

HALF SQUARE TRIANGLES: no-fail method

Half Square Triangles (HST) have got to be one of the most versatile and fun patchwork blocks that were ever devised. There are a million ways of colouring and arranging them to make different patterns and designs. By adding solid squares or simple 4-patch blocks into the mix the possibilities are endless. HSTs appear in many traditional patchwork designs, but also form a staple part of many Modern quilts too; from super-sized blocks to pictorial woodland animals. If you spent the rest of your life just making HST blocks you would probably never run out of combinations.



Although there is obviously a place in Modern quilting for the improv or irrational Half Square Triangle block, many designs rely on accurate piecing to ensure perfect points; with our no-fail method you make a pair of HST blocks and will find they come out right every time.

The secret is simple, start with an oversized block and cut it to size accurately: cut your two squares of fabric $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches bigger than the finished size of your HST block, then trim them to the correct size to fit into your quilt.

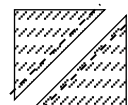
For example; if you want the finished HST block to appear at 3 inches square in the quilt you cut two pieces of fabric $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches square, then follow the directions below.



1. Lay the two squares of fabric right sides together (RST) so they line up perfectly, with the lightest fabric uppermost. Pin together.



2. With a soft pencil, draw a line diagonally across the square. Then draw a line each side, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away from the original line.



3. Stitch along each of these two outside lines.



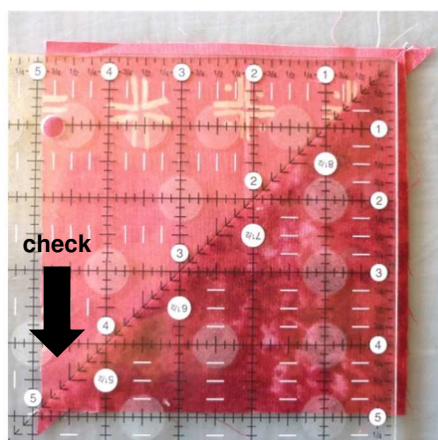
4. Cut the square in half along your original diagonal line. Unpin each side and open them up.



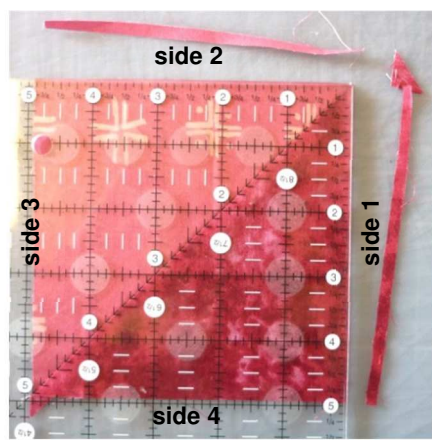
5. Press the seam towards the darker triangle.

Some Common HST Sizes

Finished Size	Trim Size	Fabrics Size
2 x 2 in.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.	$3\frac{1}{4}$ x $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.	3 x 3 in.	$3\frac{3}{4}$ x $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.
3 x 3 in.	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.	$4\frac{1}{4}$ x $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.
$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.	4 x 4 in.	$4\frac{3}{4}$ x $4\frac{3}{4}$ in.
4 x 4 in.	$4\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.	$5\frac{1}{4}$ x $5\frac{1}{4}$ in.
$4\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.	5 x 5 in.	$5\frac{3}{4}$ x $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.
5 x 5 in.	$5\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.	$6\frac{1}{4}$ x $6\frac{1}{4}$ in.
6 x 6 in.	$6\frac{1}{2}$ x $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.	$7\frac{1}{4}$ x $7\frac{1}{4}$ in.

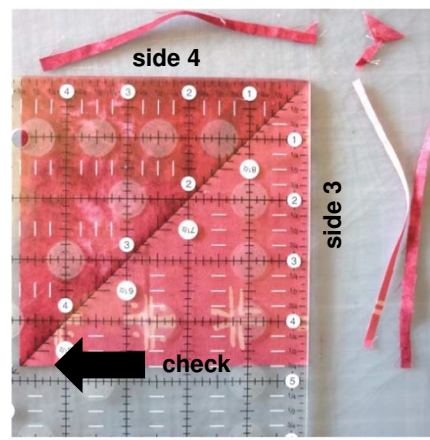


6. Line up the diagonal, 45 degree line on your ruler with the seam on the HST block, checking you have enough fabric under the ruler in the bottom right hand corner to trim to your desired size.



7. Trim the excess fabric from sides 1 and 2 of the block

NOTE: if you are left handed your ruler will be the other way round – reversed left to right.

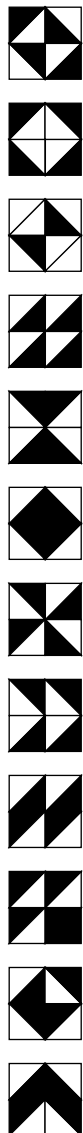


8. Turn the block round 180 degrees & line up the diagonal line with the seam again. Make sure you line up with the correct measurement in the bottom right hand corner to trim sides 3 and 4

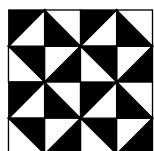
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These are a few of the more traditional arrangements of HSTs but the combinations are endless. A modern take on any of these designs would possibly be to make the whole quilt of one block with HSTs perhaps 12 inches across. Have fun playing...

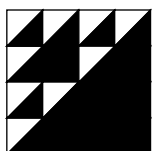
4-patch



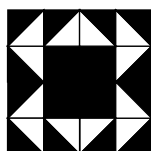
16-patch



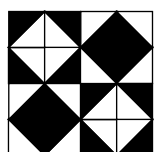
BROKEN
DISHES



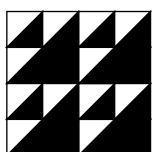
BIRDS IN
THE AIR



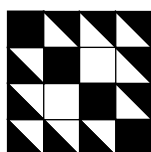
BUZZARD'S
ROOST



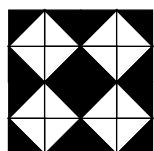
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DISHES V1



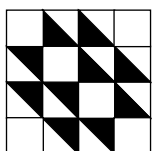
B.I.T.A.
VARIATION



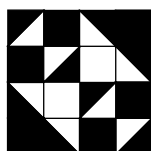
DOUBLE
CROSS



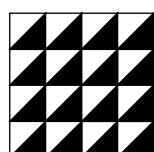
BROKEN
DISHES V2



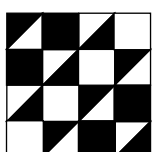
HOVERING
HAWKS



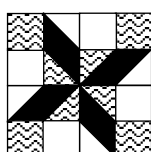
CROSSES &
LOSSES



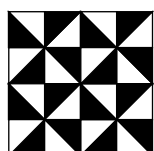
SAWTOOTH
ROWS



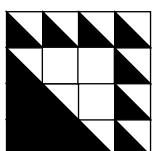
JACOBS
LADDER



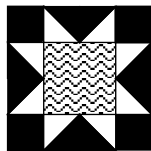
CLAY'S
CHOICE



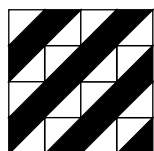
PINWHEELS



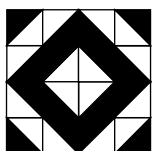
SAWTOOTH



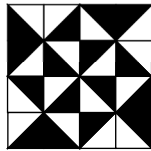
LILY



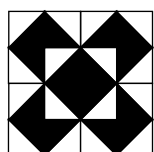
FANCY
STRIPE



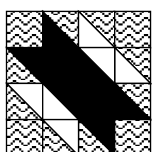
FANCY
STRIPE 2



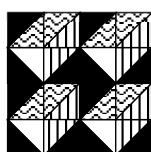
PEACE &
PLENTY



T-SQUARE

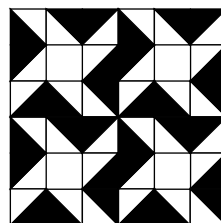


ANVIL

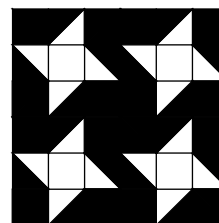


PRISMS

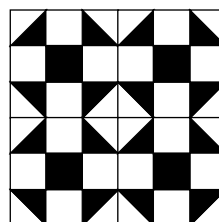
36-patch



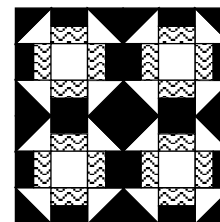
FORMAL GARDEN



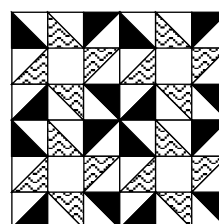
CHURN DASH



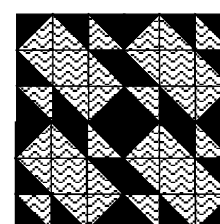
SHOO-FLY



CHURN DASH

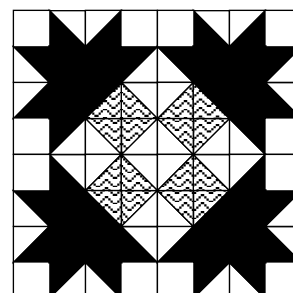


9-PATCH STAR

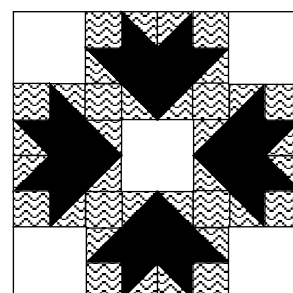


BOX KITE

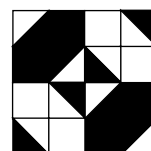
64-patch



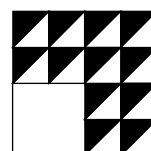
LILLIES



CROW'S FOOT



ROB PETER
TO PAY
PAUL



**MODERN ART
QUILTERS**

Have a look at the page we have set up on PINTEREST with lots more Half Square Triangle variations:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/littlepatchpock/half-square-triangle-play/>