



GQCCC TechBOM

Half-Square Triangles

Available at the June 21st, 2014 meeting Blocks due at August 19th meeting

Instructions:

1. Determine half square triangle (HST) square size and number of squares required. Cut squares that are $7/8$ " larger than the finished size of the units, for example cut 3" finished squares at $3\ 7/8$ ". When calculating, remember that each pair of squares produces two triangle square units.
2. Use a pencil to draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner on the reverse side of the lightest square.
3. If you do not have a quarter-inch presser foot, draw two more lines, each one $1/4$ " from the original diagonal line.
4. Pair the marked square with a darker square of the same size, edges matched and right sides together.
5. Sew two seams, each one $1/4$ " from the marked center line.
6. Use scissors or rotary cutting equipment to cut through both layers of the square on the marked center diagonal.
7. Place the half square units on your ironing board, the darkest fabric up. Press before opening them. The heat and pressure helps set the seams and results in a more accurate HST.
8. Open up one unit and carefully move the iron into the seam that separates the dark half from the light half. Let the weight and heat of the iron press the unit to avoid stretching. Repeat to press the second unit.
9. Trim the "dog ears" from the ends of seam allowances. Measure the units. The half square triangle units should be $1/2$ " wider and taller than their finished size.

10. If units are too small, make sure they were pressed properly. If squares are still slightly small, try sewing the next squares together with seams that are slightly less than $1/4$ " from the marked center line.
11. Once you know your seams are accurate, speed up assembly time by chain piecing the squares.
12. You can also make oversize triangle square units and trim them back to their exact, unfinished size before assembly, as follows.
13. Add an extra $1/8$ " to $1/4$ " to the square size required for your units. For example, if you are planning to cut $3-7/8$ " x $3-7/8$ " squares, cut 4 " x 4 " or $4-1/8$ " x $4-1/8$ " instead.
14. Sew two squares together as above. Cut apart and press.
15. Using a square rotary ruler and cutter, on the front side of the unit, align the ruler so that its diagonal line is lined up exactly with the diagonal line between fabrics. Let a little bit of fabric extend past the top and right edge of the ruler, making sure that the left and bottom edges of the patch go a bit beyond the desired unfinished size of the HST.
16. Trim fabric at top and right edges of the HST.
17. Turn the HST around, placing its newly trimmed edges to the inside of the ruler, aligning them with the rules that indicate the correct cut size (such as $3-1/2$ "). Make sure the diagonal rule is once again aligned with the seam between the patches.
18. Trim the top and right edges.
19. You should now have an HST unit that is $1/2$ " taller and wider than the finished size. Tip- When making small triangle square units, try sewing seams a 'scant' $1/4$ " from the center line. Now make 16 $3-1/2$ " HST's by cutting 8 light and 8 dark $3-7/8$ " squares. Make sure the HST's are exactly $3-1/2$ ". Assemble the block putting the HST's any way you like, for example in 4 pinwheels, all the same direction, some going left, some going right. The finished block should measure $12-1/2$ " square

