

Quilting How Tos from the Redheaded Quilter

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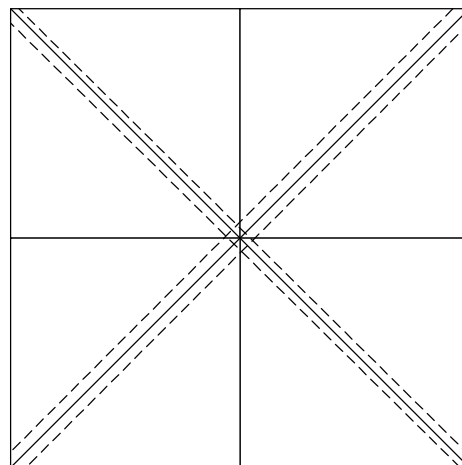
Making half-square triangles

These instructions will show you how to make eight half-square triangle units, each $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". To make more, simply increase the size of the fabric you begin with. For example, to make 12 units, cut your fabrics 8" x 12" in step one.

To make units of a different size, add a half inch to the desired block unit and use that measurement to draw your squares. For example, to make half-square triangles that are $5\frac{1}{2}$ " square draw your squares 6" x 6".

To make half-square triangle units you will need:

- Two fabrics
 - Pencil, scissors
 - Sewing machine, thread
 - A rotary cutter, cutting mat and ruler
1. Cut a square 8" x 8" from each of your light and dark fabrics.
 2. Layer the fabrics right sides together, with the lighter fabric on top.
 3. Using a pencil and your ruler, draw lines on the fabric so it looks like the following diagram. Each quarter of the square should be 4" x 4". Draw diagonal lines from corner to corner.



4. On each side of the diagonal lines, lightly draw dotted lines. These will be your sewing lines.
5. Sew with a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on the dotted lines.
6. After sewing, use your rotary cutter and ruler to cut along all the **solid** lines.
7. Gently press the blocks open with the seam allowance pressed toward the darker fabric.
8. Measure the blocks. They should be at least $3\frac{1}{2}$ " on all sides. If not, trim them to $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " using a square ruler.