

## Half-Square Triangles

Before you begin, check your  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance by cutting (1) dark and (2) **light strips of fabric 1.5" x about 5"**. **Sew them together, and press gently. Suggest pressing seams OPEN.** Lay a Creative Grid ruler (or your fav) on top of the entire sewn piece and check the center piece. It should measure exactly 1" wide, from top to bottom. Make any necessary adjustments, with your needle position. This will help with sewing the half-square triangles.

The following examples are to make 2" FINISHED squares.

- 1) The BASIC triangle is made by adding  $\frac{7}{8}$ " to the finished size. So, to make a 2" finished block, you must cut a  $2\frac{7}{8}$ " light square and a  $2\frac{7}{8}$ " dark square (cut them at the same time, stacking the fabric} If the two fabrics have been pressed together before cutting, they tend to stay together. Cut the squares on the diagonal. Sew slowly and carefully with your accurate  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
- 2) Cut (1) dark and (1) light square 3". Mark a diagonal line on the light fabric with a fine pencil. A thick line will affect your accuracy. Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of the pencil line. Cut on the line. Press. These blocks need to be trimmed to 2.5" square. Takes a little longer, but makes a perfect half-square.
- 3) 8 at a time triangles: Cut (1) dark and (1) light 6" square. On the lighter fabric, using a fine pencil, mark BOTH diagonals and a cross from the center top to center bottom, and from center side to side. Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on both sides of the "X". DO NOT SEW ON THE CENTER CROSS. Using your rotary cutter, (use a rotating cutting mat, or a small mat that can be rotated), SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY, cut on EACH pencil line. You will cut an "X" and a cross. DO NOT SEPARATE YOUR BLOCK UNTIL ALL LINES HAVE BEEN CUT. Press. Square up your blocks to 2.5". This is good if you need to make a lot of one color.
- 4) Paper backed. Purchase at [WWW.LAUNDRYBASKETQUILTS.COM](http://WWW.LAUNDRYBASKETQUILTS.COM). Search for "Foundation Paper". She has many sizes. The papers have excellent directions – you just sew on the dotted line. These are great if you need a lot of triangles made out of the same fabric. The blocks come out the perfect finished size and DO NOT need trimming.
- 5) Easy Angle Ruler. Use this ruler to cut half square triangle using (1) dark and (1) light 2.5" strip of fabric. Layer the strips, press and cut. Makes perfect block that do not need to be trimmed.

I use orange wood sticks as a tiny third finger to hold the bottom points of triangles as I am sewing. Also use a dry iron so as not to distort your bias edges.