabric I have been cutting that is a good thing).

Requirements

- 50 grams Silver Star Starch (available from IGA - I have been told in all states)
- 125ml cold water
- 475ml boiling water
- 500ml cold water
- 1 - 2 tablespoons vodka - this will help keep the made up starch
- 2 drops of essential oil - if you like to use fragrant starch

Mix the starch 125ml cold water - add the boiling water stir - add the remaining 500ml cold water and stir. Pour into spray bottle, keep the remaining mix in a sealed bottle. Shake well before using. You will have about 1200ml of starch. Easy.



Pressing

When piecing we must press and not iron,
Pressing, lift the iron up and place it down - Do not push the iron back and forth across the fabric.

Ironing will distort your piecing!

To use steam or not?

I always use steam to press my piecing and I have the iron set at the highest temperature. Many new quilters worry about using steam, because there are so many differing opinions. Steam helps to set the seams firm and flat giving more accurate piecing.

Using STEAM will not distort your piecing if you PRESS!

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