

How to make Half-Square-Triangles

NB. Where I use the term “finished size” I am referring to the block size after each of its sides is sewn to a neighbouring component ie. In Method 1 I have used 4.5 inch squares, when you cut through the diagonal you have 2 H-S-Ts that measure 4 inches square but once they are sewn to each surrounding block, using a ¼ inch seam allowance, the finished block is 3.5 inches.

Method 1

This method gives you two identical half-square-triangle blocks.

1. Cut two squares of fabric 1 inch bigger than the finished block size ie. 4.5 inch squares = 3.5 inch half-square-triangle finished (if you want exact 3.5 inch squares finished you will have to trim the block to 4 inches but if you are making the entire quilt top with the same blocks I would not bother trimming them) Use a light fabric and a dark or bright or busy fabric for best results.
2. Either - draw a pencil line diagonally from corner to corner on the background squares
OR
- iron square diagonally wrong sides together.
3. Pin a background square and a patterned square right sided together.
4. Sew a ¼ inch on either side of the drawn / ironed line. Figure 1 Strip piece for speed. See Figure 1a

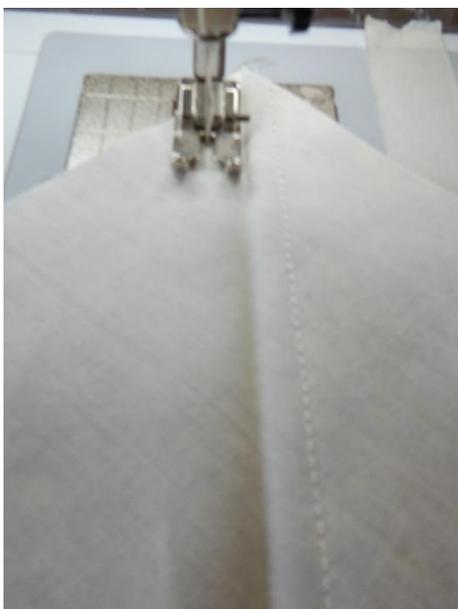


Figure 1



Figure 1a

5. Cut on the drawn / ironed line. You now have two identical half-square-triangles.



Figure 2



Figure 3

Method 2

This method gives you **four** identical half-square-triangle blocks.

Use a light fabric and a dark or bright or busy fabric for best results.

With this method you need to think a bit more about what size finished block you want. I have included a Table as a reference.

1. Cut two squares of fabric the right size to achieve the desired finished size block ie. 8 inch squares = 4 x 5inch finished blocks.
2. Pin a background square and a patterned square right sided together.
3. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from edge around square, Figure 4.



Figure 4

4. Cut diagonally through the square twice, Figure 5



Figure 5



Figure 6

For 5 inch finished half-square-triangle	Cut 8 inch squares
For 4 inch finished half-square-triangle	Cut 7 inch squares
For 3.5 inch finished half-square-triangle	Cut 6.5 inch squares
For 3 inch finished half-square-triangle	Cut 6 inch squares
For 2.5 inch finished half-square-triangle	Cut 5 inch squares
For 2 inch finished half-square-triangle	Cut 4 inch squares
For 1 inch finished half-square-triangle	Cut 3 inch squares

Method 3

This method gives you **eight** identical half-square-triangle blocks.

Use a light fabric and a dark or bright or busy fabric for best results.

With this method you need to think a bit more about what size finished block you want. I have included a Table of the maths as a reference.

For <u>3 inch</u> finished H-S-T , $3 + 7/8$ inch = $3 \frac{7}{8}$ inch , $3 \frac{7}{8} \times 2 = 7 \frac{3}{4}$ inch squares
For <u>4 inch</u> finished H-S-T , $4 + 7/8$ inch = $4 \frac{7}{8}$ inch , $4 \frac{7}{8} \times 2 = 9 \frac{3}{4}$ inch squares
For <u>5 inch</u> finished H-S-T , $5 + 7/8$ inch = $5 \frac{7}{8}$ inch , $5 \frac{7}{8} \times 2 = 11 \frac{3}{4}$ inch squares

1. Cut two squares of fabric the right size to achieve the desired finished size block ie. 7.75 inch squares = 8 x 3 inch finished blocks.

2. Pin a background square and a patterned square right sided together.

3. On the wrong side of light fabric draw lines diagonally, from each corner, across the square. Figure 7

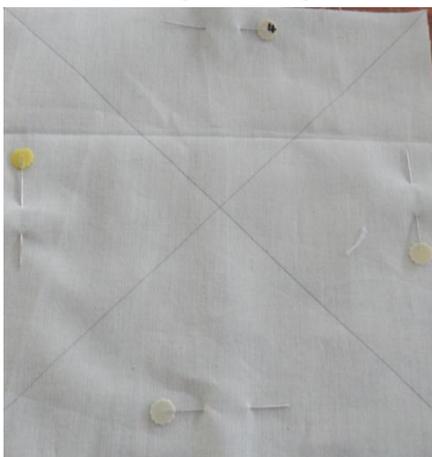


Figure 7



Figure 8

4. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch either side of drawn lines. Figure 8

5. Cut vertically and horizontally through the square and on the drawn lines. Figure 9

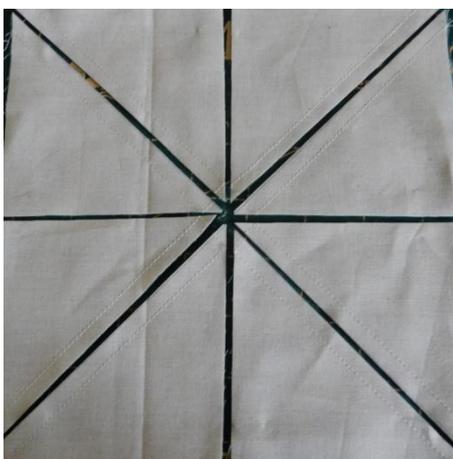
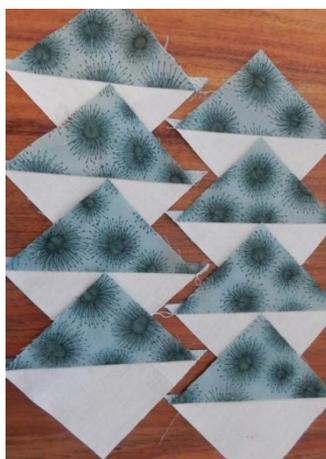


Figure 9



I hope you have as much fun as I did playing with Half-Square-Triangles and all the possibilities.

Enjoy

