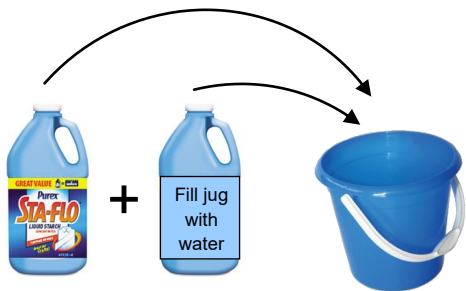


# How to Starch Large Batches of Fabric

First, I have to give the reasons why it's so important to stabilize the fabric with starch *before* you cut anything! Never starch after you make a unit or build a block because this will really distort it. The kind of starch does make a difference. Sta-Flow is the best starch because it will prevent stretching and distortion to a large degree and make piecing easier. I finger press starched fabric (just gently roll the fabric over to the side you need the seam allowance) and this works extremely well and only after I have made an entire block will I press with an iron. We've all seen teachers use an iron to coax a piece of fabric over to one side (as in half-square triangles) but this is moving the iron just like ironing. If you want to match the centers of two shapes then simply folding them in half will mark the centers and you don't have to use a Frixion pen or pencil. There are many more reasons why I love this starch and once I started starching all my fabric prior to cutting, my piecing improved dramatically. Sta-Flo is very inexpensive and the method below saturates all the fibers evenly. One jug of Sta-Flo + one jug of water will starch about 20 yards of fabric and it only takes about 30 minutes. If you have any leftover starch, just put it back in the jug and write on the jug the color fabric you starched with it.

I've also learned that how you starch the fabric will make a difference too because starch can pull dye from fabric, even after it's been washed and dried. I do wash and dry the fabric before starching. Sort out the fabric you want to starch by color to keep the fabric colors as they were meant to be. If you don't want to immerse the fabric you can always fill spray bottles and spray the fabric but this takes a lot more time. The starch and bottles are available at Walmart or just go online and order from Amazon.

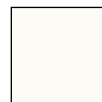


Pour an entire 64 oz jug of Sta-Flo starch in a bucket. Fill the jug with water and pour that into the bucket as well. You can just use your hand to mix it a little bit.

Immerse each fabric grouping to saturate. Wring out the excess with your hands and then spin away the excess in the washing machine. Be careful not to rinse out the starch.

Lay each fabric flat and smooth out the wrinkles and then hang on a drying rack or lay out until almost dry. The fabric should be dry by the next day.

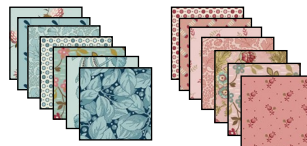
You can press the fabric using steam if you want after it's dry. The best part about this method is you won't get any starch build up on your iron.



Starch only the background fabric first.



Starch the next batch of similar colors.



.....then these (separately)



..and finally the darkest or more intense colors.