



Brandywine Valley Quilters - Block of the Month

July 2020



Half Square Triangle - a Tale of Two Methods

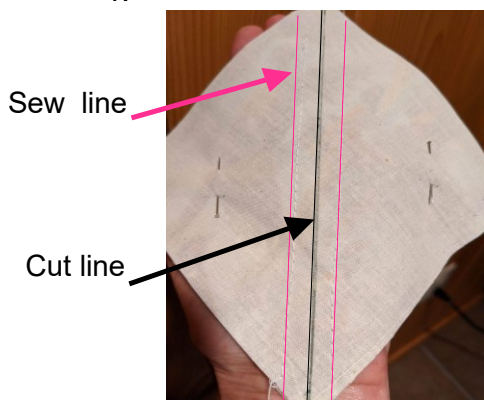
The Half Square Triangle (HST) is similar to shrimp in the movie Forrest Gump. So many ways to piece the HST together that we could go on and on and on! This month we will be emerging from our lockdown cocoons but we won't be able to get together so we thought it would be fun to show two different ways to make HSTs and then we can see how everyone puts them together. Bust into your pre-cuts stash and start a quilt or project for yourself or as a gift.

Slice and Press Method:

1. Select a light and dark color fabric of the same size. It must be a square! You can use a pre-cut or you can cut fabric to whatever size square you want to work with.
2. Place the two squares of fabric right sides together. Pin if you wish.
3. Use a pencil or an iron-off pen to make a diagonal line from one corner of the square to the opposite corner.
4. Make a dashed line a 1/4 inch to the right of solid diagonal line and another dashed line a 1/4 inch to the left of the solid line.
5. Sew along each dashed line. There are two dashed lines to sew on.
6. Cut the square on the solid diagonal line...making two triangles.
7. Press each triangle open to the dark side.
8. Trim the dog ears, or seam allowance triangles off to square up your edges.
9. You will now have two half square triangles that are 1/2 inch smaller than the original squares you started with in step 1.

Oversized Slice and Press Method:

1. Select your fabric as in the steps of Slice and Press Method but make sure they are one inch larger than you want your finished HSTs. For example, if you want 4 inch HSTs then you start with 5 inch squares of fabric.
2. Follow steps 2 - 7 above.
3. Trim the excess fabric off to make you HSTs to the size you selected.
- 4.



5. Examples of what you can do with your half square triangles. Both methods used four (4) 10 inch squares; however the star was made with the Slice and Press Method and the finished block is 16 inches. The other two blocks were made with the Oversized Slice and Press Method and the finished blocks were 14 inches.

6. Now...go get busy and show us all the fun things you can do with HSTs!

