

Short Cut Half Square Triangles

Many quilt patterns call for half square triangles (HST) and there are a few methods of making them. My favourite allows you to make four at the same time without drawing any lines.

Method: Lay the two fabrics you have chosen, right sides together. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " all around the outside edges.

Cut the square in half diagonally from one corner to another i.e. upper left to lower right. Being careful to not move the cut sections, make another cut diagonally in the opposite direction. You now have four triangles. Figure 1
Open and press.

The following chart will get you started:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 4" squares of fabric will make 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " HST's | |
| 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " |
| 7..... | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " |

Note: If you trim across the corners of your sewn squares before doing the diagonal cuts, you won't have to trim the points later.

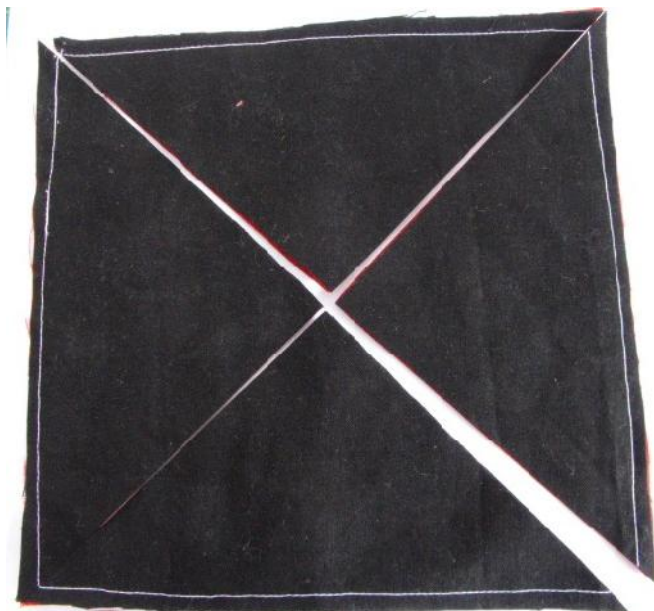


Figure 1

Always make a sample first. It may be necessary to trim some HST's to size depending on your seam width. Remember your triangles will be on the bias so spraying with starch will help keep everything from stretching when using in your pattern.