

## Half Square Triangles: How Many Ways? Marsha Robertson 3/12/2022

### Basic skills and Tips:

Be aware of the number of HSTs needed for your pattern and the method you would like to use in order to save time in making your HSTs. Cut your fabric according to your desired method if different from the printed instructions.

accurate cutting= accurate piecing

Sliver trimming may be needed for some methods. Use a sharp rotary cutter blade and a good cutting surface. A rotating cutting mat is very helpful for trimming a large number of HSTs. Press as appropriate for your pattern to get the most "nested" seams for better point matching.

Starching the fabric lightly is helpful for accurate cutting. Pressing the fabrics together before cutting will help the pieces stay together and be more stable.

Mark sewing or center lines or use a "Tape Guide" on your machine bed

Chain Piece or use as leader/ender pieces

"Quilters Magic Wand" by Studio 180 designs

Essential Triangle tool by Bonnie Hunter or Easy Angle Ruler

#### 1. ONE HST AT A TIME:

Beginning square is the size of the HST needed. Draw a line corner to corner on your cut square, sew on the line, trim. Square up as needed. You could also cut the square into two paired triangle sets before sewing.

*This method is good when only a few HSTs are needed.*

#### 2. TWO HST AT A TIME:

Beginning square is cut approximately 1" larger than your desired HST. Draw a line corner to corner on your cut square, sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of the line. Cut on the drawn line to produce 2 identical HSTs. Square up as needed.

*This method can be used when a few identical HSTs are needed.*

#### 3. FOUR HST AT A TIME:

Cut your square to the appropriate size (see the reference below)), sew around the sides of the square  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the sides. Cut the square in half diagonally twice, and trim as needed. 4 identical HSTs.

*This method produces HSTs that have bias on the outside of the block. Be careful to prevent stretching when piecing or pressing to avoid distortion.*

**<https://www.broadclothstudio.com/blog/four-at-a-time-hsts-half-square-triangles>**

#### 4. MAGIC 8 HST:

Very similar to the Two at a time method but more HSTs are produced. The beginning square is approximately 2" larger than your desired HST.

*This is a good method when larger numbers of identical HSTs are needed*  
[8-HST-Cheat-Sheet.pdf \(kristinlaura.com\)](#)

5. **TRIANGLE PAPER Method:** There are several brands available. Foundation paper with sewing and trimming lines is used to make HSTs.

*Follow the product instructions.*

[Free Half Square Triangle Paper to Download: Lesson #6 \(generations-quilt-patterns.com\)](#)

6. **BIAS STRIPS: "TUBE METHOD"** Pre-sewing is done and the strips are trimmed to the exact desired HST size, no further trimming needed. The distance between your sewn lines is the size of your HST plus  $\frac{1}{2}$ "- $\frac{3}{4}$ "

*This method is great when many identical HSTs are needed.*

[HST Tutorial: The Bias Strip Method - Quiltineering](#)

7. **STRAIGHT OF GRAIN STRIPS:**

- A. "TUBE METHOD" Pre-sewing is done then HSTs are cut from the strips to the exact size desired, no further trimming needed. The distance between your sewn lines is the size of your HST plus  $\frac{1}{2}$ " - $\frac{3}{4}$ " *This method produces HSTs that have bias on the outside of the block. Be careful to prevent stretching when piecing or pressing to avoid distortion.*

[HST Tutorials + Tips For Accuracy - Blossom Heart Quilts](#)

- B. Straight of grain strips are cut, the sub-cut and sewed. These have straight of grain edges. Press and trim as needed. I use Bonnie Hunter's Essential Triangle tool or the Easy Angle Ruler

[How to Make Half Square Triangles — String & Story \(stringandstory.com\)](#)

*This method is great when many identical HSTs are needed.*

8. **"ACCORDION METHOD" BY BETH HELFTER OF "EVAPAIGE DESIGNS"**

*This method is great for making scrappy HSTs, each HST can be different.*

YouTube Videos:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=accordian+method+for+HST&qvvt=accordian+method+for+HST&FORM=VDRE>

9. **AccuQuilt HSTs:** Die cutting accuracy

These tutorials have formulas and charts for cutting HSTs to various sizes/various methods and more explanations of the methods I shared.

[HST Tutorial and Maths Formula - Blossom Heart Quilts](#)

 [HOW TO MAKE A HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE ✂️ - 10 WAYS TO MAKE AN HST - Bing video](#)

By "Just Get It Done Quilts"

**PIECING TECHNIQUES**

The designs in this book use a few different techniques to complete the quilts. Some of them use half square triangles, some use log cabin blocks and some use strip sets blocks but they are all put together using dozens of fabrics!

**Half Square Triangles**

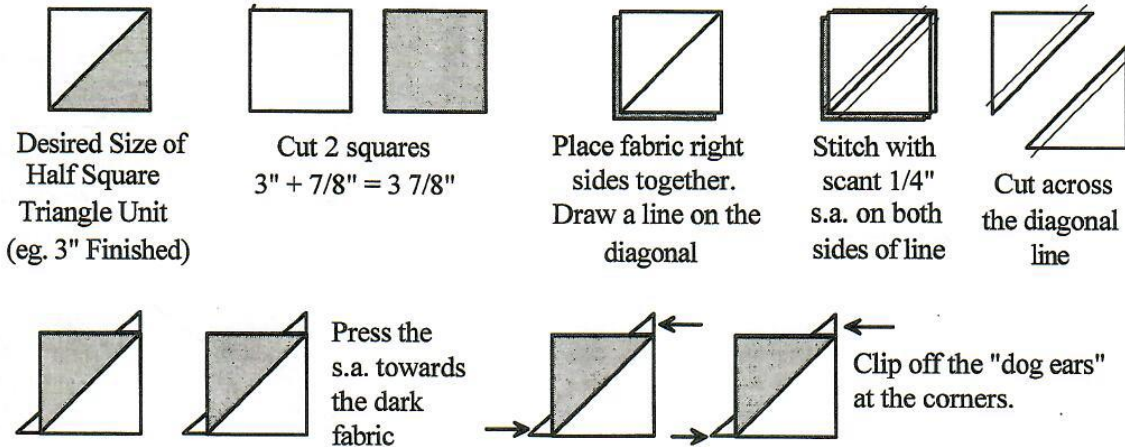
Definition - a half square triangle block is one that consists of a triangle of one colour and a triangle of another colour. See diagram at the right.



There are many different techniques used to create half square triangles. This book will cover the mathematics of making the blocks as well as instructions for using a paper product as an aide.

**Mathematics of the Half Square Triangle**

The mathematics of the half square triangle unit are fairly simple. Decide on the FINISHED SIZE of the unit you wish to make and ADD 7/8" to this measurement. Cut one square from two different fabrics to the size determined from above. Lay the two squares right sides together and draw a line across the diagonal. Stitch a "scant 1/4" seam allowance on both sides of the diagonal line. Cut the squares apart on the drawn line. Open the triangles and press the seam allowance towards the darker fabric. Cut off the "dog ears" on the two corners of the half square triangles.



Half Square Triangle	2 Squares	Half Square Triangle	2 Squares
Finished Size	Cut Size	Finished Size	Cut Size
1"	1 7/8"	3 1/2"	4 3/8"
1 1/2"	2 3/8"	4"	4 7/8"
2"	2 7/8"	4 1/2"	5 3/8"
2 1/2"	3 3/8"	5"	5 7/8"
3"	3 7/8"	5 1/2"	6 3/8"

**Cutting Chart** - the chart above gives the finished size of the desired half square triangle unit and the size to cut the two squares that comprise the unit. Use this as a guide - you may use any size you wish, just remember to add the 7/8" seam allowance to the finished measurement.

