

Curvemaster Presser Foot Tutorial

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The Curve Master Presser Foot sews curves with no pinning or clipping. It also sews a perfect, scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and eliminates the problem of trailing off at the bottom edge, or getting triangle points in a wad in the needle hole.

Sandra Chandler, the inventor of the Curve Master, with a curved pieced Drunkard's Path quilt she has made in far less than half the time normally taken with the quartering, pinning method of sewing. Photo taken during our Three Day Retreat with Sandy held at our Warehouse during June 2008.



For the purpose of this tutorial, we will use the two pieces used in a Drunkard's Path Block.

These are the two shapes which will be sewn together. A convex curve into a concave curve. Normally, a difficult seam to sew.



Having the top straight sections level, align the beginning edges together. No need to mark the middle or fold the fabric to find the middle. No pinning at all.

Note that the fabrics are placed together so that when you "flip them open"; they are aligned exactly as you want this edge of your block to appear.

Hint #1: Sewing with the wedge shape on top gives you better visibility, but either on top is okay.

Hint #2: If sewing a stiffer fabric (such as a Batik) with a softer fabric, the stiffer fabric is better to be on top.

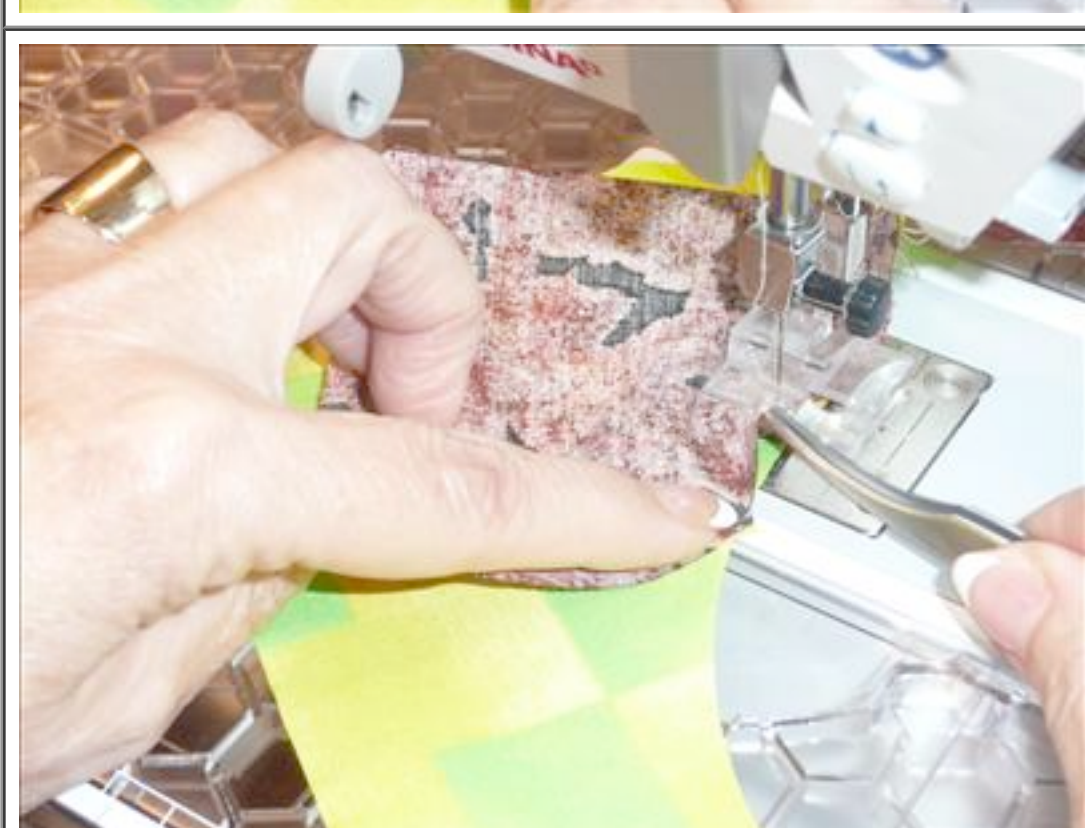


Place fabrics under the needle; lower the Curve Master Presser Foot, aligning the two fabric edges against the integrated, raised $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance guide of the foot as shown.



Sew two or three stitches to secure the beginning edge, then LIFT the top layer of fabric almost vertically, keeping your fingers in front of the needle, close to the front of the presser foot, not off to the left hand side.

Note: The needle is not meant to align with the centre of the Curve Master Presser Foot. It is designed to be slightly off centre to allow a true scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to be sewn.



We've been taught to sew curves by laying the top fabric down, but when we do, we get puckers, pleats and bulges beyond the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Note the extra fabric on the top if we were to lay the two fabrics flat together as we would normally sew a seam.



Keep the top layer lifted the whole time you're sewing, separating the two fabrics and encouraging the edges to touch the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam guide lightly. The Curve Master Presser Foot is so short from where the fabric enters the foot to where the needle actually sews the fabric, that you can sew using this technique without fear of stretching the bias. We call it the "Bra Manoeuvre" Lift and Separate Stitch!

Hint #3: Lightly pinch the top fabric with your left index finger on top and your left thumb beneath the top fabric. Lightly "flick" the bottom fabric with your right index finger to nudge it against the seam allowance guide.

Hint #4: Watch only the fabric EDGES and actually see the BOTTOM fabric's edge touches the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance guide.

Hint #5: Do not hold your two fabrics together an inch or so in front of the Curve Master Presser Foot, hold lightly with the "lift and separate" method and trust the Curve Master Presser Foot to do the work for you!



About $\frac{1}{2}$ " or so from the bottom edges, stop sewing with the needle in the down position, using the special bent tip tweezers, put the two fabrics together, grip them firmly and hold the bottom edges together as shown with the tip of the tweezers pointed toward the "safety slot" of the Curve Master Presser Foot, which is the narrow opening between the seam allowance guide and the needle hole.



Don't release the tweezers, continue sewing to the end, allowing the tip of the tweezers to fit into the safety slot, enabling you to sew right to the very last thread of your fabric for complete perfection. There is no danger of breaking the needle and you are able to hold onto the fabric clear to the end, right to the last stitch. This eliminates "trailing off" or getting more or less than a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.

Hint #6: This method also works well for sewing triangles and straight seams, with perfect consistent $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams.



The finished seam! Note that there's no uneven edges to trim because you started and ended evenly. No squaring up to do because you have not stretched the bias. Nor did you have to find the middle, pin or clip your seams!



Roll the curved seam flat with the Seam Roller because it does not apply heat or friction which may stretch and distort a block. No need to iron the blocks until they're all completed and seldom will you have to trim or square up the blocks either.



Why not try one of the Just Curves Templates? There's plenty to choose from. Shown here is Sandy's technique for a Pieced Dresden Plate with NO Appliqué – truly remarkable.

You HAVE to agree, the Curve Master Presser Foot makes piecing curves a "piece of cake"!!!

Your curved piecing will be faster, easier and much more accurate. Your quilt blocks will go together more smoothly because your blocks are more consistent.

INVENTED BY A QUILTER FOR QUILTERS!