



# Half Square Triangles (HST's)

Half Square Triangles (HST's) are a staple in quilting. Used on their own or within a traditional block, they are invaluable to creating many designs, and, as an added bonus, are very simple to make.

The first method to learn, especially good for the newbie quilter, is the *2-at-a-time* HST's. These HST's are perfect for using up all the small bits of fabric in your scrap bin...wonderful for scrap quilts.

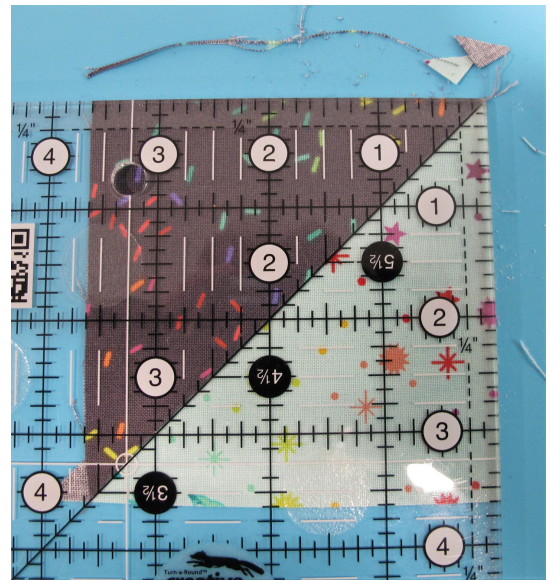
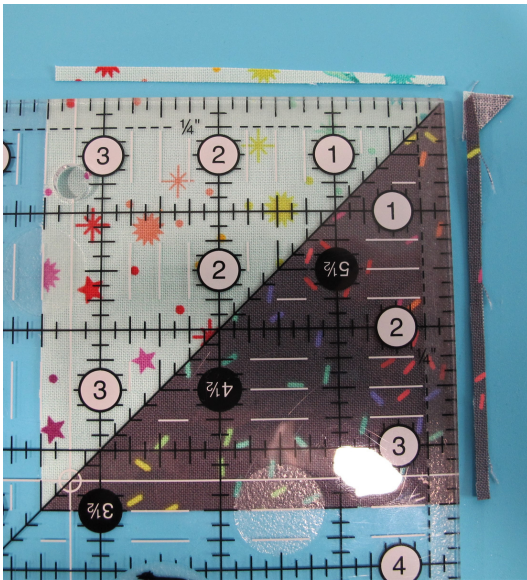


For demonstration purposes we'll be making a 3" finished HST. Technically, cutting two squares at  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " should work...but not everyone is careful about a perfect  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. I recommend cutting squares at 4" and then trimming them to size later.

Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of all the light coloured squares (or use diagonal seam tape). Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each side of the line, cut along the drawn line, and press seams toward the dark fabric or open...strictly personal choice.



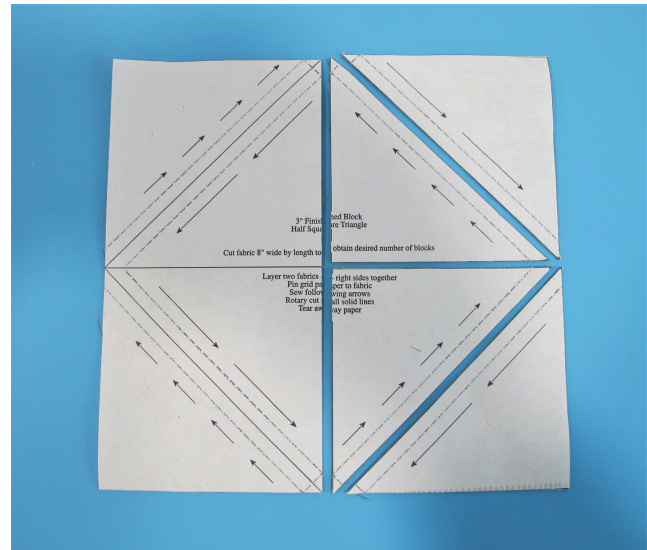
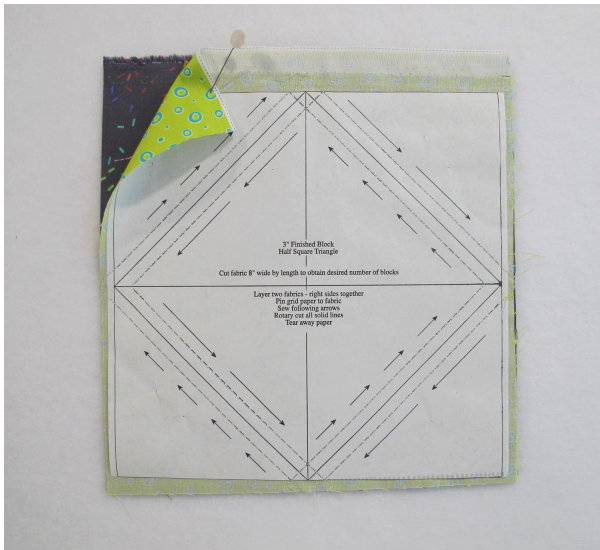
The units now need to be trimmed to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ "...that includes the necessary  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances...so the actual HST will finish at 3". Take advantage of the diagonal line on the ruler, line it up on the seam to trim the first corner square. Turn the square around, place the  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " mark from the ruler on the previously trimmed corner and trim the opposite corner.



When working on a project that requires multiple HST's of the same two fabrics, using *Triangles on a Roll* is a huge time saver (photos next page).

Place two fabrics right sides together, pin the paper on top, and stitch along the dotted lines. This can be done in one continuous line of stitching by just following the arrows on the paper. Cut along the solid lines, remove the papers and press the seams. As you can see from the photos below, 8 can be made at a time from the two fabrics chosen. When using triangle paper adjust the machine to a shorter stitch length...this perforates the paper and makes it easier to remove.





Trim off the little "ears" (where the awl is pointing in the photo) because they sometimes shadow through the top fabric, especially if a light coloured fabric is used.



HST's are so versatile and can be found in many traditional blocks. The Sawtooth Star is just one example. There are two areas highlighted on this block. The white box shows how this Sawtooth Star block is made using HST's, but it can also be made using flying geese as is shown by the yellow box. If you already have multiple HST's sewn they can be made into flying geese units.

