## NON-SLIP Half Square 4-in-1 Triangle Ruler

Create Half Square Triangles (HST) four different ways using the same tool.
Designed byBrenda Henning


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## NON-SLIP <br> Half Square 4-in-1 Triangle Ruler

Create Half Square Triangles (HST) four different ways using the same tool. Choose the method that works best for you or is featured in your pattern. (Note: All ruler markings are finished size.)

Method \#1 - Make 8 HST at a time!


1. Layer two squares of fabric right sides together. Draw diagonal lines from corner to corner.

2. Stitch $1 / 4$ " on either side of the drawn lines.

3. Press to set the seams. Cut the large square into four units (as indicated in the diagram) and then cut on the drawn diagonal lines. (Yield 8 HST!)

All Markings Shown Finished Size
5. Gently finger press the seam followed by a light press - straight down - with an iron

| To get 8 finished HST this size | $1{ }^{1 \prime}$ | 1-1/2" | 2" | 2-1/2" | 3" | 3-1/2" | 4" | 4-1/2" | $5{ }^{\text {" }}$ | 5-1/2" | $6^{\prime \prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cut 2 squares this size | 4" | $5 "$ | $6^{\prime \prime}$ | $7{ }^{\prime \prime}$ | 8" | $9 "$ | 10" | $11^{\prime \prime}$ | 12" | 13 " | $14 "$ |

Method \#2-Cutting Triangles from Strips
Finished triangle size and appropriate strip width are both indicated on the ruler.
(Note: Ruler markings show fabric strips are cut $1 / 2$ " larger than the desired finished HST size.)

1. Lay two fabric strips right sides together. Locate the correct strip line on the ruler and place along the bottom edge of the fabric strip. The black tip will extend above the top of the fabric strips. After removing the selvage on the left, cut along the right side of the ruler.
(The first pair is ready to be sewn.)


## Method \#2 - Cutting Triangles from Strips (cont.)

2. Rotate the ruler $180^{\circ}$ lining up the strip edge with the correctly sized strip line and cut along the right edge of the ruler. Continue rotating the ruler until you have the desired number of triangle pairs
3. Stitch along the bias edge with a scant $1 / 4$ " seam allowance. Gently finger press the seam followed by a light press - straight down - with an iron.


## Method \#3 - Easy 'Mark \& Sew' $1 / 4$ " Seam Lines

1. Place two fabric squares right sides together. Position the solid black line on the bottom edge of the ruler diagonally across the lighter fabric square, with the line positioned corner to corner.
(TIP: For Precision Piecing - cut squares 7/8" larger than desired finished size.)
(TIP: For Trim-to-Size Piecing - cut squares 1" larger than desired finished size and trim sewn triangles.)
2. Using a fine point fabric pen or a mechanical pencil, mark a line at the edge of the ruler and in the slot - these will be your sewing lines.
(TIP: For the most accurate results, be sure to angle the marking tool so that the line drawn is as close to the edge as possible. The distance between the solid line and the edge of the ruler is slightly less than 1/4" to accommodate the width of the pencil lead.)

3. Stitch on the drawn lines, press to set the seams. Cut the space between the seams to yield two separate HST units.
(Reminder: If you have cut your squares 1"larger than finished size, trim your sewn triangles to size.)
 straight down - with an iron

## Helpful Hints:

- When constructing HST units using this method, it is important that you strive for accuracy when marking the line and stitching the seam allowance. Perhaps you will need to stitch just inside the drawn lines rather than right on top of the line.
- Basic math: Cut the fabric squares 7/8" larger than the desired finished size. (Example: Pattern calls for a 3" finished HST. Cut your fabric squares 3 7/8".)
- Stitching a "test" pair of HST's from two squares (marked, cut apart, and pressed) will help determine if your technique needs to be adjusted. Doing this "test" before making all the units for your project will increase your accuracy.


## Method \#4 - Trimming Oversized Half Square Triangles

Half square and quarter square triangle units can be trimmed to the correct size.

1. Place the pressed open HST under the appropriate finished size square on the ruler. Position the HST so that the vertical center line of the ruler lines up on the seam line of the HST. Trim two sides. Rotate the HST $180^{\circ}$ and trim the remaining two sides.

2. In a similar fashion, the square markings on the ruler can also be used to square up an oversized Quarter Square Triangle.

