Pojagi: Single-Layer Patchwork

by Rebecca Kemp Brent

Streamlined Flat-Felled Seams

A flat-felled seam yields finished edges on both sides of the work, and in the lightweight silks and cottons used for pojagi it adds little bulk. You've probably seen flat-felled seams on your jeans.

1. You'll need 1/2" seam allowance on one fabric and 1/4" seam allowance on the second fabric in the seam. If you're creating a specifically-sized piece of patchwork, plan ahead by making a sketch on graph paper. Decide which way you'll press each seam allowance, then add 1/4" seam allowance to the piece you'll press the seam allowances toward (we'll call it **A**) and 1/2" seam allowance to the piece you'll press away from (**B**).

An easier method is to create patchwork yardage a bit bigger than necessary for your project piece and trim the work to size after the piecing is complete. You won't have to make all your pressing and cutting decisions ahead of time with this method.

Cut out the pieces of fabric you'll be joining.

2. Lay the two fabrics wrong sides together, with the raw edge of piece $\bf A$ 1/4" inside the raw edge of piece $\bf B$. Stitch the seam 1/4" inside the raw edge of piece $\bf A$.

Note: This places the seam allowances on the outside of the project for decorative effect. If you choose, start with right sides together and the seam allowances will be on the inside surface, with just one row of topstitching visible on the outside.

- 3. Press the seam allowances toward piece **A**. Fold 1/4" to the wrong side on the piece **B** seam allowance, tucking the raw edge under the piece **A** seam allowance. Press the fold.
- 4. Edgestitch along the fold in the piece **B** seam allowance to hold the seam allowances in place with all the raw edges hidden. You'll see two rows of stitching on one side of the pojagi, and just one row of stitching on the other side.

Shortcut Method for Joining

- 1. Cut your pieces with 1/4" extra in each dimension for seam allowances, not the 1/2" we usually add for patchwork. Allow a bit of extra space in the pieced cloth and cut out your project pieces when the patchwork is complete, or remember to add additional seam allowance to the outside edges of your patchwork sections.
- 2. Following manufacturer's instructions, apply Seam Perfection Tape or 1/4"-wide fusible Appli-Kay Wonder to one edge of a fabric piece. Using the tape as a guide, overlap the adjacent piece of fabric 1/4" and finger press or fuse.

- 3. Set your machine for a decorative stitch 7.0 mm wide. Center the overlapped area under your presser foot and stitch. The decorative stitch should enclose the raw edges on both the face and reverse sides of the work.
- 4. Repeat step 3 to assemble all of the pieces necessary to make patchwork yardage in the size you need.

Resources

Floriani Stitch Perfection Tape and Appli-Kay Wonder: rnkdistributing.com

Cotton and silk sari remnants: darngoodyarn.com