

Fast and Easy Half-Square and Quarter-Square Triangle Units

by: Linda Smoker

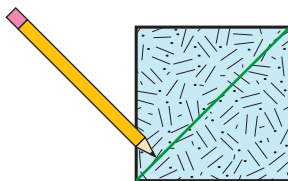
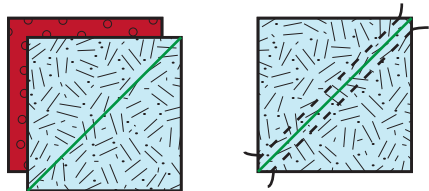
Save time with these shortcuts!

Half-Square and Quarter-Square Triangles are one of the most common units used in designing quilt blocks. One frequently used method is to cut out each triangle and piece them together individually, but this can be tedious and time consuming and the bias edges of the triangles are easy to distort and stretch. Now, the time it takes to make Half-Square and Quarter-Square triangles is cut in half!

Fast and Easy Half-Square Triangle (HST) Units

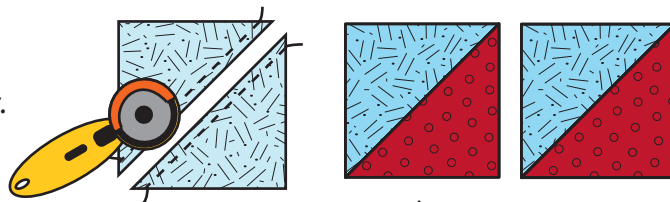
1. Cut squares of light fabric and squares of dark fabric, adding 7/8" to the desired finished block size, as shown in the given chart. Each pair of light and dark squares will make (2) HST blocks. (i.e. If you need (50) HST blocks, cut (25) light and (25) dark squares)

2. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of each light square.



3. Place a marked square, right sides together, on top of a dark square. Sew 1/4" away on both sides of the drawn line.

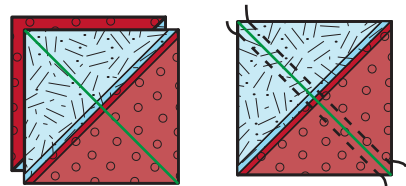
4. Cut on the drawn line. Open and press toward the dark fabric.



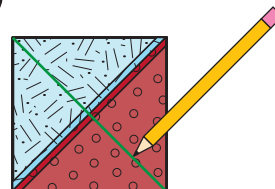
Finished block size	HST	QST
	Add 7/8"	Add 1-1/4"
1"	1-7/8"	2-1/4"
1-1/2"	2-3/8"	2-3/4"
2"	2-7/8"	3-1/4"
2-1/2"	3-3/8"	3-3/4"
3"	3-7/8"	4-1/4"
3-1/2"	4-3/8"	4-3/4"
4"	4-7/8"	5-1/4"
4-1/2"	5-3/8"	5-3/4"
5"	5-7/8"	6-1/4"

Fast and Easy Quarter-Square Triangle (QST) Units

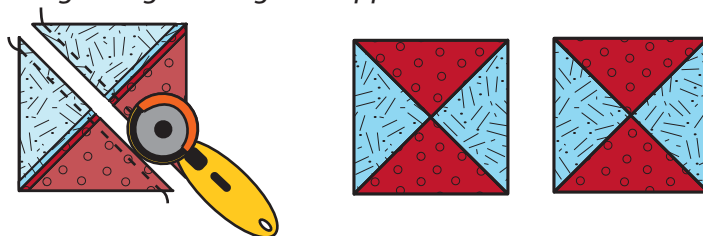
1. Complete instructions #1-4 above, then draw a second diagonal line on the wrong side of half of your completed HST's.



2. Place a marked HST, right sides together, on top of an unmarked HST, matching the seams and placing the light triangle on opposite sides.



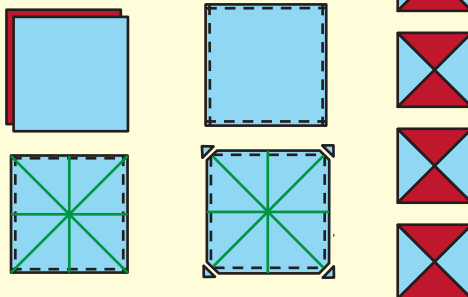
3. Sew 1/4" away on both sides of the drawn line. Cut on the line, open and press.



Even faster.....

When the quilt calls for many QST, try this technique to make them (4) at a time!

1. Cut squares as indicated for the desired finished size.
2. With right sides together, sew 1/4" seams around all four sides from edge to edge.
3. Draw a centered vertical and horizontal line and both diagonal lines.
4. Trim corners and cut on all drawn lines. Open and press to the dark fabric.
5. Stitch two pieced triangles together to make (4) QST.



Finished size	Cut squares at	Trim units to
2"	5"	2-1/2"
2-1/2"	5-1/2"	3"
3"	6-1/4"	3-1/2"
3-1/2"	7"	4"
4"	7-3/4"	4-1/2"
4-1/2"	8-1/2"	5"
5"	9"	5-1/2"
5-1/2"	9-3/4"	6"
6"	10-1/2"	6-1/2"

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