

There are a few different ways to make Half Square Triangle (HST) units. Let's play with a few different options.

Option 1- making 2 at a time

To start you need to know how big to cut your squares.

Basically, cut your 2 squares of fabric $\frac{7}{8}$ " bigger than the FINISHED size of the HST unit.

For example: If your HST unit needs to finish at 2" square, which means it needs to be 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished, you would cut your squares at 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ ". If your finished unit is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", then it needs to be 3" unfinished and you would cut your squares at 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ".

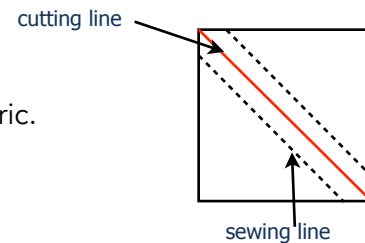
I like to add a little wiggle room when making my HST units, so I tend to add a full 1" instead of $\frac{7}{8}$ ".

Step 1

Drawing lines: you can choose to draw the lines a few different ways- if you are sewing with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot on your machine, you can draw one diagonal line corner to corner on the wrong side of lightest square.

If you are not using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot, then draw 2 sewing lines, each a $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the diagonal line.

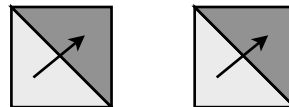
Layer a square of one fabric RST with a square of the other fabric.



Step 2

Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the diagonal line on both sides. Cut along the diagonal line.

You will have 2 HST units.



Option 2- making 4 HST units at a time

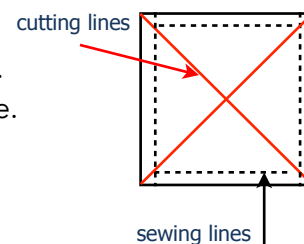
The math for this method is a little weird. To figure out what size to cut the squares, take the size you want the finished HST units to be and divide by .064.

So for a 3" finished square- $3 \div 0.64 = 4.6875$. I would cut the square at least 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 5" for a bit more wiggle room. Then you can trim to size after sewing.

Step 1

Layer a square of one fabric RST with a square of the other fabric.

Sew all around the outside of the block with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

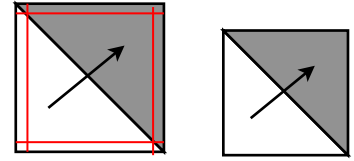


Half Square Triangle Tips

Step 2

Cut along both diagonals. You will have 4 HST units. Trim to size.

NOTE: with this method, you will have bias edges on the outside of the HST units, so handle with care!



Option 3- making 8 HST units at a time

The math for this method is similar to the math for the method where you make 2 at a time.

You will add the same $\frac{7}{8}$ " - just twice!

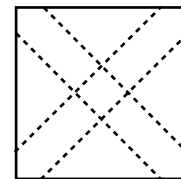
So, for any size, you will double the size of the finished square and add $\frac{7}{8}$ " twice (or $1 \frac{3}{4}$ " total).

For example: for a 3" finished square, $3" \times 2 = 6" + 1 \frac{3}{4}" = 7 \frac{3}{4}"$. To add a little wiggle room, then double the size of the of the finished square and add 2".

Finished size $\times 2 + 2" =$ size to cut squares.

Step 1

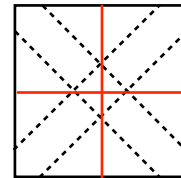
Draw sewing lines in both directions $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the diagonal line. Sew on the lines.



Step 2

Cut the block in half thru the center, in both directions. See red lines.

It might be tempting to cut thru the diagonals first, but don't! It is hard to see where to cut the straight lines if the blocks pull apart as you make the cuts but easy to see where to cut the diagonals.



Step 3

Cut the block along the diagonal lines. See red lines. You will have 8 HST units. Trim to size as needed.

