

QUILT BOOKS & BEYOND

CATEGORIES ▾

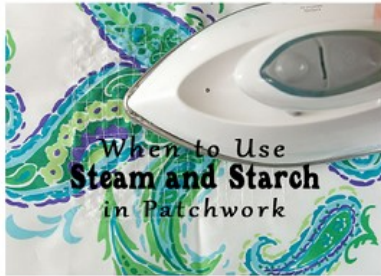
FREE EGUIDES

QUILTING VIDEOS AND TUTORIALS

SHOP QUILTING BOOKS

WHEN TO USE STEAM AND STARCH IN PATCHWORK

McB McManus | March 20, 2014 | [Tips and Techniques, Tools and Notions](#) | [4 Comments](#)



As a beginning quilter, I am so lucky to work for a quilt book publisher like Landauer Publishing! When I have questions about quilting, not only am I surrounded by experienced quilters who are very willing to share their knowledge, I have access to the experience and expertise of our authors—many of whom are also teachers and quilt instructors. I ran into just such a question a couple of weeks ago: when I am piecing my blocks, should I use steam to press the seams?

What about starch? (Ack! I've never used starch! Could I mess something up?)

So, I reached out to three of our authors with these questions:

- What advice would you give to a beginner about using steam and/or starch?
- What mistakes do you see your students making when it comes to handling their work during pressing?
- Do you have any tips or tricks that make your own work easier, quicker or more efficient?

Check out their advice, then share your own suggestions and tips in the comments below.



Penny Haren, author of *Quilt Block Fusion* and the *Pieced Applique* series

"I steam everything BUT I press everything on a [Steady Betty Pressing Mat](#) which stops the fabric from stretching and distorting during pressing. Then I use [Mary Ellen's Best Press](#). This product has an additive that repels silverfish and moths—which can damage fabric during storage.

I also love the [Betty B Flat Ironing Tool](#). When I press a seam, I place this flat iron on the seam until it cools—and it it totally flat!"



Sandi Blackwell, author of *Simply Sensational Square-agonals* Quilts and *12 Easy Pieces*

"When you press for quilting, you need to PRESS, not iron—lift your iron up and down and move across the fabric gently; don't be rough and drag across the fabric.

When pressing any exposed bias (such as in triangles or when using the Square-agonals® technique), always use starch to give the fabric stability and help eliminate stretch of the bias. Remember that starch is not the same product as sizing. (Sizing gives fabric and garments the "new finish" feel that fabric and garments have when they are new. After handling fabric that "new" feel wears off. Starch actually gives the fabric a stiffness and stabilized any stretching. So a starched shirt will have that firm crisp feel and look. A shirt with sizing will have a newness look.)Also, NEVER use steam when pressing exposed bias edges. This will relax the fabric and encourage stretching.

On the other hand, you can use steam to relax and square up a finished block or quilt top.

Easy tip: buy a small, silicone spatula to help hold your seams open while pressing. It is heat resistant, inexpensive and saves your fingers!"

Search the site



LET'S GET SOCIAL



Follow me on [bloglovin'](#)

SIGN UP FOR LANDAUER PUBLISHING NEWSLETTER

Email Address*

First Name

Last Name

Customer Type

I am a customer

I am a shop or wholesale buyer

* = required field

Subscribe



Carolyn Forster, author of *Utility Quilting* and *Quilting-on-the-Go—Taking It Further*

"I don't use starch, but I do suggest students try it for its stabilizing properties. I do use a steam iron.

The mistake I see most frequently is students not using a hot enough iron for long enough on their work to benefit it.

I always press my work from the front only, so I don't get pleats at the seams. If you lay the work down correctly on the ironing board, then the seam is laying flat ready to press toward the seam allowance."

At the end of the day, the most important thing is to find what works best for you and yields the best results for your work! Take a moment to weigh in, do you use steam when pressing your patchwork? How about starch? What tips, tricks and advice would you share with other quilters? Let us know in the comments below!

RELATED POSTS



HOW TO ADD BINDING TO A QUILT PROJECT

3 Comments | Apr 16, 2014



QUILTING TOOLS AND NOTIONS - FAVORITES FROM PENNY HAREN

7 Comments | Nov 6, 2013



REVIEW: SANDI BLACKWELL'S SQUARE-AGONALS® CLASS ON CRAFTSY

1 Comment | Mar 26, 2014



STITCH A CARD TRICK QUILT BLOCK

7 Comments | Jun 19, 2015

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



McB Manus

Marketing and Advertising Manager at Landauer. Beginning quilter. Mother. Loves reading and working with so many talented people at Landauer.

4 COMMENTS



Thelma | August 26, 2014

[Reply](#)

I every time spent my half an hour to read this blog's posts every day along with a mug of coffee.



今日発表し、別の1つのバージョンの遅いが、拡張型ブロックを非常に有限会社、オメガスーパーコピー1線独特の腕時計、豚の特徴A制作の彫刻は、ウィラード維岡。一種のロバート件1は— February 29, 2016

[Reply](#)

今日発表し、別の1つのバージョンの遅いが、拡張型ブロックを非常に有限会社、オメガスーパーコピー1線独特の腕時計、豚の特徴A制作の彫刻は、ウィラード維岡。一種のロバート件1は一番新しく、添加していない以下のブロックは、可視模型特色Aヨット、AAAハチドリ、ファルコンと甚だしきに至っては部落マスク。 <http://www.brandiwc.com/brand-7-copy-0.html>



スーパーコピーブランド完璧な品質●在庫情報随時更新!(*^_^*) S/SS品質 シリアル付き
も有り付属品完備! 全物品運賃無料(日本全国)不良品物情況、無償で交換します.税関没
収する商品は再度 | February 29, 2016 [Reply](#)

スーパーコピーブランド完璧な品質●在庫情報随時更新!(*^_^*) S/SS品質 シリアル付きも有り
付属品完備! 全物品運賃無料(日本全国)不良品物情況、無償で交換します.税関没収する商品は再
度無料で発送します.安心して、安全に引き渡します.偽物カルティエスーパーコピー商品広大な
客を歓迎して買います! ブランドバッグブランド財布ブランド腕時計
<http://www.bestevance.com/rolex/Cellini/index.htm>



rmac1自動運動の中には、リチャード・ミルのrm 011レッドtpt石英を提供し、クロノ
グラフ、およびパワーリザーブの55時間で一年のカレンダー。それは、簡単に1つの
クールな「日常着」のあた | February 29, 2016 [Reply](#)

rmac1自動運動の中には、リチャード・ミルのrm 011レッドtpt石英を提供し、クロノグラフ、
およびパワーリザーブの55時間で一年のカレンダー。それは、簡単に1つのクールな「日常
着」のあたりの運動とのマッチングをこの素晴らしい「レッド」の炭素材料水晶」のケースで
は、それにはいくつかのハイエンドの腕時計愛好家は非常に幸せにします。 ロレックススー
パーコピー リチャードミルのリチャード・ミルのrm 011レッドtptクォーツ時計セット限定版
で50個を生産します。まだ価格設定についての言及はないようだが、リチャード・ミル・ブ
ティックで利用できるだけです。 http://www.bagkakaku.com/vuitton_bag/2/N51207.html

ADD A COMMENT

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment:*

Name:*

Email Address:*

Website:

[ADD COMMENT](#)

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.



**FREE QUILT
CALENDAR COMPUTER
WALLPAPER: APRIL
2018**



**QUICK! IT'S A CURVY
GIVEAWAY**



**FREE QUILT
CALENDAR COMPUTER
WALLPAPER: MARCH
2018**



**INFOGRAPHIC: 5
WAYS TO MAKE
FLYING GEESE WITH
THE MATH DONE FOR
YOU!**



**FREE PRINTABLE
RESOURCE: PAPER-
PIECED FLYING GEESE**



**FREE QUILT
CALENDAR COMPUTER
WALLPAPER:
FEBRUARY 2018**



COPYRIGHT © 2018 [QUILT BOOKS & BEYOND](#).

[FEARLESS COLOR FOR QUILTERS EGUIDE](#) [FOR LOVE OF DOGS: TRAINING AND BEHAVIOR VIDEO PLAYLIST](#)
[FREE MACHINE QUILTING EGUIDE DOWNLOAD](#) [FREE QUILT BORDERS & INSPIRATION EGUIDE DOWNLOAD](#)
[FREE QUILTING EGUIDES & RESOURCES](#) [HOW TO APPLIQUÉ EGUIDE DOWNLOAD](#) [HOW TO BIND A QUILT FREE EGUIDE DOWNLOAD](#)
[KARIN HELLABY'S SEW SIMPLE TECHNIQUE SERIES](#) [KNITBOOK THE BASICS AND BEYOND](#)
[LOG CABIN QUILT BLOCK GUIDE SHOWS HOW TO MAKE THE LOG CABIN BLOCK PLUS YARDAGE GUIDELINES CHART](#)
[LOOK INSIDE THE BOOK PREVIEW VIDEO PLAYLIST](#) [MACHINE QUILTING THE BASICS & BEYOND](#)
[PENNY HAREN'S QUILT BLOCK FUSION VIDEO PLAYLIST](#) [QUILTING CHARTS & FORMULAS FREE EGUIDE DOWNLOAD](#)
[QUILTING VIDEOS AND TUTORIALS FROM LANDAUER PUBLISHING](#) [QUILTING: HOW TO'S, TIPS AND TRICKS VIDEO PLAYLIST](#)
[SEWING HOME DECOR VIDEO PLAYLIST](#) [YOP POLL ARCHIVE](#)