



The Easy 8 Method for creating Half Square Triangles

There are a few different ways to create Half Square Triangles. I tend to use this method the most when I am creating a quilt based on HSTs, it really is efficient!

The size of the required HST for the pattern determines the size of the starting square.

For instance, if the pattern requires a 3” finished HST, then the unfinished size is 3.5” and the starting square size is 8.5” and you will get 4 of them from WOF.

Starting Square size Chart:

Finished HST size	Unfinished HST size	Starting Square Size	Amount from WOF
2”	2.5”	6.5”	6
2.5”	3”	7”	5
3”	3.5”	8.5”	4
3.5”	4”	9”	4
4”	4.5”	10”	4

Your WOF will determine the number of Starting Squares you will get from your fabric.

Usually WOF is 42”, you need to discount the selvage, I always assume 40” in my calculations.

With some starting square calculations, there will be left over fabric that you can use for other projects.

3” finished HST is my favourite size and the one you will use the most in my patterns.

One Loose Thread

Tools required:

Rotary cutting blade and mat.

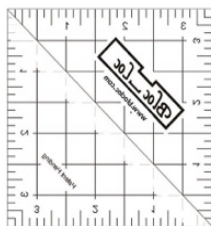
Trimmer – there are many types of trimmers – two very useful ones are

- Clearly Slotted Trimmer
- Bloc Loc

The Clearly Slotted Trimmer is a “trim before pressing” tool



The Bloc Loc is a “trim after pressing” tool



I have used both, although I have a reference for trimming **before** I press.

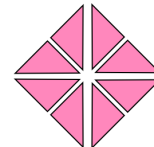
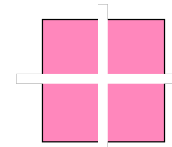
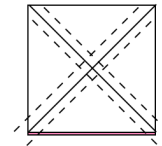
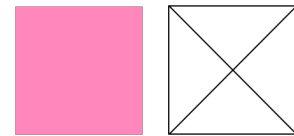
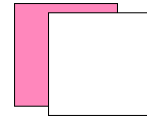
Tips and tricks:

- It's important to be consistent with your ¼” seams.
- Pressing the seams open will help avoid bulky joins when you are creating stars or any block where multiple HSTs meet in the centre.
- Trimming to the correct size is **the most vital** step.
- A sharp blade in your rotary cutter is best for precision cutting.
- If you are working on light fabric and sewing with light thread you may have problems seeing the sew lines when cutting – you can turn the square over and cut from the other side but remember that you are cutting down the line you have drawn on, so it might not matter that you can't see the sew lines.

One Loose Thread

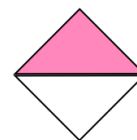
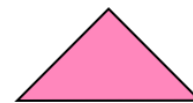
Method:

1. Take 2 squares, one of background and one of colour of required starting size.
2. On the wrong side of the background fabric, draw diagonal lines.
3. With the right sides facing, sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam down each side of the diagonals.
4. Cut through the centre vertically then horizontally.
5. Then cut on the diagonals to make 8 HSTs.
6. Trim to required size using a triangular trimmer.
7. Open seams and press flat.



**VERY
IMPORTANT**

**Do not miss
this step**



*If you have missed step 6 and have pressed seams open, trim using a block loc or squaring tool of the unfinished size required in the pattern. Bloc Loc squaring tools come in various sizes to match the size of the HST required.