

Tip of the Month

July 2016

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How to Achieve a Scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " Seam Allowance

The reason you need a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance rather than an exact $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance is to accommodate for the small fold that occurs when pressing your seams.

The $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot that comes with your machine is not necessarily a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ ". It's important to do this test as an incorrect seam allowance can greatly affect the accuracy of your project.

The Test:

- Cut three fabric strips that measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by approximately 4 -5" long.
- Sew the three strips together with your scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.
- Press the seams well and measure by placing a ruler on top of your fabrics.
- Ideally, the width of the three strips will be $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".
- If the piece is wider than $3\frac{1}{2}$ ", your seam allowance is too narrow.
- If the piece is narrower than $3\frac{1}{2}$ ", your seam allowance is too wide.
- Adjust accordingly and retest. I have to sew with my fabric just slightly to the left of the edge of my $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot in order to achieve a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

