

MY METHOD OF CHOICE FOR HALF SQUARE TRIANGLES

- When calculating the size of the squares needed to make half square triangles the rule is to add 7/8" to the finished size of the square you require. i.e. for 2" finished half square triangle square, cut the starting squares 2 7/8th. This leaves no room for error, so I like to cut my starting squares 1 1/4" bigger than the size of my finished half square triangle square. i.e. for 2" finished half square triangles, I cut my starting squares 3 1/4", there is a little bit of wasted fabric but the finished squares are totally accurate.
- Choose your two fabrics, cut squares the required size, lay them right sides together. Draw a line diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner on the wrong side of one of the fabrics, it makes sense for this to be the plain or lightest fabric – see photo 1.
- If you have directional fabric (like my fabric with words used in the quilt) you may wish to think about the corners you choose. For me, each pair of squares will yield two half square triangles with the words travelling in opposite directions. I used a non-directional print for the instructions which follow.

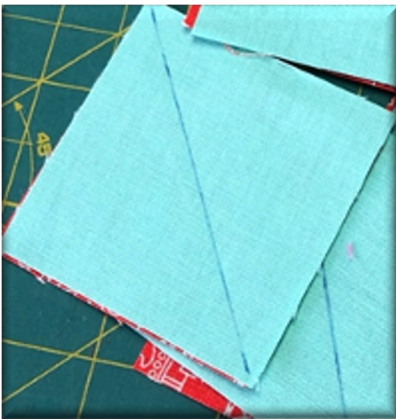


Photo 1

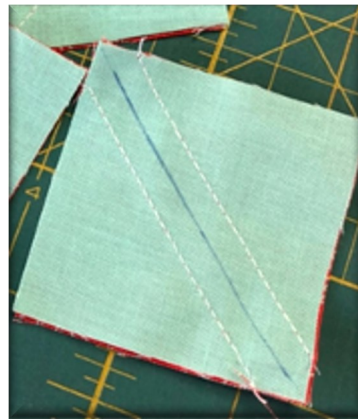


Photo 2

- Stitch 1/4" either side of the drawn line - photo 2



Photo 3

- Cut apart on the drawn line - photo 3

- Press seams open - photo 4



Photo 4

Resize the block to the required size (in the photos that is 1 1/2", including seam allowance). Do this by laying the 45° line of a square ruler on the seam (a 6 1/2" square ruler, or smaller is handy for this) and making sure you have excess fabric to trim away on all sides – see photo 5. If we were not cutting the block back to size, the "ears" would need to be trimmed off.



Photo 5

- Trim two sides – see photo 6 and 6A. 6A is the rotating cutting mat I mentioned

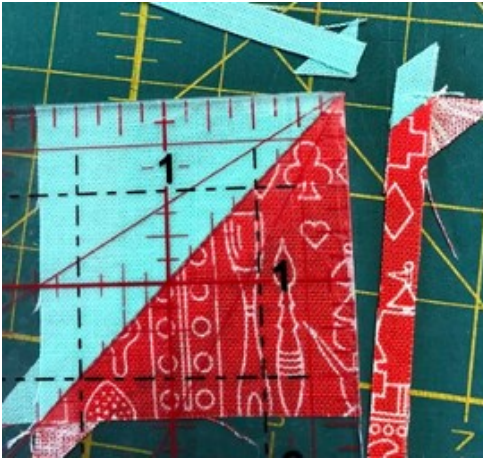


Photo 6



Photo 6A

- Rotate the block or the rotating mat (Fiskars 7" in the photo) and trim the other two sides - photo 7



Photo 7

- Two perfectly made and cut 1½" half square triangle blocks which will be 1" finished

This is my preferred method for making accurate half square triangles, as I said earlier you choose your favourite method.

There will be lots of half square triangles in the blocks and this is the way I have made all of them.